

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 20-F

REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

SHELL COMPANY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of event requiring this shell company report: Not applicable.

Commission file number 001-40212

Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Not applicable

(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

Cayman Islands

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

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Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act.

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
American Depositary Shares, each representing one Ordinary Share, par value \$0.000174 per Share	CNTB	The Nasdaq Global Market

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act.

None

(Title of Class)

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act.

None

(Title of Class)

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report.

55,102,954 Ordinary Shares, par value \$0.000174 per Share

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

If this report is an annual or transition report, indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Yes No

Note – Checking the box above will not relieve any registrant required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 from their obligations under those Sections.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or an emerging growth company. See definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer,” and “emerging growth company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large Accelerated Filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated Filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Accelerated Filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emerging growth company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If an emerging growth company that prepares its financial statements in accordance with U.S.GAAP, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards† provided pursuant to Section 13 (a) of the Exchange Act.

† The term “new or revised financial accounting standard” refers to any update issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board to its Accounting Standards Codification after April 5, 2012.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management’s assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report.

If securities are registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act, indicate by check mark whether the financial statements of the registrant included in the filing reflect the correction of an error to previously issued financial statements.

Indicate by check mark whether any of those error corrections are restatements that required a recovery analysis of incentive-based compensation received by any of the registrant’s executive officers during the relevant recovery period pursuant to §240.10D-1(b).

Indicate by check mark which basis of accounting the registrant has used to prepare the financial statements included in this filing:

U.S. GAAP <input type="checkbox"/>	International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
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If “Other” has been checked in response to the previous question, indicate by check mark which financial statement item the registrant has elected to follow. Item 17 Item 18

If this is an annual report, indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

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ABOUT THIS ANNUAL REPORT

Except where the context otherwise requires or where otherwise indicated, references to “we” or “us” or “Company” are references to Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited, together with our direct and indirect wholly owned subsidiaries, Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited, Connect Biopharm LLC, Connect Biopharma Australia PTY LTD, Suzhou Connect Biopharma Co., Ltd., Connect Biopharma (Shanghai) Co., Ltd., Connect Biopharma (Beijing) Co., Ltd. and Connect Biopharma (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Our consolidated financial statements included in this annual report have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, or IFRS Accounting Standards, as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, or IASB. None of our consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Our presentation currency is the U.S. dollar. Unless otherwise indicated, all monetary amounts in this annual report are in U.S. dollar. All references in this annual report to “\$”, “US\$”, “USD”, “U.S. dollars” and “dollars” mean U.S. dollars and all references to “¥” and “RMB” mean renminbi. The change in presentation currency is discussed in Note 2, *Change in presentation currency*, to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report. We have made rounding adjustments to some of the figures included in this annual report. Accordingly, numerical figures shown as totals in some tables may not be an arithmetic aggregation of the figures that preceded them.

TRADEMARKS, SERVICE MARKS AND TRADE NAMES

Solely for convenience, the trademarks, service marks, logos, copyrights and trade names referred to in this annual report are without the ® and ™ symbols. Such references are not intended to indicate, in any way, that we will not assert, to the fullest extent under applicable law, our rights or the rights of the applicable licensors to these trademarks, service marks, logos, copyrights and trade names or that the applicable owner will not assert its rights to these trademarks, service marks, logos, copyrights and trade names. This annual report contains additional trademarks, service marks, logos, copyrights and trade names of others, which are the property of their respective owners. All trademarks, service marks, logos, copyrights and trade names appearing in this annual report are, to our knowledge, the property of their respective owners. We do not intend our use or display of other companies’ trademarks, service marks, logos, copyrights or trade names to imply a relationship with, or endorsement or sponsorship of us by, any other companies.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This annual report includes “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements other than statements of historical facts contained in this annual report, including statements regarding our future results of operations and financial position, business strategy, prospective products, product approvals, research and development costs, future revenue, timing and likelihood of success, plans and objectives of management for future operations, future results of anticipated products and prospects, plans and objectives of management are forward-looking statements. These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements.

In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as “anticipate,” “believe,” “contemplate,” “continue,” “could,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend,” “may,” “plan,” “potential,” “predict,” “project,” “should,” “target,” “will,” or “would” or the negative of these terms or other similar expressions, although not all forward-looking statements contain these words. Forward-looking statements contained in this annual report include, but are not limited to, statements about:

- the ability of our clinical trials to demonstrate safety and efficacy of our product candidates, and other positive results;
- the timing, progress, focus, and results of our ongoing and future preclinical studies and clinical trials, and the reporting and interpretation of data from those studies and trials;
- our interim, “top-line” and preliminary results, which are subject to change;
- our plans relating to partnering to undertake or complete clinical trials and relating to commercializing our product candidates, if approved, including the geographic areas of focus and sales strategy;
- the market opportunity and competitive landscape for our product;
- the success of competing therapies that are or may become available;
- our failure or delay in patient enrollment in our clinical trials;
- the beneficial characteristics, safety, efficacy and therapeutic effects of our product candidates;
- the timing of initiation and completion, and the progress of our drug discovery and research programs;
- the timing or likelihood of regulatory filings and approvals for our product candidates for various diseases;
- the ability to obtain and maintain regulatory approval of our product candidates;
- our plans relating to the further development of our product candidates, including additional indications we may pursue;
- existing law, regulations and regulatory developments in the United States, the People’s Republic of China, or PRC, Europe and other jurisdictions, including with respect to any possible de-listing, prohibition on trading of our securities, or adverse impact on the value of our securities traded in the United States;
- our plans and ability to obtain, maintain, protect and enforce our intellectual property rights and our proprietary technologies, including extensions of existing patent terms where available;
- our continued reliance on third parties to conduct additional clinical trials of our product candidates, and for the manufacture of our product candidates for preclinical studies and clinical trials;
- our plans regarding, and our ability to enter into, and negotiate favorable terms of, any collaboration, licensing or other arrangements that may be necessary or desirable to develop, manufacture or commercialize our product candidates;
- the need to hire additional personnel and our ability to attract and retain such personnel;
- our plans regarding our growth and expanding our operations, including with respect to expanding our senior management team;
- our estimates regarding expenses, future revenue, capital requirements and needs for additional financing;
- our financial performance;
- the period over which we estimate our existing cash and cash equivalents will be sufficient to fund our future operating expenses and capital expenditure requirements;
- our anticipated use of our existing resources;
- the reduced disclosure requirements applicable to us as an emerging growth company under the JOBS Act may make our ADSs less attractive to the investors; and

- risks associated with geopolitical events and the war between Russia and Ukraine, may negatively impact productivity and slow down or delay our ongoing and future clinical trials, preclinical studies and research and development activities.

We have based these forward-looking statements largely on our current expectations and projections about our business, the industry in which we operate and financial trends that we believe may affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, and these forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance or development. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this annual report and are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions described in the section titled “Item 3. Key Information – Risk Factors” and elsewhere in this annual report. Because forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, some of which cannot be predicted or quantified, you should not rely on these forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. The events and circumstances reflected in our forward-looking statements may not be achieved or occur and actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. Except as required by applicable law, we do not plan to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements contained herein until after we distribute this annual report, whether as a result of any new information, future events or otherwise.

In addition, statements that “we believe” and similar statements reflect our beliefs and opinions on the relevant subject. These statements are based upon information available to us as of the date of this annual report, and while we believe such information forms a reasonable basis for such statements, such information may be limited or incomplete, and our statements should not be read to indicate that we have conducted an exhaustive inquiry into, or review of, all potentially available relevant information. These statements are inherently uncertain and you are cautioned not to unduly rely upon these statements.

PART I

ITEM 1. IDENTITY OF DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND ADVISORS.

Not applicable.

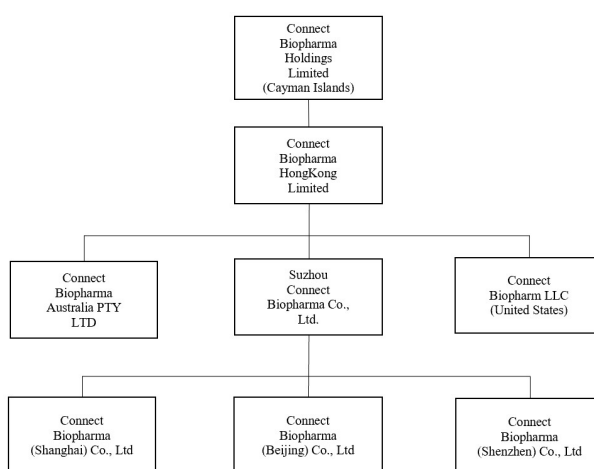
ITEM 2. OFFER STATISTICS AND EXPECTED TIMETABLE.

Not applicable.

ITEM 3. KEY INFORMATION.

Company Overview

We are a Cayman Islands holding company and, although we conduct a portion of our operations through our subsidiaries in the People's Republic of China, or PRC, we are not a Chinese operating company. For a detailed depiction of our organizational structure as of the date of this annual report, please see the diagram below.



A. [Reserved]

B. Capitalization and Indebtedness.

Not applicable.

C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds.

Not applicable.

D. Risk Factors.

Summary of Risk Factors

An investment in our ADSs, is subject to a number of risks, including risks related to our limited operating history, financial position and capital requirements, risks related to the discovery, development and regulatory approval of our product candidates, risks related to our reliance on third parties, risks related to commercialization of our product

candidates, risks related to our business operations and industry, risks related to intellectual property, risks related to ownership of our ADSs, risks related to doing business in the People's Republic of China, or PRC, and general risks. Investors should carefully consider all of the information in this annual report before making an investment in the ADSs. The following list summarizes some, but not all, of these risks. Please read the information in the section entitled "Risk Factors" for a more thorough description of these and other risks.

Risks Related to Our Limited Operating History, Financial Position and Capital Requirements

- We have a limited operating history, have incurred significant operating losses since our inception and expect to incur significant losses for the foreseeable future. We may never generate any revenue or become profitable or, if we achieve profitability, we may not be able to sustain it.
- We will require substantial additional financing to achieve our goals, and a failure to obtain or access this necessary capital when needed on acceptable terms, or at all, could force us to delay, limit, reduce or terminate our product development programs, commercialization efforts or other operations. Our existing capital will not be sufficient for us to fund our product candidates through regulatory approval, and we will need to raise additional capital to complete their development and commercialization.

Risks Related to the Discovery, Development and Regulatory Approval of Our Product Candidates

- Clinical drug development involves a lengthy and expensive process, with an uncertain outcome. We may incur unforeseen costs or experience delays in completing, or ultimately be unable to complete, the development and commercialization of our product candidates.
- We depend on enrollment of patients in our clinical trials for our product candidates and may experience delays or difficulties enrolling patients in our clinical trials.
- Our product candidates may be associated with serious adverse events or undesirable side effects or have other properties that could delay or halt their clinical development, delay or prevent their regulatory approval, limit their commercial potential or result in significant negative consequences.
- We have conducted and may continue to conduct clinical trials for our product candidates in international sites, and the applicable regulatory authority may not accept data from trials conducted in foreign locations.
- We have only two product candidates, rademikibart (formerly CBP-201) and icanbelimod (formerly CBP-307), in clinical development. If we are unable to successfully develop product candidates or experience significant delays in doing so, our business will be materially harmed.
- Our approach to the discovery and development of product candidates based on potent T cell modulation activity is unproven, and we do not know whether we will be able to develop any products of commercial value, or if competing technological approaches will limit the commercial value of our product candidates or render our approach obsolete.
- We have never submitted a New Drug Application, or NDA, or Biologics License Application, or BLA, and may be unable to do so for any of our product candidates.
- The regulatory approval processes of the FDA, the PRC National Medical Products Administration, or the NMPA, the European Medicines Agency, or the EMA, and the European Commission, and comparable foreign authorities are lengthy, time consuming and inherently unpredictable, and if we are ultimately unable to obtain regulatory approval for our product candidates, our business will be substantially harmed.
- Our product candidates for which we intend to seek approval as biologic products may face competition sooner than anticipated.
- The proposed revision of the EU legislation on pharmaceuticals could lead to uncertainties over the regulatory framework that will be applicable to medicinal products in the EU, including orphan medicinal products.

Risks Related to Our Reliance on Third Parties

- We rely, and expect to continue to rely, on third parties, including independent clinical investigators and contract research organizations to conduct some aspects of our preclinical studies and clinical trials.
- We contract with third parties for the manufacture of our product candidates for preclinical studies and our ongoing clinical trials and expect to continue to do so for additional clinical trials and ultimately, for commercialization.

Risks Related to Commercialization of Our Product Candidates

- The commercial success of our product candidates will depend upon the degree of market acceptance of such product candidates by physicians, patients, healthcare payors and others in the medical community.

- The successful commercialization of our product candidates, if approved, will depend in part on the extent to which governmental authorities and health insurers establish coverage, adequate reimbursement levels and favorable pricing policies.

Risks Related to Our Business Operations and Industry

- We are dependent on the services of our management and other clinical and scientific personnel, and if we are not able to retain these individuals or recruit additional management or clinical and scientific personnel, our business will suffer.

Risks Related to Intellectual Property

- Our success depends on our ability to obtain, maintain, protect and enforce our intellectual property and our proprietary technologies.

Risks Related to Ownership of Our ADSs

- The trading price of our ADSs could be highly volatile, and purchasers of the ADSs could incur substantial losses.
- As a foreign private issuer, we are not subject to some U.S. securities law disclosure requirements that apply to a domestic U.S. issuer, which may limit the information publicly available to our shareholders.
- Holders of our ADSs have fewer rights than shareholders and must act through the depository to exercise their rights.
- We have identified, experienced and may continue to identify and experience material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting in the future.

Risks Related to Doing Business in the PRC

- Changes in the political and economic policies of the PRC government may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations and may result in our inability to sustain our growth and expansion strategies.
- The PRC government may intervene in or influence our operations in accordance with laws and regulations, which could result in a material change in our operations and significantly and adversely impact the value of our ADSs.
- Until December 2022, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, or PCAOB, had historically been unable to inspect our independent registered public accounting firm's audit work performed for our financial statements, and this inability of PCAOB to inspect our auditors in the past had deprived our investors of the benefits of such inspections. If, in the future, the PCAOB is once again unable to inspect or investigate completely the work of our independent registered public accounting firm, investors will be deprived of the benefits of PCAOB inspections.
- Our ADSs and shares may be prohibited from trading under the HFCAA in the future if the PCAOB is once again unable to inspect or investigate completely auditors located in the PRC, and as a result the Nasdaq Global Market may make a determination to delist our securities. If this happens there is no certainty that we will be able to list our ADSs or shares on a non-U.S. exchange or that a market for our shares will develop outside of the U.S. The delisting of our ADSs or prohibition from trading, or the threat of their being delisted or prohibited from trading, may materially and adversely affect the value of our ADSs.
- Compliance with the PRC's new Data Security Law, Cybersecurity Review Measures, Personal Information Protection Law, regulations and guidelines relating to the multi-level protection scheme and any other future laws and regulations may entail significant expenses and could materially affect our business.
- PRC laws and regulations governing our current business operations are sometimes vague and uncertain, and therefore, these risks may result in a material negative change in our subsidiaries' operations, significant depreciation of the value of our ADSs, or a complete hindrance of our ability to offer or continue to offer our securities to investors, which could cause the value of the securities of investors to become worthless.
- The approval and the filing with the China Securities Regulatory Commission, or CSRC, may be required under a PRC regulation in connection with any future offerings of our securities in the U.S. market.
- Certain PRC regulations may make it more difficult for us to pursue growth through acquisitions. Any failure by us to comply with PRC anti-monopoly laws and regulations may result in governmental investigations or enforcement actions, litigation or claims against us and could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.
- We could be adversely affected by rising political tensions and any potential conflicts between the United States and the PRC.

- Recent litigation, regulatory scrutiny and negative publicity surrounding PRC-based companies listed in the United States may result in increased regulatory scrutiny of us and negatively impact the trading price of our ADSs.
- Our business benefits from tax benefits or financial incentives and discretionary policies granted by governmental authorities in the PRC. Expiration, elimination or reduction of these incentives or policies would have an adverse effect on our results of operations.
- We may be restricted by industry-specific laws and regulations from transferring our scientific data outside of the PRC.
- Additional remedial measures could be imposed on PRC-based accounting firms, including our independent registered public accounting firm, in administrative proceedings instituted by the SEC, as a result of which our consolidated financial statements may be determined to not be in compliance with SEC requirements.

General Risks

- We are subject to risks arising from health epidemics, including COVID-19.
- We are subject to risks associated with inflation pressures, natural disasters and failure to comply with environmental, health and safety laws and regulations.

Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act

Pursuant to the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act, as amended, or the HFCAA if the SEC determines that we have filed audit reports issued by a registered public accounting firm that has not been subject to inspections by the PCAOB for two consecutive years, the SEC will prohibit our shares or the ADSs from being traded on a national securities exchange or in the over-the-counter trading market in the United States. As a result of such trading prohibition, the Nasdaq Global Market may make a determination to delist our securities. On December 16, 2021, the PCAOB issued a report to notify the SEC of its determination that the PCAOB was unable to inspect or investigate completely registered public accounting firms headquartered in the PRC and Hong Kong, including our auditor. In May 2022, the SEC listed us as a Commission-Identified Issuer under the HFCAA following the filing of our annual report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021. On December 15, 2022, the PCAOB issued a report that vacated its December 16, 2021 determination and removed the PRC and Hong Kong from the list of jurisdictions where it is unable to inspect or investigate completely registered public accounting firms. For this reason, until such time as the PCAOB issues any new determination, we do not expect to be identified as a Commission-Identified Issuer under the HFCAA. If PCAOB determines in the future that it no longer has full access to inspect and investigate completely accounting firms in the PRC and Hong Kong and we continue to use an accounting firm headquartered in one of these jurisdictions to issue an audit report on our financial statements filed with the SEC, we would again be identified as a Commission-Identified Issuer. There can be no assurance that we would not be identified as a Commission-Identified Issuer in the future, and if we were so identified for two consecutive years, we would become subject to the prohibition on trading under the HFCAA and as a result the Nasdaq Global Market may make a determination to delist our securities. See Item 3.D. “Risk Factors— Risks Related to Doing Business in the PRC — Our ADSs and shares may be prohibited from trading under the HFCAA in the future if the PCAOB is unable to inspect or investigate completely auditors located in the PRC and as a result the Nasdaq Global Market may make a determination to delist our securities. If this happens there is no certainty that we will be able to list our ADSs or shares on a non-U.S. exchange or that a market for our shares will develop outside of the U.S. The delisting of our ADSs or prohibition from trading, or the threat of their being delisted or prohibited from trading, may materially and adversely affect the value of our ADSs.”

Permissions, Approvals, Licenses and Permits Required from the PRC Authorities for Our Operations and for the Offering of Our Securities to Foreign Investors

We conduct a portion of our business through our subsidiaries in the PRC. Our PRC subsidiaries have obtained all necessary licenses and approvals to conduct our operations in the PRC and, to date, no application for any such licenses and approvals has been denied. For details of the material permissions, approvals, licenses and permits that our PRC subsidiaries are required to obtain to conduct our operations in the PRC, see Item 4.B. “Business Overview – Material Permissions, Approvals, Licenses and Permits in the PRC.” If we fail to receive any requisite permission or approval from the CSRC, CAC or other PRC regulatory authorities for any securities offering or our operations, or the waiver of such permission or approval, in a timely manner, or at all, or inadvertently conclude that such permissions or approvals are not required, or if applicable laws, regulations, or interpretations change and obligate us to obtain such permission or approvals in the future, we may be subject to fines and penalties, suspension or limitations on our business activities in China, revocation of our business licenses, website closure, delay or restrictions on the contribution to the PRC of the proceeds from any securities offering, or other sanctions that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, reputation and prospects. In addition, the CSRC, CAC or other PRC regulatory agencies

may also take actions requiring us, or making it advisable for us, to halt any future offerings. Consequently, if you engage in market trading or other activities in anticipation of and prior to the settlement and delivery of any securities we offer from time to time, you would be doing so at the risk that the settlement and delivery may not occur. See Item 3.D. “Risk Factors— Risks Related to Doing Business in the PRC — Compliance with the PRC’s new Data Security Law, Cybersecurity Review Measures, Personal Information Protection Law, regulations and guidelines relating to the multi-level protection scheme and any other future laws and regulations may entail significant expenses and could materially affect our business”; “Risk Factors— Risks Related to Doing Business in the PRC — PRC laws and regulations governing our current business operations are sometimes vague and uncertain, and therefore, these risks may result in a material negative change in our subsidiaries’ operations, significant depreciation of the value of our ADSs, or a complete hindrance of our ability to offer or continue to offer our securities to investors, which could cause the value of the securities of investors to become worthless”; and “Risk Factors— Risks Related to Doing Business in the PRC — The approval of the CSRC may be required under a PRC regulation in connection with any future offerings of our securities in the U.S. market.”

Implications of Being an Emerging Growth Company and a Foreign Private Issuer

Emerging Growth Company

We are an “emerging growth company” as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012, or the JOBS Act. As such, we may take advantage of specific exemptions from various reporting requirements that are applicable to other publicly traded entities that are not emerging growth companies. These exemptions include:

- not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002;
- not being required to comply with any requirement that may be adopted by the PCAOB regarding mandatory audit firm rotation or a supplement to the auditor’s report providing additional information about the audit and the financial statements (i.e., an auditor discussion and analysis);
- not being required to submit some executive compensation matters to shareholder advisory votes, such as “say-on-pay,” “say-on-frequency” and “say-on-golden parachutes;” and
- not being required to disclose some executive compensation related items such as the correlation between executive compensation and performance and comparisons of the chief executive officer’s compensation to median employee compensation.

As a result, we do not know if some investors will find our ADSs less attractive. The result may be a less active trading market for our ADSs, and the price of our ADSs may become more volatile.

We will remain an emerging growth company until the earliest of: (i) the last day of the first fiscal year in which our annual gross revenues exceed \$1.235 billion; (ii) the last day of the fiscal year following the fifth anniversary of the completion of our initial public offering; (iii) the date that we become a “large accelerated filer” as defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Exchange Act, which would occur if the market value of our common equity held by non-affiliates exceeds \$700 million as of the last business day of our most recently completed second fiscal quarter; or (iv) the date on which we have issued more than \$1 billion in non-convertible debt securities during any three-year period.

Foreign Private Issuer

We report under the Exchange Act as a non-U.S. company with foreign private issuer status. Even after we no longer qualify as an emerging growth company, as long as we qualify as a foreign private issuer under the Exchange Act, we will be exempt from specific provisions of the Exchange Act that are applicable to U.S. domestic public companies, including:

- the sections of the Exchange Act regulating the solicitation of proxies, consents or authorizations in respect of a security registered under the Exchange Act;
- the sections of the Exchange Act requiring insiders to file public reports of their stock ownership and trading activities and liability for insiders who profit from trades made in a short period of time; and
- the rules under the Exchange Act requiring the filing with the SEC of quarterly reports on Form 10-Q containing unaudited financial and other specific information, or current reports on Form 8-K, upon the occurrence of specified significant events.

In addition, we will not be required to file annual reports and consolidated financial statements with the SEC as promptly as U.S. domestic companies whose securities are registered under the Exchange Act, and we will not be required to comply with Regulation FD, which restricts the selective disclosure of material information.

Both foreign private issuers and emerging growth companies also are exempt from some more stringent executive compensation disclosure rules. Thus, even if we no longer qualify as an emerging growth company, but remain a foreign private issuer, we will continue to be exempt from the more stringent compensation disclosures required of companies that are neither an emerging growth company nor a foreign private issuer.

RISK FACTORS

Investors should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below and the other information in this annual report, including our consolidated financial statements and related notes appearing elsewhere in this annual report and in the section titled “Operating and Financial Review and Prospects,” before deciding whether to invest or maintain any investment in our ADSs. Our business, financial condition, results of operations or prospects could be materially and adversely affected if any of these risks occurs, and as a result, the market price of our ADSs could decline and some or all of their value may be lost. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently believe to be immaterial may also adversely affect our business.

Risks Related to Our Limited Operating History, Financial Position and Capital Requirements

We have a limited operating history, have incurred significant operating losses since our inception and expect to incur significant losses for the foreseeable future. We may never generate any revenue or become profitable or, if we achieve profitability, we may not be able to sustain it.

Biopharmaceutical product development is a highly speculative undertaking and involves a substantial degree of risk. We are a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company with a limited operating history upon which investors can evaluate our business and prospects. We commenced operations in 2012, and to date, we have focused primarily on organizing and staffing our company, business planning, raising capital, performing research and development activities, establishing our intellectual property portfolio, discovering potential product candidates and conducting preclinical studies and clinical trials. Our approach to the discovery and development of product candidates is unproven, and we do not know whether we will be able to develop any products of commercial value. We only have rademikibart and icanbelimod in clinical development. There is no guarantee that we will be able to continue the development of or advance any product candidate into further clinical trials, including to meet the capital requirements for such activities. We have not yet demonstrated an ability to successfully obtain regulatory approvals, manufacture a commercial scale product, or arrange for a third party to do so on our behalf, or conduct sales and marketing activities necessary for successful product commercialization. Consequently, any predictions made about our future success or viability may not be as accurate as they could be if we had a history of successfully developing and commercializing biopharmaceutical products.

We have incurred significant operating losses since our inception. If our product candidates are not successfully developed and approved, we may never generate any revenue. Our net losses were USD 59.5 million and USD 118.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. As of December 31, 2023, we had an accumulated loss of USD 539.3 million. Substantially all of our losses have resulted from expenses incurred in connection with our research and development programs and from general and administrative costs associated with our operations. Our product candidates will require substantial additional development time and resources before we would be able to apply for or receive regulatory approvals and begin generating revenue from product sales. We expect to continue to incur losses for the foreseeable future, and we anticipate these losses will increase substantially as we conduct our ongoing and planned preclinical studies and clinical trials, continue our research and development activities, increase our production capacity, and seek regulatory approvals for our product candidates, as well as hire additional personnel, obtain and protect our intellectual property and incur additional costs for commercialization or to expand our pipeline of product candidates.

To become and remain profitable, we must succeed in developing and eventually commercializing products that generate significant revenue. This will require us to be successful in a range of challenging activities, including completing preclinical studies and clinical trials of our product candidates, obtaining regulatory approval for these product candidates and manufacturing, marketing and selling any products for which we may obtain regulatory approval. We are only in the preliminary stages of most of these activities. We may never succeed in these activities and, even if we do, may never generate revenues that are significant enough to achieve profitability. In addition, we have not yet demonstrated an ability

to successfully overcome many of the risks and uncertainties frequently encountered by companies in new and rapidly evolving fields, particularly in the biopharmaceutical industry. Because of the numerous risks and uncertainties associated with biopharmaceutical product development, we are unable to accurately predict the timing or amount of increased expenses or when, or if, we will be able to achieve profitability. Even if we do achieve profitability, we may not be able to sustain or increase profitability. If we fail to become and remain profitable, the value of our ADSs could be depressed and our ability to raise capital, expand our business, maintain our research and development efforts, diversify our product candidates or even continue our operations could be impaired, and some or all of the value of our ADSs could be lost.

We will require substantial additional financing to achieve our goals, and a failure to obtain or access this necessary capital when needed on acceptable terms, or at all, could force us to delay, limit, reduce or terminate our product development programs, commercialization efforts or other operations. Our existing capital will not be sufficient for us to fund our product candidates through regulatory approval, and we will need to raise additional capital to complete their development and commercialization.

The development of biopharmaceutical product candidates is capital-intensive. Since our inception, we have used substantial amounts of cash to fund our operations and we expect our expenses to increase in connection with our ongoing activities during the next few years, particularly as we conduct our ongoing and planned clinical trials of rademikibart and icanbelimod, continue research and development for any additional product candidates, and seek regulatory approval for our current product candidates and any future product candidates we may develop. In particular, we are actively seeking potential global and regional partners to provide additional experience and infrastructure to support the next phase of clinical development for our lead product candidate, rademikibart. There can be no assurance that we will secure any desired partnership on a timely basis or acceptable terms. Further, subject to the terms and conditions of each partnership, external factors beyond our control may affect our collection of milestone payments or royalty payments under such a partnership. For example, on November 21, 2023, Connect HK and Connect SZ, two of the Company's wholly owned subsidiaries, or the Connect Licensor, have entered into an exclusive license and collaboration agreement, or the Simcere Agreement, with Simcere Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., or the Simcere Licensee, to develop and commercialize rademikibart in Greater China. For additional information, see Item 10.C. "Material Contracts". However, external factors such as changes in applicable laws, government actions or other similar circumstances beyond our control may cause delay or disruption in future payments owed to us by the Simcere Licensee under the Simcere Agreement. Further, failure of our PRC rademikibart trials in meeting the respective primary end points set forth in the trial protocols will entitle the Simcere Licensee to terminate the Simcere Agreement.

In addition, as our product candidates progress through development and toward commercialization, we may need to make royalty or other payments to our licensors and other third parties. Furthermore, if and to the extent we seek to acquire or in-license additional product candidates or rights in the future, we may be required to make significant upfront payments, milestone payments, licensing payments, royalty payments and/or other types of payments. If we obtain regulatory approval for any of our product candidates, we also expect to incur significant commercialization expenses related to product manufacturing, marketing, sales and distribution. Because the outcome of any clinical trial or preclinical study is highly uncertain, we cannot reasonably estimate the actual amounts necessary to successfully complete the development and commercialization of our product candidates. Furthermore, we have incurred significant costs associated with operating as a public company, and we expect to continue to incur significant costs associated with our operation as a public company. Accordingly, we will need to obtain substantial additional funding in connection with our continuing operations. If we are unable to raise capital or find alternative sources of financing when needed or on attractive terms, we would be forced to delay, reduce or eliminate our research and development programs or any future commercialization efforts, including in connection with any license or collaboration agreement that we may have entered into or may enter into in the future, and we may need to focus our efforts on fewer product candidates to preserve our resources.

Our operating plans and other demands on our cash resources may change as a result of many factors currently unknown to us, and we may need to seek additional funds sooner than planned, through public or private equity or debt financings or other capital sources, including potentially collaborations, licenses and other similar arrangements. In addition, we may seek additional capital due to favorable market conditions or strategic considerations even if we believe we have sufficient funds for our current or future operating plans.

Any additional capital raising efforts may divert our management from their day-to-day activities, which may adversely affect our ability to develop and, if approved, commercialize our current and any future product candidates. Additional funding may not be available on acceptable terms, or at all. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and actions taken to slow its spread, as well as actual or anticipated changes in interest rates and economic inflation and the impact of the Russian-Ukraine war, the global credit and financial markets have experienced extreme volatility and disruptions, including severely diminished liquidity and credit availability, declines in consumer confidence, declines in economic growth,

increases in unemployment rates, and uncertainty about economic stability. If the equity and credit markets deteriorate, it may make any necessary debt or equity financing more difficult, more costly or more dilutive.

Our future financing requirements will depend on many factors, including:

- the type, number, scope, progress, expansions, results, costs and timing of our clinical trials and preclinical studies of our product candidates which we are pursuing or may choose to pursue in the future;
- safety concerns related to the use of our product candidates;
- adverse findings regarding the efficacy of our product candidates as additional information is acquired;
- the costs and timing of manufacturing for our product candidates, including commercial manufacturing if any product candidate is approved;
- the costs, timing and outcome of regulatory review of our product candidates;
- the costs of obtaining, maintaining, enforcing and defending our patents and other intellectual property and proprietary rights and resolving disputes related to third parties' intellectual property and proprietary rights;
- our efforts to enhance operational systems and hire additional personnel to satisfy our obligations as a public company, including enhanced internal controls over financial reporting;
- the costs associated with hiring additional personnel and consultants as our clinical activities increase;
- the timing and amount of the royalty or other payments we must make to our licensors and other third parties;
- the costs and timing of establishing or securing sales and marketing capabilities if any product candidate is approved;
- our ability to achieve sufficient market acceptance, coverage and adequate reimbursement from third-party payors and adequate market share and revenue for any approved products;
- the terms and timing of establishing and maintaining collaborations, licenses and other similar arrangements; and
- costs associated with any product candidates, products or technologies that we may in-license or acquire.

Conducting clinical trials and preclinical studies is a time consuming, expensive and uncertain process that takes years to complete, and we may never generate the necessary data or results required to obtain regulatory approval and achieve product sales. In addition, our product candidates, if approved, may not achieve commercial success. Our commercial revenues, if any, will be derived from sales of products that we do not expect to be commercially available for many years, if at all.

Accordingly, we will need to continue to rely on additional financing to achieve our business objectives. Adequate additional financing may not be available to us on acceptable terms, or at all. If we are unable to raise capital when needed or on attractive terms, we would be forced to delay, limit, reduce or terminate our product development, or future commercialization efforts or grant third-parties rights to develop and market product candidates that we would otherwise have the potential to develop and market ourselves. Our ability to grow and support our business and to respond to market challenges could be significantly limited in these circumstances, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Additionally, we maintain the majority of our cash and cash equivalents in accounts with major U.S. and multi-national financial institutions, and our deposits at certain of these institutions exceed insured limits. Market conditions can impact the viability of these institutions. For example, during 2023, Silicon Valley Bank, or SVB, was closed by the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, or FDIC, and the FDIC was appointed receiver to oversee the newly formed bridge bank Silicon Valley Bank, N.A., or SVB NA, which assumed all transferred assets from SVB. First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company, Raleigh, North Carolina, or First Citizens, subsequently purchased all deposits and loans of SVB, and depositors of SVB became depositors of First Citizens. We hold only an insignificant amount of deposits with First Citizens and have transferred the majority of our deposits from First Citizens to other financial institutions, so we do not currently anticipate problems accessing our deposits at First Citizens or other financial institutions. However, in the event of failure of any of the financial institutions where we maintain our cash and cash equivalents, or with whom we have agreements, there can be no assurance that we would be able to access uninsured funds in a timely manner or at all. Any inability to access or delay in accessing these funds could adversely affect our business and financial position.

Raising additional capital may cause substantial dilution to our shareholders, including holders of our ADSs, restrict our operations or require us to relinquish rights to our technologies or product candidates.

Until such time, if ever, as we can generate substantial revenues, we expect to finance our business and operational needs through equity offerings, debt financings or other financing sources, including potentially collaborations, licenses and other similar arrangements. To the extent that we raise additional capital through the sale of equity or convertible debt securities, investors' ownership interest may be substantially diluted, and the terms of these securities may include liquidation or other preferences that adversely affect investors' rights as a holder of our ADSs. We currently have an effective shelf registration statement covering the offering of up to \$300,000,000 in the aggregate of our ADSs, including up to \$150,000,000 of our ADSs that may be issued and sold from time to time "at the market" under a sales agreement with Leerink Partners LLC (formerly SVB Securities LLC) and Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. There has been no take down from the shelf registration statement or sale of ADSs under such sales agreement, but any such financing if effected will be likely to cause substantial dilution to holders of our securities.

Debt financing and preferred equity financing, if available, may involve agreements that include covenants limiting or restricting our ability to take specific actions, such as incurring additional debt, making capital expenditures or declaring dividends.

If we raise funds through future collaborations, licenses and other similar arrangements, we may have to relinquish valuable rights to our future revenue streams, research programs or product candidates or grant licenses on terms that may not be favorable to us and/or that may reduce the value of our ADSs. We may also lose control of the development of our products or product candidates, such as the pace and scope of clinical trials, as a result of such third-party arrangements. If we are unable to raise funds through equity or debt financings when needed, we would be required to delay, limit, reduce or terminate our product development or future commercialization efforts or grant rights to develop and market products or product candidates that we would otherwise prefer to develop and market ourselves.

Risks Related to the Discovery, Development and Regulatory Approval of Our Product Candidates

Clinical drug development involves a lengthy and expensive process, with an uncertain outcome. We may incur unforeseen costs or experience delays in completing, or ultimately be unable to complete, the development and commercialization of our product candidates.

All jurisdictions in which we intend to conduct our clinical drug development activities regulate these activities in great depth and detail. We intend to focus our activities on major markets, including the United States and the PRC. We currently conduct clinical trials, including in the United States, the PRC, the European Union, or the EU, Australia and New Zealand and must comply with the numerous and varying regulatory requirements of each jurisdiction. Before obtaining marketing approval from the FDA, the NMPA, the European Commission, or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities for the sale of our product candidates, we must complete preclinical development and extensive clinical trials to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of our product candidates. Clinical testing is expensive, time-consuming and subject to uncertainty. A failure of one or more clinical trials can occur at any stage of the process, and the outcome of preclinical studies and early-stage clinical trials may not be predictive of the success of later clinical trials. Moreover, preclinical and clinical data are often susceptible to varying interpretations and analyses, and many companies that have believed their product candidates performed satisfactorily in preclinical studies and clinical trials have nonetheless failed to obtain marketing approval of their drugs.

We cannot guarantee that any clinical trials will be initiated or conducted as planned or completed on schedule, if at all. For example, in light of PRC governmental guidelines, in 2023 we decided to initiate two new studies for rademikibart to further support drug registration application. We also cannot be sure that submission of an IND or similar application will result in the FDA, the NMPA, the EU Member States, or another regulatory authority, as applicable, allowing clinical trials to begin in a timely manner, if at all. Moreover, even during these trials, issues may arise that could cause regulatory authorities to suspend or terminate such clinical trials. A failure of one or more clinical trials can occur at any stage of testing, and our future clinical trials may not be successful. Events that may prevent successful or timely initiation or completion of clinical trials include:

- inability to generate sufficient preclinical, toxicology, or other in vivo or in vitro data to support the initiation or continuation of clinical trials;
- delays in reaching a consensus with regulatory authorities on study design or implementation of the clinical trials;

- delays or failure in obtaining regulatory authorization or allowance to commence a trial or inability to comply with conditions imposed by a regulatory authority regarding the scope or design of a study;
- delays in reaching agreement on acceptable terms with prospective contract research organizations, or CROs, and clinical trial sites, the terms of which can be subject to extensive negotiation and may vary significantly among different CROs and clinical trial sites;
- delays in identifying, recruiting and training suitable clinical investigators;
- delays in obtaining required ethics committee or institutional review board, or IRB, approval at each clinical trial site, or terminations or suspensions of our clinical trials by an IRB;
- delays in manufacturing, testing, releasing, validating or importing/exporting sufficient stable quantities of our product candidates for use in clinical trials or the inability to do any of the foregoing;
- insufficient or inadequate supply or quality of product candidates or other materials necessary for use in clinical trials, or delays in sufficiently developing, characterizing or controlling a manufacturing process suitable for clinical trials;
- imposition of a temporary, partial, full, or permanent clinical hold by regulatory authorities for a number of reasons, including after review of an IND or amendment or equivalent foreign application or amendment; as a result of a new safety finding that presents unreasonable risk to clinical trial participants; or a negative finding from an inspection of our clinical trial operations or study sites;
- developments in trials conducted by competitors for related technology that raises FDA, NMPA, EMA, or foreign regulatory authority concerns about risk to patients of the technology broadly, or findings by the FDA, the NMPA or a foreign regulatory authority that an investigational protocol or plan is clearly deficient to meet its stated objectives;
- delays or failure in recruiting, screening and enrolling suitable patients and delays or failure caused by patients withdrawing from clinical trials or failing to return for post-treatment follow-up;
- difficulty collaborating with patient groups and investigators;
- failure by our CROs, other third parties or us to adhere to clinical trial protocols;
- failure to perform clinical trials in accordance with the FDA's, the NMPA's, the EMA's, or any other comparable foreign regulatory authority's good clinical practice requirements, or GCPs, or applicable regulatory guidelines in other countries;
- occurrence of adverse events associated with the product candidate that are viewed to outweigh its potential benefits, or occurrence of adverse events in trials of the same class of agents conducted by other companies;
- changes to clinical trial protocols;
- clinical sites deviating from trial protocol or dropping out of a trial;
- changes in regulatory requirements and guidance that require amending or submitting new clinical protocols;
- changes in the standard of care on which a clinical development plan was based, which may require new or additional trials;
- selection of clinical endpoints that require prolonged periods of observation or analyses of resulting data;
- the cost of clinical trials of our product candidates being greater than we anticipate;
- clinical trials of our product candidates producing negative or inconclusive results, which may result in our deciding, or regulators requiring us, to conduct additional clinical trials or abandon development of such product candidates;
- transfer of manufacturing processes to larger-scale facilities operated by a contract manufacturing organization, or CMO, and delays or failure by our CMOs or us to make any necessary changes to such manufacturing processes; and
- third parties being unwilling or unable to satisfy their contractual obligations to us.

Clinical trials must be conducted in accordance with the FDA, the NMPA and other comparable foreign regulatory authorities' requirements, regulations or guidelines, which can change unexpectedly and significantly, and are subject to oversight by these governmental agencies and ethics committees or IRBs at the medical institutions where the clinical trials are conducted. We could encounter delays or failure in the development of our product candidates if a clinical trial is suspended or terminated by us, by the data safety monitoring board for such trial or by the FDA, the NMPA or any other comparable foreign regulatory authority, or if the IRBs of the institutions in which such trials are being conducted suspend or terminate the participation of their clinical investigators and sites subject to their review. Such authorities may suspend or terminate a clinical trial due to a number of factors, including failure to conduct the clinical trial in accordance with

regulatory requirements or our clinical protocols, inspection of the clinical trial operations or trial site by the FDA, the NMPA or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities resulting in the imposition of a clinical hold, unforeseen safety issues or adverse side effects, failure to demonstrate a benefit from using a product candidate, changes in governmental regulations or administrative actions or lack of adequate funding to continue the clinical trial.

Further, conducting clinical trials in foreign countries for our product candidates, as in our ongoing clinical trials, presents additional risks that may delay completion of our clinical trials. These risks include the failure of enrolled study participants in foreign countries to adhere to clinical protocol as a result of differences in healthcare services, languages or cultural customs, managing additional administrative burdens associated with foreign regulatory schemes, as well as political and economic risks relevant to such foreign countries, including war. For example, we engaged CROs to conduct clinical trials outside of the U.S., including in Ukraine for our ongoing icanelimod and rademikibart trials. The Russia and Ukraine war has impacted our ability to continue our trials in Ukraine and the surrounding region and prevented us from obtaining data from our trials, previously located at sites in these countries. This also delayed the completion of our clinical trials and/or analyses of clinical results, which could materially harm our business.

Moreover, principal investigators for our clinical trials may serve as scientific advisors or consultants to us from time to time and receive compensation in connection with such services. Under some circumstances, we may be required to report some of these relationships to the FDA, the NMPA or any other comparable foreign regulatory authorities. The FDA, the NMPA or a comparable foreign regulatory authority may conclude that a financial relationship between us and a principal investigator has created a conflict of interest or otherwise affected interpretation of the study. The FDA, the NMPA or a comparable foreign regulatory authority may therefore question the integrity of the data generated at the applicable clinical trial site and the utility of the clinical trial itself may be jeopardized. This could result in a delay in approval, or rejection, of our marketing applications by the FDA, the NMPA or a comparable foreign regulatory authority, as the case may be, and may ultimately lead to the denial of marketing approval of our product candidates.

Delays or failure in the completion of any clinical trial of our product candidates will increase our costs, slow down our product candidate development and approval process and delay or potentially jeopardize our ability to commence product sales and generate product revenue. In addition, many of the factors that cause, or lead to, a delay in the commencement or completion of clinical trials may also ultimately lead to the denial of regulatory approval of our product candidates. Any delays to or failure in our clinical trials that occur as a result could shorten any period during which we may have the exclusive right to commercialize our product candidates and our competitors may be able to bring products to market before we do, and the commercial viability of our product candidates could be significantly reduced. Any of these occurrences may harm our business, financial condition and prospects significantly.

In addition, the FDA's and other regulatory authorities' policies with respect to clinical trials may change and additional government regulations may be enacted. For instance, the regulatory landscape related to clinical trials in the EU recently evolved. The EU Clinical Trials Regulation, or CTR, which was adopted in April 2014 and repeals the EU Clinical Trials Directive, became applicable on January 31, 2022. While the EU Clinical Trials Directive required a separate clinical trial application, or CTA, to be submitted in each member state in which the clinical trial takes place, to both the competent national health authority and an independent ethics committee, the CTR introduces a centralized process and only requires the submission of a single application for multi-center trials. The CTR allows sponsors to make a single submission to both the competent authority and an ethics committee in each member state, leading to a single decision per member state. The assessment procedure of the CTA has been harmonized as well, including a joint assessment by all member states concerned, and a separate assessment by each member state with respect to specific requirements related to its own territory, including ethics rules. Each member state's decision is communicated to the sponsor via the centralized EU portal. Once the CTA is approved, clinical study development may proceed. The CTR foresees a three-year transition period. The extent to which ongoing and new clinical trials will be governed by the CTR varies. Clinical trials for which an application was submitted (i) prior to January 31, 2022 under the EU Clinical Trials Directive, or (ii) between January 31, 2022 and January 31, 2023 and for which the sponsor has opted for the application of the EU Clinical Trials Directive remain governed by said Directive until January 31, 2025. After this date, all clinical trials (including those which are ongoing) will become subject to the provisions of the CTR. Compliance with the CTR requirements by us and our third-party service providers, such as CROs, may impact our developments plans.

We depend on enrollment of patients in our clinical trials for our product candidates. If we experience delays or difficulties enrolling patients in our clinical trials, our research and development efforts and business, financial condition, and results of operations could be materially adversely affected.

Successful and timely completion of clinical trials will require that we enroll a sufficient number of patient candidates. These trials and other trials we conduct may be subject to delays for a variety of reasons, including as a result of patient enrollment taking longer than anticipated, patient withdrawal or adverse events. These types of developments could cause us to delay the trial or halt further development.

Our clinical trials will compete with other clinical trials that are in the same therapeutic areas as our product candidates, and this competition reduces the number and types of patients available to us, as some patients who might have opted to enroll in our trials may instead opt to enroll in a trial being conducted by one of our competitors. Because the number of qualified clinical investigators and clinical trial sites is limited, we expect to conduct some of our clinical trials at the same clinical trial sites that some of our competitors use, which will reduce the number of patients who are available for our clinical trials at such clinical trial sites. In addition, there may be limited patient pools from which to draw for clinical studies. The eligibility criteria of our clinical studies will further limit the pool of available study participants as we will require that patients have specific characteristics that we can measure or to assure their disease is either severe enough or not too advanced to include them in a study.

Patient enrollment also depends on many other factors, including:

- the size and nature of the patient population;
- the severity of the disease under investigation;
- eligibility criteria for the trial;
- the proximity of patients to clinical sites;
- the design of the clinical protocol;
- the ability to obtain and maintain patient consents;
- the ability to recruit clinical trial investigators with the appropriate competencies and experience;
- the risk that patients enrolled in clinical trials will drop out of the trials before the administration of our product candidates or trial completion;
- the availability of competing clinical trials;
- the availability of new drugs approved or drug candidates under investigation for the indication the clinical trial is investigating; and
- clinicians' and patients' perceptions as to the potential risks and advantages of the drug being studied in relation to other available therapies.

These factors may make it difficult for us to enroll enough patients to complete our clinical trials in a timely and cost-effective manner, or may require us to abandon one or more clinical trials altogether. For example, we engaged CROs to conduct clinical trials outside of the U.S., including in Ukraine for our ongoing icabelimod and rademikibart trials and patient enrollment in Ukraine was disrupted in 2022 due to the war. Delays in the completion or termination of any clinical trial of our product candidates will increase our costs, slow down our product candidate development and approval process and delay or potentially jeopardize our ability to commence product sales and generate revenue. In addition, some of the factors that cause, or lead to, a delay in the commencement or completion of clinical trials may also ultimately lead to the denial of regulatory approval of our product candidates.

Our product candidates may be associated with serious adverse events or undesirable side effects or have other properties that could delay or halt their clinical development, delay or prevent their regulatory approval, limit their commercial potential or result in significant negative consequences.

Adverse events or other undesirable side effects caused by our product candidates could cause us or regulatory authorities to interrupt, delay or halt clinical trials and could result in a more restrictive label or the delay or denial of regulatory approval by the FDA, the NMPA or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities for such product candidates. Results of our clinical trials could reveal a high and unacceptable severity and prevalence of side effects or unexpected characteristics. We have observed treatment-related adverse events in clinical trials of our product candidates.

During the conduct of clinical trials, patients report changes in their health, including illnesses, injuries, and discomforts, to their study doctor. Often, it is not possible to determine whether or not the product candidate being studied caused these conditions. It is possible that as we test our product candidates in larger, longer and more extensive clinical trials, or as use of these product candidates becomes more widespread if they receive regulatory approval, illnesses, injuries, discomforts and other adverse events that were observed in previous trials, as well as conditions that did not occur or went undetected in previous trials, will be reported by patients. Many times, side effects are only detectable after investigational products are tested in large-scale clinical trials or, in some cases, after they are made available to patients on a commercial scale following approval. In the single-dose regimen of our Phase 1 trial of icanbelimod, one healthy adult treated with 2.5mg of icanbelimod experienced bradycardia associated with transient asystole, which was deemed a treatment-related serious adverse event. The subject was treated with high-flow oxygen and fully recovered.

If any serious adverse events occur, clinical trials or commercial distribution of any product candidates or products we develop or commercialize could be suspended or terminated, and our business could be seriously harmed. Treatment-related side effects could also affect patient recruitment and the ability of enrolled patients to complete the trial or result in potential liability claims. Regulatory authorities could order us to cease further development of, deny approval of, or require us to cease selling any product candidates or products for any or all targeted indications. If we are required to delay, suspend or terminate any clinical trial or commercialization efforts, the commercial prospects of one or more product candidates or products may be harmed, and our ability to generate product revenues from them or other product candidates that we develop may be delayed or eliminated. Additionally, if one or more of our product candidates receives marketing approval and we or others later identify undesirable side effects or adverse events caused by such products, a number of potentially significant negative consequences could result, including but not limited to:

- regulatory authorities may suspend, limit or withdraw approvals of such product, or seek an injunction against its manufacture or distribution;
- regulatory authorities may require additional warnings on the label, including “boxed” warnings, or issue safety alerts, Dear Healthcare Provider letters, press releases or other communications containing warnings or other safety information about the product;
- we may be required to change the way the product is administered or conduct additional clinical trials or post-approval studies;
- we may be required to create a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy, or REMS, which could include a medication guide outlining the risks of such side effects for distribution to patients;
- we may be subject to fines, injunctions or the imposition of administrative or criminal penalties;
- we could be sued and held liable for harm caused to patients; and
- our reputation may suffer.

Any of these events could prevent us from achieving or maintaining market acceptance of the particular product candidate, if approved, and could seriously harm our business.

We have conducted and may continue to conduct clinical trials for our product candidates in international sites, and the applicable regulatory authority may not accept data from trials conducted in foreign locations.

We have conducted, and may in the future choose to conduct, clinical trials outside the United States for our product candidates. The acceptance of study data from clinical trials conducted outside the U.S. or another jurisdiction by the FDA or comparable foreign regulatory authority may be subject to specific conditions or may not be accepted at all. In cases where data from foreign clinical trials are intended to serve as the sole basis for marketing approval in the U.S., the FDA will generally not approve the application on the basis of foreign data alone unless (i) the data are applicable to the U.S. population and U.S. medical practice; (ii) the trials were performed by clinical investigators of recognized competence and pursuant to GCP regulations; and (iii) the data may be considered valid without the need for an on-site inspection by the FDA, or if the FDA considers such inspection to be necessary, the FDA is able to validate the data through an on-site inspection or other appropriate means. In addition, even where the foreign study data are not intended to serve as the sole basis for approval, if the study was not conducted pursuant to an IND, the FDA will not accept the data as support for an application for marketing approval unless the study was conducted, in accordance with GCP requirements, and the FDA must also be able to validate the data from the study through an onsite inspection if deemed necessary. Many foreign regulatory authorities have similar requirements. In addition, such foreign trials would be subject to the applicable local laws of the foreign jurisdictions where the trials are conducted. There can be no assurance that the FDA, NMPA or any other comparable foreign regulatory authority will accept data from trials conducted outside of the United States or the applicable jurisdiction. If the FDA, NMPA or any other comparable foreign regulatory authority does not accept the data

from our clinical trials of our product candidates, it would likely result in the need for additional trials, which would be costly and time-consuming and delay or permanently halt our development of our product candidates.

Interim, “top-line” or preliminary data from our clinical trials that we announce or publish from time to time may change as more patient data become available and are subject to audit and verification procedures that could result in material changes in the final data.

From time to time, we may publicly disclose top-line or preliminary data from our preclinical studies and clinical trials, which is based on a preliminary analysis of then-available data, and the results and related findings and conclusions are subject to change following a more comprehensive review of the data related to the particular study or trial. We also make assumptions, estimations, calculations and conclusions as part of our analyses of data, and we may not have received or had the opportunity to fully and carefully evaluate all data. Moreover, caution should be exercised in drawing any conclusions from a comparison of data that does not come from head-to-head analysis. As a result, the top-line or preliminary results that we report may differ from future results of the same studies, or different conclusions or considerations may qualify such results, once additional data have been received and fully evaluated. Top-line or preliminary data also remain subject to audit and verification procedures that may result in the final data being materially different from the preliminary data we previously published. As a result, top-line or preliminary data should be viewed with caution until the final data are available.

From time to time, we may also disclose interim data from our preclinical studies and clinical trials. Interim data from clinical trials that we may complete are subject to the risk that one or more of the clinical outcomes may materially change as patient enrollment continues and more patient data become available or as patients from our clinical trials continue other treatments for their disease. Adverse differences between preliminary or interim data and final data could significantly harm our business prospects. Disclosure of interim data by us or by our competitors could also result in volatility in the price of our ADSs.

Further, others, including regulatory agencies, may not accept or agree with our assumptions, estimations, calculations, conclusions or analyses or may interpret or weigh the importance of data differently, which could impact the value of the particular program, the approvability or commercialization of the particular product candidate or product and our ADSs. In addition, the information we choose to publicly disclose regarding a particular study or clinical trial is based on what is typically extensive information, and investors or others may not agree with what we determine is material or otherwise appropriate information to include in our disclosure. If the interim, top-line, or preliminary data that we report differ from actual results, or if others, including regulatory authorities, disagree with the conclusions reached, our ability to obtain approval for, and commercialize, our product candidates may be harmed, which could harm our business, operating results, prospects or financial condition.

We may attempt to secure approval from the FDA, the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities through the use of accelerated approval pathways. If we are unable to obtain such approval, we may be required to conduct additional clinical trials beyond those that we contemplate, which could increase the expense of obtaining, and delay the receipt of, necessary marketing approvals. Even if we receive accelerated approval from the FDA, the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities, if our confirmatory trials do not verify clinical benefit, or if we do not comply with rigorous post-marketing requirements, the FDA, the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities may seek to withdraw accelerated approval.

We may in the future seek an accelerated approval for one or more of our product candidates. Under the accelerated approval program in the United States, for example, the FDA may grant accelerated approval to a product candidate designed to treat a serious or life-threatening condition that provides meaningful therapeutic benefit over available therapies upon a determination that the product candidate has an effect on a surrogate endpoint or intermediate clinical endpoint that is reasonably likely to predict clinical benefit. The FDA considers a clinical benefit to be a positive therapeutic effect that is clinically meaningful in the context of a given disease, such as irreversible morbidity or mortality. For the purposes of accelerated approval, a surrogate endpoint is a marker, such as a laboratory measurement, radiographic image, physical sign, or other measure that is thought to predict clinical benefit, but is not itself a measure of clinical benefit. An intermediate clinical endpoint is a clinical endpoint that can be measured earlier than an effect on irreversible morbidity or mortality that is reasonably likely to predict an effect on irreversible morbidity or mortality or other clinical benefit. The accelerated approval pathway may be used in cases in which the advantage of a new drug over available therapy may not be a direct therapeutic advantage, but is a clinically important improvement from a patient and public health perspective. If granted, accelerated approval is usually contingent on the sponsor’s agreement to conduct, in a diligent manner, confirmatory studies to verify and describe the drug’s clinical benefit. If such confirmatory studies fail to confirm the drug’s clinical benefit, or if the sponsor fails to conduct such studies in a timely manner, the FDA, may

withdraw its approval of the drug on an expedited basis. In addition, in December 2022, President Biden signed an omnibus appropriations bill to fund the U.S. government through fiscal year 2023. Included in that omnibus bill was the Food and Drug Omnibus Reform Act of 2022, which among other things, provided FDA new statutory authority to mitigate potential risks to patients from continued marketing of ineffective drugs previously granted accelerated approval. Under these provisions, the FDA may require a sponsor of a product seeking accelerated approval to have a confirmatory trial underway prior to such approval being granted.

Prior to seeking accelerated approval from the FDA or a comparable accelerated or conditional approval from other regulatory authorities, for any of our product candidates, we intend to seek feedback from the applicable regulatory authorities and will otherwise evaluate our ability to seek and receive any form of accelerated or conditional approval. There can be no assurance that after our evaluation of the feedback and other factors we will decide to pursue or submit an NDA or BLA, for accelerated approval or seek any other form of expedited development, review or approval. Furthermore, if we decide to submit an application for accelerated approval for our product candidates, there can be no assurance that such submission or application will be accepted or that any expedited development, review or approval will be granted on a timely basis, or at all. The FDA, the NMPA or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities could also require us to conduct further studies prior to considering our application or granting approval of any type.

Further, there have been regulatory initiatives in the PRC in the past few years in relation to clinical trial approvals, the evaluation and approval of some drugs and medical devices and the simplification and acceleration of the clinical trial process.

A failure to obtain accelerated approval or any other form of expedited development, review or approval for one of our product candidates would result in a longer time period to commercialization of such product candidate, if any, could increase the cost of development of such product candidate and could harm our competitive position in the marketplace. Even if we do obtain accelerated approval for our products, FDA, the NMPA, or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities could withdraw approval based on the results from our confirmatory trials.

We have only two product candidates, rademikibart and icanbelimod, in clinical development. If we are unable to successfully develop product candidates or experience significant delays in doing so, our business will be materially harmed.

We have only two product candidates, rademikibart and icanbelimod, in clinical development. Any additional product candidates will need to progress through IND-enabling studies prior to clinical development. We have invested substantially all of our efforts and financial resources into developing our current product candidates, identifying potential product candidates and conducting preclinical studies and clinical trials. As a result, we have limited infrastructure and experience in conducting clinical trials as a company and in engaging in regulatory interactions, and cannot be certain that our ongoing or planned clinical trials will be initiated or completed on time, if at all, that our planned development programs would be acceptable to the FDA, the NMPA or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities, or that, if approval is obtained, such product candidates can be successfully commercialized. In particular, we are actively seeking potential global and regional partners to provide additional experience and infrastructure to support the next phase of clinical development for our lead product candidate, rademikibart. There can be no assurance that we will secure a desired partnership on a timely basis or acceptable terms. Further, we cannot assure that all payment milestones will be achieved, nor can we assure that any sales will be effected to entitle us to royalty payments, under any desired partnership. For example, there can be no assurance that all the milestone and royalty payments under the Simcere Agreement will be made available to us.

Because of the early stage of some of our development and clinical programs, the success of our product candidates will depend on several factors, including the following:

- timely and successful enrollment in clinical trials and completion of clinical trials and preclinical studies with favorable results, for example, the impact of the Ukraine-Russia war on the schedule of our clinical trials, including on patient enrollment and trial data collection;
- submission of and allowance to proceed with clinical trials under INDs by the FDA or similar regulatory filing by the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities for the conduct of clinical trials of our preclinical product candidates and our proposed design of future clinical trials;
- demonstrating safety, purity, potency and/or efficacy of our product candidates to the satisfaction of applicable regulatory authorities;
- receipt of marketing approvals from applicable regulatory authorities, including of NDAs or BLAs from the FDA or of similar regulatory filings from the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities, and maintaining such approvals;

- making arrangements with our third-party manufacturers for, or establishing, commercial manufacturing capabilities;
- establishing sales, marketing and distribution capabilities and launching commercial sales of our products, if and when approved, whether alone or in collaboration with others;
- establishment, maintenance, enforcement and defense of patent, trade secret and other intellectual property and proprietary protection or regulatory exclusivity for our product candidates;
- maintaining an acceptable safety, tolerability and efficacy profile of our products following approval, if any;
- acceptance of our products, if and when approved, by patients, the medical community and third-party payors; manufacturing our product candidates at an acceptable cost; and
- maintaining and growing an organization of people who can develop our products and technology.

The success of our business, including our ability to finance our business and generate any revenue in the future, will primarily depend on the successful development, regulatory approval and commercialization of our product candidates, which may never occur. We may not succeed in demonstrating the safety or efficacy for all product candidates in clinical trials or in obtaining marketing approval thereafter. If we are unable to develop, or obtain regulatory approval for, or, if approved, successfully commercialize our product candidates, we may not be able to generate sufficient revenue to continue our business.

Our approach to the discovery and development of product candidates based on potent T cell modulation activity is unproven, and we do not know whether we will be able to develop any products of commercial value, or if competing technological approaches will limit the commercial value of our product candidates or render our approach obsolete.

The success of our business depends primarily upon our ability to identify, develop and commercialize products based on the rapid identification of molecules with potent T cell modulation activity, which is a novel and unproven approach. Our drug screening approach is designed to enable us to identify and develop product candidates targeting multiple allergic and autoimmune diseases.

While we believe our preclinical, Phase 1 and/or Phase 2 results for each of rademikibart and icanbelimod were supportive of further clinical development, we have not yet succeeded and may never succeed in demonstrating the safety and efficacy of any of our product candidates in a manner sufficient to obtain marketing approval. We do not have any other product candidates in clinical development.

Our approach to targeting molecules that we believe have potent T cell modulation activity may be unsuccessful in identifying additional product candidates, and any product candidates based on our technology may be shown to have harmful side effects or may have other characteristics that may necessitate additional clinical testing or make the product candidates unmarketable or unlikely to receive marketing approval. Further, adverse developments with respect to our rademikibart or our icanbelimod programs may have a significant adverse impact on the actual or perceived likelihood of success and value of our future product candidates based on our drug-screening approach.

In addition, the biotechnology and biopharmaceutical industries are characterized by rapidly advancing technologies. Our future success will depend in part on our ability to maintain a competitive position with our T cell modulating activity approach. If we fail to stay at the forefront of technological change in utilizing this technology and approach to create and develop product candidates, we may be unable to compete effectively. Our competitors may render our approach obsolete, or limit the commercial value of our product candidates, by advancing existing technological approaches or developing new or different approaches (including, for example, using different targeting approaches from ours), potentially eliminating the advantages that we believe we derive from our targeting of molecules with potent T cell modulation activity. By contrast, adverse developments with respect to other companies that attempt to use a similar T cell modulation approach to ours may adversely impact the actual or perceived value of and potential of our product candidates.

If any of these events occur, we may be forced to abandon our development efforts for one or more programs, which would have a material adverse effect on our business and could potentially cause us to cease operations.

We have never submitted an NDA or BLA, and may be unable to do so for any of our product candidates.

We will need to successfully obtain FDA, NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory approval to market any of our current or future product candidates. The submission of a successful NDA or BLA is a complicated and expensive time-consuming process. We have limited experience as a company in preparing, submitting and prosecuting regulatory filings and have not

previously submitted a NDA or BLA or other comparable foreign regulatory submission for any product candidate. We also plan to conduct a number of clinical trials for multiple product candidates in parallel over the next several years, which may be a difficult process to manage with our limited resources and which may divert the attention of management. In addition, we may be unable to successfully and efficiently execute and complete necessary clinical trials in a way that will support regulatory submissions and lead to approval of any of our product candidates. We may require more time and incur greater costs than our competitors and may not succeed in obtaining regulatory approvals of product candidates that we develop. Failure to commence or complete, or delays in, our planned clinical trials, could prevent us from or delay us in submitting NDAs or BLAs for and commercializing our product candidates.

The regulatory approval processes of the FDA, the NMPA and comparable foreign authorities are lengthy, time consuming and unpredictable, and if we are ultimately unable to obtain regulatory approval for our product candidates, our business will be substantially harmed.

The time required to obtain approval by the FDA, the NMPA and comparable foreign authorities is unpredictable but typically takes many years following the commencement of clinical trials and depends upon numerous factors, including the substantial discretion of the regulatory authorities. In addition, approval policies, regulations, or the type and amount of clinical data necessary to gain approval may change during the course of a product candidate's clinical development and may vary unexpectedly and significantly among jurisdictions. We have not obtained regulatory approval for any product candidate in the United States, the PRC or any other jurisdiction, and it is possible that any product candidates we may seek to develop in the future will never obtain regulatory approval. Neither we nor any future collaborator is permitted to market any of our product candidates in the United States or any other jurisdiction until we receive regulatory approval of an NDA or BLA from the FDA or the comparable foreign regulatory submission from a comparable foreign regulatory authority.

Prior to obtaining approval to commercialize a product candidate in the United States, the PRC or elsewhere, we or our collaborators must demonstrate with substantial evidence from well-controlled clinical trials, and to the satisfaction of the FDA, the NMPA or other comparable foreign regulatory agencies, as applicable, that such product candidates are safe and effective, or in the case of biologics in the United States, safe, pure, and potent, for their intended uses. Results from nonclinical studies and clinical trials can be interpreted in different ways. Even if we believe the nonclinical or clinical data for our product candidates are promising, such data may not be sufficient to support approval by the FDA, the NMPA or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities. The FDA, the NMPA or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities may also require us to conduct additional preclinical studies or clinical trials for our product candidates either prior to or post-approval, or it may object to elements of our clinical development program.

The FDA, the NMPA or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities can delay, limit or deny approval of our product candidates, or require us to conduct additional nonclinical or clinical testing or abandon a program for many other reasons, including the following:

- the FDA, the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities may disagree with the design or implementation of our clinical trials;
- we may be unable to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the FDA, the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities that a product candidate is safe and effective for its proposed indication;
- the results of our clinical trials may not meet the level of statistical significance required for approval by the FDA, the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities;
- serious and unexpected drug or biologic-related side effects experienced by participants in our clinical trials or by individuals using drugs or biologics similar to our product candidates;
- we may be unable to demonstrate that a product candidate's clinical and other benefits outweigh its safety risks;
- the FDA, the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities may disagree with our interpretation of data from preclinical studies or clinical trials;
- the data collected from clinical trials of our product candidates may not be acceptable or sufficient to support the submission of a BLA or NDA or other comparable foreign submission or to obtain regulatory approval in the United States, the PRC or elsewhere;
- the FDA, the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities may disagree regarding the formulation, labeling and/or the specifications of our product candidates;
- our clinical sites, investigators or other participants in our clinical trials may deviate from a trial protocol, failing to conduct the trial in accordance with regulatory requirements, or dropping out of a trial;

- the FDA, the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities may fail to approve the manufacturing processes or facilities of ours or third-party manufacturers with which we contract for clinical and commercial supplies; and
- the approval policies or regulations of the FDA, the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities may significantly change in a manner rendering our clinical data insufficient for approval.

Of the large number of drugs in development, only a small percentage successfully complete the FDA, the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory approval processes and are commercialized. The lengthy approval process as well as the unpredictability of future clinical trial results may result in our failing to obtain regulatory approval to market our product candidates, which would significantly harm our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

Even if we eventually complete clinical trials and receive approval of an NDA, BLA or other comparable foreign submission for our product candidates, the FDA, the NMPA or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities may grant approval contingent on the performance of costly additional clinical trials, including Phase 4 clinical trials, and/or the implementation of a REMS, which may be required to ensure safe use of the drug after approval. The FDA, the NMPA or the comparable foreign regulatory authority also may approve a product candidate for a more limited indication or patient population than we originally requested. Any delay in obtaining, or inability to obtain, the applicable regulatory approval would delay or prevent commercialization of that product candidate and would materially adversely impact our business and prospects.

Disruptions at the FDA, the NMPA, comparable foreign regulatory authorities, and other government agencies caused by funding shortages or global health concerns could hinder their ability to hire, retain or deploy key leadership and other personnel, or otherwise prevent new or modified products from being developed, approved or commercialized in a timely manner or at all, which could negatively impact our business.

The ability of the FDA, the NMPA, comparable foreign regulatory authorities and other government agencies to review and approve new products can be affected by a variety of factors, including government budget and funding levels, statutory, regulatory and policy changes, the regulatory authority's ability to hire and retain key personnel and accept the payment of user fees, and other events that may otherwise affect the regulatory authority's ability to perform routine functions. For example, average review times at the FDA and the NMPA have fluctuated in recent years as a result. In addition, government funding of other government agencies that fund research and development activities is subject to the political process, which is inherently fluid and unpredictable. Disruptions at the FDA, the NMPA and other agencies may also slow the time necessary for new drugs and biologics or modifications to approved drugs and biologics to be reviewed and/or approved by necessary government agencies, which would adversely affect our business. For example, over the last several years, the U.S. government has shut down several times and some regulatory agencies, such as the FDA, have had to furlough critical employees and stop critical activities.

Separately, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA postponed most inspections of domestic and foreign manufacturing facilities at various points. Even though the FDA has resumed standard inspection operations of U.S. domestic and foreign manufacturing facilities where feasible, any resurgence of the virus or emergence of new variants may lead to inspectional or administrative delays. If a prolonged government shutdown occurs, or if global health concerns prevent the FDA, the NMPA or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities from conducting their regular inspections, reviews or other regulatory activities, it could significantly impact the ability of the FDA, the NMPA or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities to timely review and process our regulatory submissions, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Our product candidates for which we intend to seek approval as biologic products may face competition sooner than anticipated.

The Affordable Care Act includes a subtitle called the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act of 2009, or the BPCIA, which created an abbreviated approval pathway for biological products that are biosimilar to or interchangeable with an FDA-licensed reference biological product. Under the BPCIA, an application for a highly similar or "biosimilar" product may not be submitted to the FDA until four years following the date that the reference product was first approved by the FDA. In addition, the approval of a biosimilar product may not be made effective by the FDA until 12 years from the date on which the reference product was first approved. During this 12-year period of exclusivity, another company may still market a competing version of the reference product if the FDA approves a full BLA for the competing product containing the sponsor's own preclinical data and data from adequate and well-controlled clinical trials to demonstrate the safety, purity and potency of their product.

We believe that any of our product candidates approved as a biological product under a BLA should qualify for the 12-year period of exclusivity. However, there is a risk that this exclusivity could be shortened due to congressional action or otherwise, or that the FDA will not consider our product candidates to be reference products for competing products, potentially creating the opportunity for competition sooner than anticipated. Other aspects of the BPCIA, some of which may impact the BPCIA exclusivity provisions, have also been the subject of recent litigation. Moreover, the extent to which a biosimilar, once approved, will be substituted for any one of our reference products in a way that is similar to traditional generic substitution for non-biological products is not yet clear, and will depend on a number of marketplace and regulatory factors.

The proposed revision of the EU legislation on pharmaceuticals could lead to uncertainties over the regulatory framework that will be applicable to medicinal products in the EU, including orphan medicinal products.

On April 26, 2023, the European Commission published proposals to revise the existing EU legislation on medicinal products, or EU Pharma Law Review. The EU Pharma Law Review consists of two proposals, a new directive and a new regulation, or EU Pharma Law Proposal, that would repeal and replace the relevant legislation concerning medicinal products for human use, including legislation concerning orphan medicinal products. The EU Pharma Law Review could have a significant impact on the regulatory data protection, or RDP, available for to innovative medicinal products in the EU. If adopted in current form, the EU Pharma Law Proposal would reduce the current baseline for data exclusivity. Such RDP reduction could lead to a faster access to the EU market for generics and biosimilars. In addition, the EU Pharma Law Review could have a significant impact on the designation of and incentives offered to orphan medicinal products in the EU. The proposed revisions remain to be agreed upon and adopted by the European Parliament and European Council and the EU Pharma Law Proposal may therefore be substantially revised before adoption, which is not anticipated before early 2026. The revisions may however have a significant impact on the pharmaceutical industry and our business in the long term.

Risks Related to Our Reliance on Third Parties

We rely, and expect to continue to rely, on third parties, including independent clinical investigators and CROs, to conduct some aspects of our preclinical studies and clinical trials. If these third parties do not successfully carry out their contractual duties, comply with applicable regulatory requirements or meet expected deadlines, we may not be able to obtain regulatory approval for or commercialize our product candidates and our business could be substantially harmed.

We have relied upon and plan to continue to rely upon third parties, including independent clinical investigators and third-party CROs, to conduct some aspects of our preclinical studies and clinical trials and to monitor and manage data for our ongoing preclinical and clinical programs. We rely on these parties for execution of our preclinical studies and clinical trials, and control only some aspects of their activities. Nevertheless, we are responsible for ensuring that each of our studies and trials is conducted in accordance with the applicable protocol, legal, regulatory and scientific standards, and our reliance on these third parties does not relieve us of our regulatory responsibilities. We and our third-party contractors, including our CROs, are required to comply with GCP requirements, which are regulations and guidelines enforced by the FDA, the NMPA and comparable foreign regulatory authorities for our products candidates in clinical development. Regulatory authorities enforce these GCPs through periodic inspections of trial sponsors, principal investigators and trial sites. If we or any of these third parties, including our CROs, fail to comply with applicable GCPs, the clinical data generated in our clinical trials may be deemed unreliable and the FDA, the NMPA or comparable foreign regulatory authorities may require us to perform additional clinical trials before approving our marketing applications. We cannot assure investors that upon inspection by a given regulatory authority, such regulatory authority will determine that any of our clinical trials comply with GCP regulations. In addition, our clinical trials must be conducted with products manufactured under Current Good Manufacturing Practice, or cGMP, regulations. Our failure to comply with these regulations may require us to repeat clinical trials, which would delay the regulatory approval process. Moreover, our business may be adversely affected if any of these third parties violates federal, state or foreign fraud and abuse or false claims laws and regulations or healthcare privacy and security laws.

Further, these investigators and CROs are not our employees and we will not be able to control, other than by contract, the amount of resources, including time, which they devote to our product candidates and clinical trials. These third parties may also have relationships with other commercial entities, including our competitors, for whom they may also be conducting clinical trials or other product development activities, which could affect their performance on our behalf. If independent investigators or CROs fail to devote sufficient resources to the development of our product candidates, or if they do not successfully carry out their contractual duties or obligations or meet expected deadlines, if they need to be

replaced or if the quality or accuracy of the clinical data they obtain is compromised or incorrect due to the failure to adhere to our clinical protocols, regulatory requirements or for other reasons, our clinical trials may be unproductive and may be extended, delayed or terminated and we may not be able to obtain regulatory approval for or successfully commercialize our product candidates. As a result, our results of operations and the commercial prospects for our product candidates would be harmed, our costs could increase and our ability to generate revenues could be delayed or precluded entirely.

Our clinical sites and CROs have the right to terminate their agreements with us in the event of an uncured material breach. In addition, some of our clinical sites and CROs have an ability to terminate their respective agreements with us if it can be reasonably demonstrated that the safety of the subjects participating in our clinical trials warrants such termination, if we make a general assignment for the benefit of our creditors or if we are liquidated.

Furthermore, U.S. export control laws and economic sanctions prohibit the provision of some products and services to countries, governments, and persons targeted by U.S. sanctions. U.S. sanctions that have been or may be imposed as a result of military conflicts in other countries may impact CROs' ability to continue activities at clinical trial sites within regions covered by such sanctions. For example, as a result of the military conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the United States and its European allies have imposed sanctions on specific industry sectors and parties in Russia and the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in Ukraine, as well as enhanced export controls on some products and industries. These and any additional sanctions and export controls, as well as any economic countermeasures by the governments of Russia or other jurisdictions, could adversely impact our ability to continue activities at clinical trial sites within regions covered by such sanctions or directly or indirectly disrupt our supply chain. If we or our third-party contractors, including our CROs, fail to comply with export and import regulations and such economic sanctions, penalties could be imposed, including fines and/or denial of some export privileges.

If any of our relationships with these third parties terminate, we may not be able to enter into arrangements with alternative sites or CROs or to do so on commercially reasonable terms. Switching or adding additional sites and CROs involves additional cost and requires management time and focus. In addition, there is a natural transition period when a new site or CRO commences work. As a result, delays occur, which can materially impact our ability to meet our desired clinical development timelines. Additionally, clinical sites and CROs may lack the capacity to absorb higher workloads or take on additional capacity to support our needs. Though we carefully manage our relationships with our CROs and through them clinical sites, there can be no assurance that we will not encounter similar challenges or delays in the future or that these delays or challenges will not have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and prospects.

We contract with third parties for the manufacture of our product candidates for preclinical studies and our ongoing clinical trials, and expect to continue to do so for additional clinical trials and ultimately, for commercialization. This reliance on third parties increases the risk that we will not have sufficient quantities of our product candidates or drugs or such quantities at an acceptable cost, which could delay, prevent or impair our development or commercialization efforts.

We do not have the infrastructure or internal capability to manufacture supplies of our product candidates for use in development and commercialization. We rely, and we expect to continue to rely, on third-party manufacturers for the production of our product candidates for preclinical studies and clinical trials. We do not have long-term supply agreements. Furthermore, the raw materials for our product candidates are sourced, in some cases, from a single-source supplier. If we were to experience an unexpected loss of supply of any of our product candidates or any of our future product candidates for any reason, whether as a result of manufacturing, supply or storage issues or otherwise, we could experience delays, disruptions, suspensions or terminations of, or be required to restart or repeat, any pending or ongoing clinical trials. For example, the extent to which the global supply chain disruptions impact our ability to procure sufficient supplies for the development of our product candidates may depend on a number of factors outside of our control, such as regional military conflicts and terrorism, the trade relations between countries and regions.

We expect to continue to rely on third-party manufacturers for the commercial supply of any of our product candidates for which we obtain marketing approval. We are continuously evaluating multiple vendors both in the PRC and outside of the PRC to ensure that we have a continuous supply of product candidates for global studies and trials. However, we may be unable to maintain or establish required agreements with third-party manufacturers or to do so on acceptable terms. Even if

we are able to establish agreements with third-party manufacturers, reliance on third-party manufacturers entails additional risks, including:

- the failure of the third party to manufacture our product candidates according to our schedule, or at all, including if our third-party contractors give greater priority to the supply of other products over our product candidates or otherwise do not satisfactorily perform according to the terms of the agreements between us and them;
- the reduction or termination of production or deliveries by suppliers, or the raising of prices or renegotiation of terms;
- the termination or nonrenewal of arrangements or agreements by our third-party contractors at a time that is costly or inconvenient for us;
- the breach by the third-party contractors of our agreements with them;
- the failure of the third-party contractors to comply with applicable regulatory requirements;
- the failure of the third-party contractors to manufacture our product candidates according to our specifications and/or the regulatory requirements;
- the mislabeling of clinical supplies, potentially resulting in the wrong dose amounts being supplied or study drug or placebo not being properly identified;
- clinical supplies not being delivered to clinical sites on time, leading to clinical trial interruptions, or of drug supplies not being distributed to commercial vendors in a timely manner, resulting in lost sales; and
- the misappropriation of our proprietary information, including our trade secrets and know-how.

We do not have complete control over all aspects of the manufacturing process of, and are dependent on, our contract manufacturing partners for compliance with cGMP (and similar foreign) regulations for manufacturing both active drug substances and finished drug products. Third-party manufacturers may not be able to comply with cGMP regulations or similar regulatory requirements outside of the United States or successfully manufacture material that conforms to our specifications. If our contract manufacturers cannot comply with the strict regulatory requirements of the FDA, the NMPA or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities, they will not be able to secure and/or maintain approval for the manufacturing of our product candidates. In addition, we do not have control over the ability of our contract manufacturers to maintain adequate quality control, quality assurance and qualified personnel. If the FDA, the NMPA or a comparable foreign regulatory authority does not approve these facilities for the manufacture of our product candidates or if it withdraws any such approval in the future, we may need to find alternative manufacturing facilities, which would significantly impact our ability to develop, obtain marketing approval for or market our product candidates, if approved. If we, or if our third-party manufacturers, fail to comply with applicable regulations could result in sanctions being imposed on us, including fines, injunctions, civil penalties, delays, suspension or withdrawal of approvals, license revocation, seizures or recalls of product candidates or drugs, operating restrictions and criminal prosecutions, any of which could significantly and adversely affect supplies of our product candidates or drugs and harm our business and results of operations.

Our current and anticipated future dependence upon others for the manufacture of our product candidates or drugs may adversely affect our future profit margins and our ability to commercialize any product candidates that receive marketing approval on a timely and competitive basis.

Our reliance on third parties requires us to share our trade secrets, which increases the possibility that a competitor or other third party will discover them or that our trade secrets will be misappropriated or disclosed.

Because we currently rely on other third parties to manufacture our product candidates and to perform development, quality testing and other services, we must, at times, share our proprietary technology and confidential information, including trade secrets, with them. We seek to protect our proprietary technology, in part, by entering into confidentiality agreements, consulting agreements or other similar agreements with our advisors, employees and consultants prior to beginning research or disclosing proprietary information. These agreements are intended to limit the rights of the third parties to use or disclose our confidential information, but such agreements could be breached, and we might not enter into such agreements with all applicable parties. Despite the contractual provisions employed when working with third parties, the need to share trade secrets and other confidential information increases the risk that such trade secrets become known by our competitors or other third parties, are intentionally or inadvertently incorporated into the technology of others or are disclosed or used in violation of these agreements. Given that our proprietary position is based, in part, on our know-how and trade secrets and despite our efforts to protect our trade secrets, the discovery by a competitor or other third party of our proprietary technology and confidential information or other unauthorized use or disclosure would impair our

competitive position and may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

We have entered into and expect to seek to enter into collaborations, licenses and other similar arrangements and may not be successful in doing so, and we may not realize the benefits of such relationships.

We have entered into and continue to seek to enter into collaborations, joint ventures, licenses and other similar arrangements for the development or commercialization of our product candidates, due to capital costs or other reasons affecting our ability to develop or commercialize the product candidates or manufacturing constraints in some or all jurisdictions. For example, on November 21, 2023, Connect Licensor entered into an exclusive license and collaboration agreement with Simcere Licensee, to develop and commercialize rademikibart in Greater China. In addition, we are actively seeking potential global and regional partners to provide additional experience and infrastructure to support the next phase of clinical development for our lead product candidate, rademikibart.

We may not be successful in our efforts to secure other collaborations for our product candidates because our research and development pipeline may be insufficient, our product candidates may be deemed to be at too early of a stage of development for collaborative effort or third parties may not view our product candidates as having the requisite potential to demonstrate safety and efficacy or significant commercial opportunity. In addition, we face significant competition in seeking appropriate strategic partners, and the negotiation process can be time consuming and complex. There have been a significant number of recent business combinations among large pharmaceutical and biomedical companies that may result in a reduced number of potential future collaborators and changes to the strategies of the combined companies.

As a result of the foregoing factors, we may not be able to negotiate collaborations on a timely basis or on acceptable terms. If we are unable to do so, we may need to curtail the development of such product candidate, reduce or delay one or more of our other development programs, delay the potential commercialization or reduce the scope of any planned sales or marketing activities for such product candidate, or increase our expenditures and undertake development, manufacturing or commercialization activities at our own expense.

Further, any future collaboration agreements may restrict us from entering into additional agreements with potential collaborators. We cannot be certain that, following a strategic transaction or license, we will achieve an economic benefit that justifies such transaction.

Even if we are successful in our efforts to establish such collaborations, the terms that we agree upon may not be favorable to us, and we may not be able to maintain such collaborations if, for example, development or approval of a product candidate is delayed, the safety of a product candidate is questioned or sales of an approved product candidate are unsatisfactory. For example, any delay in the development or approval of rademikibart or any unsatisfactory sales of the product candidate beyond our control may cause delay or disruption in our ability to realize our benefits under the Simcere Agreement.

In addition, any potential future collaborations may be terminable by our strategic partners, and we may not be able to adequately protect our rights under these agreements. Furthermore, strategic partners may negotiate for some rights to control decisions regarding the development and commercialization of our product candidates, if approved, and may not conduct those activities in the same manner as we do. Any termination of collaborations we enter into in the future, or any delay in entering into collaborations related to our product candidates, could delay the development and commercialization of our product candidates and reduce their competitiveness if they reach the market, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. For example, due to factors beyond Connect Licensor's or Simcere Licensee's control, we cannot assure that rademikibart will be developed, approved and commercialized without delay, and any delay in the future development, approval, marketing or sales of rademikibart in Greater China may cause a delay in realizing benefits under the Simcere Agreement.

If the custodians or authorized users of our controlling non-tangible assets, including chops and seals, fail to fulfill their responsibilities, or misappropriate or misuse these assets, our business and operations may be materially and adversely affected.

Under PRC law, legal documents for corporate transactions are executed using the chop or seal of the signing entity or with the signature of a legal representative whose designation is registered and filed with the relevant local branch of the State Administration for Market Regulation, or the SAMR. We generally execute legal documents by affixing chops or seals, rather than having the designated legal representatives sign the documents. The chops of our subsidiaries are generally held by the relevant entities so that documents can be executed locally. Although we usually utilize chops to execute contracts,

the registered legal representatives of our subsidiaries have the apparent authority to enter into contracts on behalf of such entities without chops, unless such contracts set forth otherwise.

In order to maintain the physical security of our chops, we generally have them stored in secured locations accessible only to the designated key employees of our legal, administrative or finance departments. Our designated legal representatives generally do not have access to the chops. Although we have approval procedures in place and monitor our key employees, including the designated legal representatives of our subsidiaries, the procedures may not be sufficient to prevent all instances of abuse or negligence. There is a risk that our key employees or designated legal representatives could abuse their authority, for example, by binding our subsidiaries with contracts against our interests, as we would be obligated to honor these contracts if the other contracting party acts in good faith in reliance on the apparent authority of our chops or signatures of our legal representatives. If any designated legal representative obtains control of the chop in an effort to obtain control over the relevant entity, we will need to have a shareholder or board resolution to designate a new legal representative and to take legal action to seek the return of the chop, apply for a new chop with the relevant authorities, or otherwise seek legal remedies for the legal representative's misconduct. If any of the designated legal representatives obtains and misuses or misappropriates our chops and seals or other controlling intangible assets for whatever reason, we could experience disruption to our normal business operations. We may have to take corporate or legal action, which could involve significant time and resources to resolve while distracting management from our operations, and our business and operations may be materially and adversely affected.

Risks Related to Commercialization of Our Product Candidates

Even if our product candidates receive regulatory approval, they will be subject to ongoing regulatory review and significant post-marketing regulatory requirements and oversight.

Any regulatory approvals that we may receive for our product candidates will require the submission of reports to regulatory authorities and surveillance to monitor the safety and efficacy of the product candidates, may contain significant limitations related to use restrictions for specified age groups, warnings, precautions or contraindications, and may include burdensome post-approval study or risk management requirements. For example, the FDA may require a REMS in order to approve our product candidates, which could entail requirements for a medication guide, physician training and communication plans or additional elements to ensure safe use, such as restricted distribution methods, patient registries and other risk minimization tools. In addition, if the FDA, the NMPA or other comparable foreign regulatory authorities approve our product candidates, the manufacturing processes, labeling, packaging, distribution, adverse event reporting, storage, advertising, sampling, promotion, import, export and recordkeeping for our product candidates will be subject to extensive and ongoing regulatory requirements. These requirements include submissions of safety and other post-marketing information and reports, registration, as well as on-going compliance with cGMP (and comparable foreign requirements) and GCPs for any clinical trials that we conduct post-approval. In addition, manufacturers of drug products and their facilities are subject to continual review and periodic, unannounced inspections by the FDA, the NMPA and other comparable foreign regulatory authorities to ensure compliance with cGMP or similar regulations and standards. If we or a regulatory authority discover previously unknown problems with a product, such as adverse events of unanticipated severity or frequency, or problems with the facilities where the product is manufactured, a regulatory authority may impose restrictions on that product, the manufacturing facility or us, including requiring recall or withdrawal of the product from the market or suspension of manufacturing. Accordingly, we and others with whom we work must continue to expend time, money and effort in all areas of regulatory compliance, including manufacturing, production and quality control.

In addition, failure to comply with FDA, NMPA and other comparable foreign regulatory requirements may subject us to administrative or judicially imposed sanctions, including:

- delays in reviewing or the rejection of product applications or supplements to approved applications;
- require us to change the way a product is distributed, conduct additional clinical trials, change the labeling of a product or require us to conduct additional post-marketing studies or surveillance;
- restrictions on our ability to conduct clinical trials, including full or partial clinical holds on ongoing or planned trials;
- restrictions on the products, manufacturers or manufacturing process;
- warning or untitled letters;
- civil, administrative and criminal penalties;
- injunctions;
- suspension or withdrawal of regulatory approvals;

- product seizures, detentions or import bans;
- voluntary or mandatory product recalls and publicity requirements;
- total or partial suspension of production; and
- imposition of restrictions on operations, including costly new manufacturing requirements.

The occurrence of any event or penalty described above may inhibit our ability to commercialize our product candidates and generate revenue and could require us to expend significant time and resources in response and could generate negative publicity.

The FDA's, the NMPA's and other comparable foreign regulatory authorities' policies may change, and additional government regulations may be enacted that could prevent, limit or delay regulatory approval of our product candidates. If we are slow or unable to adapt to changes in existing requirements or the adoption of new requirements or policies, or if we are not able to maintain regulatory compliance, we may lose any marketing approval that we may have obtained, and we may not achieve or sustain profitability.

The FDA and other regulatory agencies actively enforce the laws and regulations prohibiting the promotion of off-label uses. If we are found or alleged to have improperly promoted off-label uses, we may become subject to significant liability.

If any of our product candidates are approved and we are found to have improperly promoted off-label uses of those products, we may become subject to significant liability. The FDA and other regulatory agencies strictly regulate the promotional claims that may be made about prescription products, such as our product candidates, if approved. In particular, a product may not be promoted for uses that are not approved by the FDA or other regulatory agencies as reflected in the product's approved labeling. If we receive marketing approval for a product candidate, physicians may nevertheless prescribe it to their patients in a manner that is inconsistent with the approved label. If we are found to have promoted such off-label uses, we may become subject to significant liability. The U.S. federal government has levied large civil and criminal fines against companies for alleged improper promotion of off-label use and has enjoined several companies from engaging in off-label promotion. The government has also required companies to enter into consent decrees or imposed permanent injunctions under which specified promotional conduct is changed or curtailed. If we cannot successfully manage the promotion of our product candidates, if approved, we could become subject to significant liability, which would materially adversely affect our business and financial condition.

The commercial success of our product candidates will depend upon the degree of market acceptance of such product candidates by physicians, patients, healthcare payors and others in the medical community.

Our product candidates may not be commercially successful. Even if any of our product candidates receive regulatory approval, they may not gain market acceptance among physicians, patients, healthcare payors or others in the medical community. The commercial success of any of our current or future product candidates will depend significantly on the broad adoption and use of the resulting product by physicians and patients for approved indications. The degree of market acceptance of our products, if approved for commercial sale, will depend on a number of factors, including:

- demonstration of clinical efficacy and safety compared to other more established products;
- the indications for which our product candidates are approved;
- the limitation of our targeted patient population and other limitations or warnings contained in any regulatory authority-approved labeling;
- the prevalence and severity of the diseases and any side effects;
- the convenience and ease of administration;
- the acceptance of a new drug or biologic for the relevant indication by healthcare providers and their patients;
- the reimbursement, pricing and cost-effectiveness of our products, as well as the cost of treatment with our products in relation to alternative treatments and therapies;
- our ability to obtain and maintain sufficient third-party coverage and adequate reimbursement from government healthcare programs, including Medicare and Medicaid, private health insurers and other third-party payors;
- the willingness of patients to pay all, or a portion of, out-of-pocket costs in the absence of coverage and adequate reimbursement by third-party payors and government authorities;
- any restrictions on the use of our products, and the prevalence and severity of any adverse effects;
- the success of our physician education programs;

- the timing of market introduction of our products as well as competitive drugs;
- potential product liability claims;
- the availability of alternative effective treatments for the disease indications our product candidates are intended to treat and the relative risks, benefits and costs of those treatments;
- the effectiveness of our or any of our potential future collaborators' distribution, sales and marketing strategies; and
- unfavorable publicity relating to the product.

If any product candidate is approved but does not achieve an adequate level of acceptance by physicians, patients, healthcare payors or others in the medical community, we may not generate sufficient revenue from that product and may not become or remain profitable. Our efforts to educate the medical community and healthcare payors regarding the benefits of our products may require significant resources and may never be successful.

The successful commercialization of our product candidates, if approved, will depend in part on the extent to which governmental authorities and health insurers establish coverage, adequate reimbursement levels and favorable pricing policies. Failure to obtain or maintain coverage and adequate reimbursement for our products could limit our ability to market those products and decrease our ability to generate revenue.

The availability of coverage and the adequacy of reimbursement by governmental healthcare programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid in the U.S., private health insurers, and other third-party payors are essential for most patients to be able to access and afford prescription medications such as our product candidates, if approved. There is significant uncertainty related to third-party payor coverage and reimbursement of newly approved products. Our ability to achieve coverage and acceptable levels of reimbursement for our products by third-party payors will have an effect on our ability to successfully commercialize our products. Even if we obtain coverage for a given product by a third-party payor, the resulting reimbursement payment rates may not be adequate or coverage policies may require co-payments that patients find unacceptably high. We cannot be sure that coverage and reimbursement in the United States, the PRC, the EU, or elsewhere will be available for any product that we may develop, and any reimbursement that may become available may be decreased or eliminated in the future.

In the United States, governmental payors, such as the Medicare and Medicaid programs, play an important role in determining the extent to which new drugs will be covered and reimbursed. The Medicare and Medicaid programs increasingly are used as models for how private payors and other governmental payors develop their coverage and reimbursement policies for drugs. However, no uniform policy for coverage and reimbursement for products exists among third-party payors in the United States. Therefore, coverage and reimbursement for products can differ significantly from payor to payor. As a result, the coverage processes may require us to provide scientific and clinical support for the use of our products to each payor separately, with no assurance that coverage will be applied consistently or obtained in the first instance. It is possible that a third-party payor may consider our products as substitutable and only offer to provide coverage for a less expensive product.

Furthermore, rules and regulations regarding reimbursement change frequently, in some cases at short notice, and we believe that changes in these rules and regulations are likely. Obtaining and maintaining reimbursement status is time consuming, costly and uncertain. These payors may deny or revoke the reimbursement amount of a given product at any time. If reimbursement is not available or is available at only limited levels, we may not be able to successfully commercialize our products and may not be able to obtain a satisfactory financial return on products that we may develop. It is difficult to predict at this time what third-party payors will decide with respect to the coverage and reimbursement of our products. A primary trend in the U.S. healthcare industry and elsewhere is cost containment. Third-party payors have attempted to control costs by limiting coverage and the amount of reimbursement for particular medications. We cannot be sure that coverage and reimbursement will be available for any drug that we commercialize and, if reimbursement is available, what the level of reimbursement will be. Inadequate coverage and reimbursement may impact the demand for, or the price of, any drug for which we obtain marketing approval. If coverage and adequate reimbursement are not available, or are available only to limited levels, we may not be able to successfully commercialize our current and any future product candidates that we develop, which could have an adverse effect on our operating results and our overall financial condition.

Third-party payors increasingly are challenging prices paid for pharmaceutical products and services and requesting discounts or rebates through pharmacy benefit managers. Even if we are successful in demonstrating improved efficacy or safety with our products, pricing of existing drugs may limit the amount we will be able to charge for our products. As a result, market prices, including discounts we may be required to provide, for our products may be too low to enable us to

realize an appropriate return on our investment in product development. Additional foreign price controls or other changes in pricing regulation could restrict the amount that we are able to charge for our products. Accordingly, in markets outside the United States, the reimbursement for our products may be reduced compared with the United States and may be insufficient to generate commercially reasonable revenue and profits.

In the PRC, the National Healthcare Security Administration of the PRC, or NHSA, or provincial or local healthcare security authorities, together with other government authorities, review the inclusion or removal of drugs from the PRC's National Drug Catalog for Basic Medical Insurance, Work-related Injury Insurance and Maternity Insurance, or the National Reimbursement Drug List, or the NRDL, or provincial or local medical insurance catalogues for the National Medical Insurance Program regularly, and the tier under which a drug will be classified, both of which affect the amounts reimbursable to program participants for their purchases of those drugs. There can be no assurance that any of our product candidates will be included in the NRDL after initial approval for commercial sale. Historically, pharmaceutical products included in the NRDL are typically generic and essential drugs, while innovative drugs similar to our product candidates have been more limited on their inclusion in the NRDL due to cost constraints. Since 2019, innovative drugs similar to ours are subject to pricing negotiation with the NHSA for the NRDL inclusion, potentially with significant price reduction. If we were to successfully launch commercial sales of our products but fail in our efforts to have our products included in the NRDL, our revenue from commercial sales will be highly dependent on patient self-payment, which can make our products less competitive.

Moreover, increasing efforts by governmental and third-party payors in the United States, the PRC and other jurisdictions to cap or reduce healthcare costs may cause payors to limit both coverage and the level of reimbursement for newly approved products and, as a result, they may not cover or provide adequate payment for our products. We expect to experience pricing pressures in connection with the sale of any of our product candidates due to the overall rising costs of healthcare, the trend toward managed healthcare, the increasing influence of health maintenance organizations, and additional legislative or regulatory changes. The downward pressure on healthcare costs in general, particularly prescription drugs, has become very intense. As a result, increasingly high barriers are being erected to the entry of new products.

Outside the United States and the PRC, international operations are generally subject to extensive governmental price controls and other market regulations, and we believe the increasing emphasis on cost-containment initiatives in Europe and other countries has and will continue to put pressure on the pricing and usage of our products. In many countries, the prices of medical products are subject to varying price control mechanisms as part of national health systems. Other countries allow companies to fix their own prices for medical products but monitor and control company profits.

We face significant competition, and if our competitors develop technologies or product candidates more rapidly than we do or their technologies are more effective, our ability to develop and successfully commercialize products may be adversely affected.

The biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries are characterized by rapidly advancing technologies, intense competition and a strong emphasis on proprietary and novel products and product candidates. Our competitors have developed, are developing or may develop products or product candidates competitive with our product candidates. Any product candidates that we successfully develop and commercialize will compete with existing therapies and new therapies that may become available in the future. We believe that a significant number of products are currently under development, and may become commercially available in the future, for the treatment of conditions for which we may attempt to develop product candidates. In particular, there is intense competition in the fields of immunology and inflammation. Our competitors include larger and better funded pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical, biotechnological and therapeutics companies. Moreover, we may also compete with universities and other research institutions who may be active in the indications we are targeting and could be in direct competition with us. We also compete with these organizations to recruit management, scientists and clinical development personnel, which could negatively affect our level of expertise and our ability to execute our business plan. We will also face competition in establishing clinical trial sites, enrolling patients for clinical trials and in identifying, in-licensing and establishing intellectual property and proprietary protection for new product candidates. Smaller or early stage companies may also prove to be significant competitors, particularly through collaborative arrangements with large and established companies.

We expect to face competition from existing products and products in development for each of our product candidates as described in the section titled "Business—Competition" elsewhere in this annual report.

We have competitors in the United States, the PRC and elsewhere, including major multinational pharmaceutical companies, specialty pharmaceutical companies and biotechnology companies. Many of our competitors have significantly greater financial, technical, manufacturing, marketing, sales and supply resources or experience than we do. If we successfully obtain approval for any product candidate, we will face competition based on many different factors, including the safety and effectiveness of our products, the ease with which our products can be administered, the timing and scope of regulatory approvals for these products, the availability and cost of manufacturing, marketing and sales capabilities, price, reimbursement coverage and patent position. Competing products could present superior treatment alternatives, including by being more effective, safer, more convenient, less expensive or marketed and sold more effectively than any products we may develop. Competitive products may make any products we develop obsolete or noncompetitive before we recover the expense of developing and commercializing our product candidates. If we are unable to compete effectively, our opportunity to generate revenue from the sale of our products we may develop, if approved, could be adversely affected.

If the market opportunities for our products are smaller than we believe they are, our revenue may be adversely affected, and our business may suffer.

The precise incidence and prevalence for all the conditions we aim to address with our product candidates are unknown. Our projections of both the number of people who have these diseases, as well as the subset of people with these diseases who have the potential to benefit from treatment with our product candidates, are based on our beliefs and estimates. These estimates have been derived from a variety of sources, including the scientific literature, surveys of clinics, patient foundations or market research, and may prove to be incorrect. Further, new trials may change the estimated incidence or prevalence of these diseases.

The total addressable market across our product candidates will ultimately depend upon, among other things, the diagnosis criteria included in the final label for each of our product candidates approved for sale for these indications, the availability of alternative treatments and the safety, convenience, cost and efficacy of our product candidates relative to such alternative treatments, acceptance by the medical community and patient access, drug pricing and reimbursement. The number of patients in the United States, the PRC and other major markets and elsewhere may turn out to be lower than expected, patients may not be otherwise amenable to treatment with our products or new patients may become increasingly difficult to identify or gain access to, all of which would adversely affect our results of operations and our business.

We currently have no marketing and sales organization and have no experience as a company in commercializing products, and we may have to invest significant resources to develop these capabilities. If we are unable to establish marketing and sales capabilities or enter into agreements with third parties to market and sell our products, we may not be able to generate product revenue.

We have no internal sales, marketing or distribution capabilities, nor have we commercialized a product. If any of our product candidates ultimately receives regulatory approval, we must build a marketing and sales organization with technical expertise and supporting distribution capabilities to commercialize each such product in major markets, which will be expensive and time consuming, or collaborate with third parties that have direct sales forces and established distribution systems, either to augment our own sales force and distribution systems or in lieu of our own sales force and distribution systems. We have no prior experience as a company in the marketing, sale and distribution of biopharmaceutical products and there are significant risks involved in building and managing a sales organization, including our ability to hire, retain and incentivize qualified individuals, generate sufficient sales leads, provide adequate training to sales and marketing personnel and effectively manage a geographically dispersed sales and marketing team. Any failure or delay in the development of our internal sales, marketing and distribution capabilities would adversely impact the commercialization of these products. We may not be able to enter into collaborations or hire consultants or external service providers to assist us in sales, marketing and distribution functions on acceptable financial terms, or at all. In addition, our product revenues and our profitability, if any, may be lower if we rely on third parties for these functions than if we were to market, sell and distribute any products that we develop ourselves. We likely will have little control over such third parties, and any of them may fail to devote the necessary resources and attention to sell and market our products effectively. If we are not successful in commercializing our products, either on our own or through arrangements with one or more third parties, we may not be able to generate any future product revenue and we would incur significant additional losses.

Our future growth may depend, in part, on our ability to operate in foreign markets, where we would be subject to additional regulatory burdens and other risks and uncertainties.

Our future growth may depend, in part, on our ability to develop and commercialize our product candidates in foreign markets. We are not permitted to market or promote any of our product candidates before we receive regulatory approval from applicable regulatory authorities in foreign markets, and we may never receive such regulatory approvals for any of our product candidates. To obtain separate regulatory approval in many other countries or areas we must comply with numerous and varying regulatory requirements regarding safety and efficacy and governing, among other things, clinical trials, commercial sales, pricing and distribution of our product candidates.

If we obtain regulatory approval of our product candidates and ultimately commercialize our products in foreign markets, we would be subject to additional risks and uncertainties, including:

- efforts to enter into collaboration or licensing arrangements with third parties in connection with our international sales, marketing and distribution efforts may increase our expenses or divert our management's attention from the acquisition or development of product candidates;
- different regulatory requirements for approval of drugs in foreign countries;
- reduced protection for intellectual property and other proprietary rights;
- the existence of additional third-party patent rights of potential relevance to our business;
- unexpected changes in tariffs, trade barriers and regulatory requirements;
- the effects of applicable non-PRC tax structures and potentially adverse tax consequences;
- changes in a specific country's or region's political and cultural climate or economic condition;
- economic weakness, including inflation, or political instability in particular foreign economies and markets;
- compliance with tax, employment, immigration and labor laws for employees living or traveling;
- foreign currency fluctuations, which could result in increased operating expenses and reduced revenues, and other obligations incident to doing business in another country;
- foreign reimbursement, pricing and insurance regimes;
- difficulty of effective enforcement of contractual provisions in local jurisdictions;
- workforce uncertainty in countries where labor unrest is common;
- failure of our employees and contracted third parties to comply with rules and regulations of the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Controls and the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977, as amended, and other applicable rules and regulations;
- the potential for so-called parallel importing, which is what happens when a local seller, faced with high or higher local prices, opts to import goods from an international market with low or lower prices rather than buying them locally;
- production shortages resulting from any events affecting raw material supply or manufacturing capabilities abroad;
- the illegal importation of competing products from countries where government price controls or other market dynamics result in lower prices; and
- business interruptions resulting from geopolitical actions, including war and terrorism, natural disasters, including earthquakes, typhoons, floods and fires, or public health epidemics.

Risks Related to Our Business Operations and Industry

Our operating results may fluctuate significantly, which makes our future operating results difficult to predict and could cause our operating results to fall below expectations or any guidance we may provide.

Our operating results may fluctuate significantly, which makes it difficult for us to predict our future operating results. These fluctuations may occur due to a variety of factors, many of which are outside of our control, including, but not limited to:

- the timing and cost of, and level of investment in, research, development, regulatory approval and commercialization activities relating to our product candidates, which may change from time to time;
- coverage and reimbursement policies with respect to our product candidates, if approved, and potential future drugs that compete with our products;

- the cost of manufacturing our product candidates, which may vary depending on the quantity of production and the terms of our agreements with third-party manufacturers;
- the timing and amount of the royalty or other payments we must make to the licensors and other third parties from whom we have in-licensed our acquired our product candidates, including payments due upon a change in control of our subsidiaries;
- expenditures that we may incur to acquire, develop or commercialize additional product candidates and technologies;
- the level of demand for any approved products, which may vary significantly;
- future accounting pronouncements or changes in our accounting policies; and
- the timing and success or failure of preclinical studies or clinical trials for our product candidates or competing product candidates, or any other change in the competitive landscape of our industry, including consolidation among our competitors or partners.

The cumulative effects of these factors could result in large fluctuations and unpredictability in our operating results. As a result, comparing our operating results on a period-to-period basis may not be meaningful. Investors should not rely on our past results as an indication of our future performance.

This variability and unpredictability could also result in our failing to meet the expectations of industry or financial analysts or investors for any period. If our revenue or operating results fall below the expectations of analysts or investors or below any forecasts we may provide to the market, or if the forecasts we provide to the market are below the expectations of analysts or investors, the price of our ADSs could decline substantially. Such an ADS price decline could occur even when we have met any previously publicly stated revenue or earnings guidance we may provide.

We are dependent on the services of our management and other clinical and scientific personnel, and if we are not able to retain these individuals or recruit additional management or clinical and scientific personnel, our business will suffer.

Our success depends in part on our continued ability to attract, retain and motivate highly qualified management and clinical and scientific personnel. We are highly dependent upon our senior management, particularly our Chief Executive Officer and our President and Chairperson, as well as our senior scientists and other members of our senior management team. The loss of services of any of these individuals could delay or prevent the successful development of our product pipeline, initiation or completion of our planned clinical trials or the commercialization of our product candidates. Although we have executed employment agreements or offer letters with each member of our senior management team, these agreements are terminable at will and, therefore, we may not be able to retain their services as expected. We do not currently maintain “key person” life insurance on the lives of our executives or any of our employees, except for our Chief Executive Officer and our President and Chairperson. This lack of insurance means that we may not have adequate compensation for the loss of the services of these individuals.

We will need to expand and effectively manage our managerial, operational, financial and other resources in order to successfully pursue our clinical development and commercialization efforts. We compete for qualified management and scientific personnel with other life science and technology companies, universities, and research institutions in the United States, the PRC and other countries. We may not be successful in maintaining our unique company culture and continuing to attract or retain qualified management and scientific and clinical personnel in the future due to the intense competition for qualified personnel among pharmaceutical, biotechnology and other businesses. Our industry has experienced a high rate of turnover of management personnel in recent years. If we are not able to attract, integrate, retain and motivate necessary personnel to accomplish our business objectives, we may experience constraints that will significantly impede the achievement of our development objectives, our ability to raise additional capital and our ability to implement our business strategy.

We may encounter difficulties in managing our growth and expanding our operations successfully, including with respect to expanding our senior management team and constructing facilities.

We had 81 full-time employees as of December 31, 2023. We have been experiencing challenges in attracting and retaining qualified personnel, including with respect to expanding our senior management team. We expect to continue to hire, but could encounter difficulties in attracting and retaining candidates who meet our needs in a timely manner and on favorable terms.

We may expand our facilities in the United States and the PRC in the future to support our growth, including the clinical development and potential commercialization of our product candidates. However, we have terminated our plan to build a research and development laboratory, manufacturing facility, and administrative offices on the land with respect to which land use rights had been obtained in the PRC, which may limit our access to future opportunities and benefits from discretionary policies granted by governmental authorities in the PRC, and in turn would negatively affect our financial condition and results of operations.

As we continue development and pursue the potential commercialization of our product candidates, we will need to continue to expand our financial, development, regulatory, marketing and sales capabilities or contract with third parties to provide these capabilities for us. As our operations expand, we expect that we will need to manage additional relationships with various strategic partners, suppliers and other third parties. Our future financial performance and our ability to develop and commercialize our product candidates and to compete effectively will depend, in part, on our ability to manage any future growth effectively.

Because we have multiple product candidates in our clinical pipeline and are considering a variety of target indications, we may expend our limited resources to pursue a particular product candidate and fail to capitalize on product candidates or indications that may be more profitable or for which there is a greater likelihood of success.

Because we have limited financial and managerial resources, we focus on specific product candidates, indications and development programs. We also plan to conduct several clinical trials for multiple product candidates in parallel over the next several years, which may make our decision as to which product candidates to focus on more difficult. As a result, we may forgo or delay pursuit of opportunities with other product candidates that could have had greater commercial potential. Our resource allocation decisions may cause us to fail to capitalize on viable commercial products or profitable market opportunities. Our spending on current and future research and development programs and product candidates for specific indications may not yield any commercially viable products. If we do not accurately evaluate the commercial potential or target market for a particular product candidate, we may relinquish valuable rights to that product candidate through future collaborations, licenses and other similar arrangements in cases in which it would have been more advantageous for us to retain sole development and commercialization rights to such product candidate.

Additionally, we may pursue additional in-licenses or acquisitions of development-stage assets or programs, which entails additional risk to us. Identifying, selecting and acquiring promising product candidates requires substantial technical, financial and human resources expertise. Efforts to do so may not result in the actual acquisition or license of a particular product candidate, potentially resulting in a diversion of our management's time and the expenditure of our resources with no resulting benefit. For example, if we are unable to identify programs that ultimately result in approved products, we may spend material amounts of our capital and other resources evaluating, acquiring and developing products that ultimately do not provide a return on our investment.

We have incurred and may continue to incur significant costs for our clinical trials for our product candidates.

We have incurred and may continue to incur significant costs for our clinical trials for our product candidates. The majority of our third-party expenses have been related to the development of rademikibart and icanbelimod. During the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023, we spent USD 54.1 million and USD 36.6 million, respectively, in clinical trial related expenses relating to rademikibart, and USD 26.3 million and USD 3.6 million, respectively, in clinical trial related expenses relating to icanbelimod. Product candidates in a later-stage of clinical development generally have higher development costs than those in earlier stages of clinical development, primarily due to the increased size and duration of later-stage clinical trials. We expect our costs to increase as we continue clinical trials (especially if we move into Phase 3 clinical trials) and, if we manufacture or have manufactured, any of our product candidates.

We cannot determine with certainty the timing or costs or probability of success of current or future clinical trials of our product candidates due to the inherently unpredictable nature of clinical development. We anticipate that we will make determinations as to which indications to pursue, as well as how much funding is needed to direct to each indication on an ongoing basis in response to the results of clinical trials, regulatory developments and our assessments as to each product candidate's commercial potential. It is likely that we will need to raise additional capital in the future for clinical development of our product candidates and if any of our product candidates can be commercialized. In particular, we are actively seeking potential global and regional partners to provide additional experience and infrastructure to support the next phase of clinical development for our lead product candidate, rademikibart. There can be no assurance that we will secure such a partnership on a timely basis or acceptable terms. Further, subject to the terms and conditions of each partnership secured, external factors beyond our control may affect our ability to realize payments and achieve the funding goals under such partnership. For example, on November 21, 2023, the Connect Licensor entered into the Simcere

Agreement with Simcere Licensee, to develop and commercialize rademikibart in Greater China. However, any external factor such as changes in applicable laws, delay in product development or approval, other factors beyond our control, or the failure of certain PRC rademikibart trials in meeting the respective primary end points may cause delay or disruption in our realization of the future payments under the Simcere Agreement.

Our clinical development costs for our product candidates are highly uncertain and may vary significantly based on factors such as:

- per patient trial costs;
- the number of trials required for approval;
- the number of sites included in the trials;
- the countries in which the trials are conducted;
- the length of time required to enroll eligible patients;
- the number of patients that participate in the trials;
- the drop-out or discontinuation rates of patients;
- potential additional safety monitoring requested by regulatory agencies;
- the duration of patient participation in the trials and follow-up;
- the cost and timing of manufacturing our product candidates;
- the phase of development of our product candidates; and
- the efficacy and safety profile of our product candidates.

Any of these variables with respect to the development of our product candidates could result in a significant change in the costs and timing associated with their development. Despite our efforts and the costs incurred and to be incurred, we may never succeed in obtaining regulatory approval for any of our product candidates, which could significantly harm our business, operating results, prospects or financial condition.

We may be exposed to liabilities under the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, or the FCPA, and similar anti-corruption and anti-bribery laws of the PRC and other countries in which we operate, as well as U.S. and foreign export controls, trade sanctions and import laws and regulations. Compliance with these legal requirements could limit our ability to compete in foreign markets and any determination that we have violated these laws could have a material adverse effect on our business or our reputation.

Our operations are subject to the FCPA and similar anti-bribery or anti-corruption laws, regulations or rules of the PRC and other countries in which we operate. The FCPA and these other laws generally prohibit us, our officers, and our employees and intermediaries from, directly or indirectly, offering, authorizing or making improper payments to non-U.S. government officials for the purpose of obtaining or retaining business or other advantage. We may engage third parties for clinical trials outside of the United States, to sell our products abroad once we enter a commercialization phase, and/or to obtain necessary permits, licenses, patent registrations and other regulatory approvals. We have and have had direct or indirect interactions with officials and employees of government agencies or government-affiliated hospitals, universities and other organizations.

As our business expands, the applicability of the FCPA and other anti-bribery laws to our operations will increase. If our procedures and controls to monitor anti-bribery compliance fail to protect us from reckless or criminal acts committed by our employees or agents or if we, or our employees, agents, contractors or other collaborators, fail to comply with applicable anti-bribery laws, our reputation could be harmed and we could incur criminal or civil penalties, other sanctions and/or significant expenses, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, including our financial condition, results of operations, cash flows and prospects.

In addition, our products, if approved, may become subject to U.S. and foreign export controls, trade sanctions and import laws and regulations. Governmental regulation of the import or export of our products, or our failure to obtain any required import or export authorization for our products, when applicable, could harm our future sales and adversely affect our future revenue. Compliance with applicable regulatory requirements regarding the export of our products may delay the introduction of our products in international markets or, in some cases, prevent the export of our products to some countries altogether. Furthermore, U.S. export control laws and economic sanctions prohibit the shipment of certain products and services to countries, governments and persons targeted by U.S. sanctions. If we fail to comply with applicable export and import regulations and such economic sanctions, penalties could be imposed, including fines and/or denial of certain export

privileges. Any limitation on our ability to export or sell our products, if approved, would likely adversely affect our business.

We are subject to various foreign, federal, and state healthcare laws and regulations, and failure to comply with these laws and regulations could harm our results of operations and financial condition.

Our business operations and current and future arrangements with investigators, healthcare professionals, consultants, third-party payors and customers expose us to broadly applicable foreign, federal and state fraud and abuse and other healthcare laws and regulations. These laws may constrain the business or financial arrangements and relationships through which we conduct our operations, including how we research, market, sell and distribute any products for which we obtain marketing approval. Such laws include:

- the U.S. Anti-Kickback Statute, which prohibits, among other things, persons or entities from knowingly and willfully soliciting, offering, receiving or providing any remuneration (including any kickback, bribe or rebate), directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash or in kind, in return for, either the referral of an individual or the purchase, lease, or order, or arranging for or recommending the purchase, lease, or order of any good, facility, item or service, for which payment may be made, in whole or in part, under a federal healthcare program such as Medicare and Medicaid. This statute has been interpreted to apply to, among other things, arrangements between pharmaceutical manufacturers on the one hand, and prescribers, pharmacies, purchasers and formulary managers on the other. A person or entity does not need to have actual knowledge of the federal Anti-Kickback Statute or specific intent to violate it in order to have committed a violation;
- the U.S. false claims laws, including the civil False Claims Act, and civil monetary penalties laws, which prohibits, among other things, individuals or entities from knowingly presenting, or causing to be presented, to the federal government, claims for payment or approval that are false or fraudulent, knowingly making, using or causing to be made or used, a false record or statement material to a false or fraudulent claim, or from knowingly making or causing to be made a false statement to avoid, decrease or conceal an obligation to pay money to the federal government. In addition, the U.S. government may assert that a claim including items or services resulting from a violation of the federal Anti-Kickback Statute constitutes a false or fraudulent claim for purposes of the civil False Claims Act. Liability is potentially significant in the healthcare industry because the statute provides for treble damages and significant mandatory penalties per false or fraudulent claim or statement for violations;
- the U.S. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, or HIPAA, as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, or HITECH, and their respective implementing regulations, which imposes criminal and civil liability for, among other things, knowingly and willfully executing, or attempting to execute, a scheme to defraud any healthcare benefit program, or knowingly and willfully falsifying, concealing or covering up a material fact or making any materially false statement, in connection with the delivery of, or payment for, healthcare benefits, items or services. Similar to the federal Anti-Kickback Statute, a person or entity does not need to have actual knowledge of the statute or specific intent to violate it in order to have committed a violation;
- the U.S. Physician Payments Sunshine Act, which requires some manufacturers of drugs, devices, biologics and medical supplies for which payment is available under Medicare, Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (with some exceptions) to report annually to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS, information related to payments and other “transfers of value” made to physicians (defined to include doctors, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists and chiropractors), certain non-physician practitioners (physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse anesthetists, anesthesiologist assistants and certified nurse-midwives) and teaching hospitals as well as ownership and investment interests held by the physicians described above and their immediate family members; and
- analogous state and foreign laws and regulations, such as state anti-kickback and false claims laws, which may apply to our business practices, including but not limited to, research, distribution, sales and marketing arrangements and claims involving healthcare items or services reimbursed by non-governmental third-party payors, including private insurers, or paid for by the patients themselves; state laws that require pharmaceutical companies to comply with the pharmaceutical industry’s voluntary compliance guidelines and the relevant compliance guidance promulgated by the federal government, or otherwise restrict payments that may be made to healthcare providers and other potential referral sources; state laws and regulations that require drug manufacturers to file reports relating to pricing and marketing information or which require tracking gifts and other remuneration and items of value provided to physicians, other healthcare providers and entities; and state and local laws that require the registration of pharmaceutical sales representatives.

Because of the breadth of these laws and the limited statutory exceptions and regulatory safe harbors available, it is possible that some of our business activities could be subject to challenge under one or more of such laws.

Efforts to ensure that our business arrangements with third parties will comply with applicable healthcare laws and regulations will involve substantial costs. Any action against us for violation of these laws, even if we successfully defend against it, could cause us to incur significant legal expenses and divert our management's attention from the operation of our business. The shifting compliance environment and the need to build and maintain robust and expandable systems to comply with multiple jurisdictions with different compliance and/or reporting requirements increases the possibility that a healthcare company may run afoul of one or more of the requirements.

If our operations are found to be in violation of any of these laws or any other governmental regulations that may apply to us, we may be subject to significant civil, criminal and administrative penalties, damages, fines, disgorgement, imprisonment, exclusion from participation in government funded healthcare programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, additional reporting requirements and oversight if we become subject to a corporate integrity agreement or similar agreement to resolve allegations of non-compliance with these laws and the curtailment or restructuring of our operations.

Actual or perceived failures to comply with applicable data protection, privacy and security laws, regulations, standards and other requirements could adversely affect our business, results of operations, and financial condition.

The legislative and regulatory landscape for privacy and data protection continues to evolve in jurisdictions worldwide, and there has been an increasing focus on privacy and data protection issues with the potential to affect our business. Complying with such requirements can be difficult, time-consuming, expensive, and could require us to change our business practices and put in place additional compliance mechanisms. Failure to comply with laws, regulations and contractual and other obligations governing personal or other sensitive information could result in enforcement actions against us, including fines, public censure, processing penalties, claims for damages by affected individuals, damage to our reputation and loss of goodwill. It is possible that new and existing laws may be interpreted and applied in a manner that is inconsistent with our practices and our efforts to comply with the evolving data protection rules may be unsuccessful.

In the United States, HIPAA, as amended by HITECH, and their implementing regulations, or collectively HIPAA, imposes, among other things, specific standards relating to the privacy, security, transmission and breach reporting of individually identifiable health information. Most healthcare providers, including research institutions from which we obtain patient health information, are subject to privacy and security regulations promulgated under HIPAA. While we do not believe that we are currently acting as a covered entity or business associate under HIPAA and thus are not directly regulated under HIPAA, any person may be prosecuted under HIPAA's criminal provisions either directly or under aiding-and-abetting or conspiracy principles. Consequently, depending on the facts and circumstances, we could face substantial criminal penalties if we knowingly receive individually identifiable health information from a HIPAA-covered healthcare provider or research institution that has not satisfied HIPAA's requirements for disclosure of individually identifiable health information.

Some states have also adopted comparable privacy and security laws and regulations, which govern the privacy, processing and protection of health-related and other personal information. Such laws and regulations will be subject to interpretation by various courts and other governmental authorities, thus creating potentially complex compliance issues for us and our future customers and strategic partners. For example, California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018, or the CCPA, went into effect on January 1, 2020. The CCPA creates individual privacy rights for California consumers and increases the privacy and security obligations of entities handling specific personal information. It also provides a private right of action for data breaches has increased the likelihood of, and risks associated with data breach litigation and creates a statutory damages framework. In addition, the California Privacy Rights Act, or the CPRA, generally went into effect on January 1, 2023, and significantly amends the CCPA, including by expanding consumers' rights with respect to personal information and creating a new state agency to oversee implementation and enforcement efforts. Additional compliance investment and potential business process changes may be required before the enforcement of CPRA in July 2023. Similar laws have passed in, for example, Virginia, Connecticut, Utah, Washington and Colorado, and have been proposed in other states and at the federal level, reflecting a trend toward more stringent privacy legislation in the United States. The enactment of such laws could have potentially conflicting requirements that would make compliance challenging. In the event that we are subject to or affected by HIPAA, the CCPA, the CPRA or other U.S. domestic privacy and data protection laws, any liability from failure to comply with the requirements of these laws could adversely affect our financial condition.

Our operations in Europe and the United Kingdom, or the UK, may also be subject to increased scrutiny or attention from data protection authorities. For example, the EU General Data Protection Regulation, or EU GDPR, imposes strict requirements for the processing of personal data of individuals. The UK has implemented the EU GDPR as the UK GDPR (collectively, the GDPR) which sits alongside the UK Data Protection Act 2018. The GDPR increases our obligations with respect to clinical trials conducted in the EU and the UK by, for example, expanding the definition of personal data to include coded data and imposing specific requirements regarding informed consent practices and the provision of detailed notices for clinical trial subjects and investigators. The GDPR imposes additional obligations on controllers, including,

among other things, requirements around accountability and transparency, the obligation to consider data protection when any new products or services are developed, the obligation to comply with individuals' data protection rights, and the obligation to report personal data breaches to: (i) the data protection supervisory authority without undue delay (and no later than 72 hours) after becoming aware of the personal data breach, unless the personal data breach is unlikely to result in a risk to the data subjects' rights and freedoms; and (ii) affected individuals where the personal data breach is likely to result in a high risk to their rights and freedoms. Failure to comply with the requirements of the EU GDPR may result in fines of up to €20,000,000 or up to 4% of the noncompliant company's total worldwide annual turnover of the preceding financial year, whichever is higher, and other administrative penalties. In addition, the GDPR confers a private right of action on data subjects and consumer associations to lodge complaints with supervisory authorities, seek judicial remedies, and obtain compensation for damages resulting from violations of the GDPR.

Among other requirements, the EU GDPR prohibits the international transfers of personal data subject to the GDPR from the European Economic Area, or EEA, to third countries that the European Commission does not recognize as providing an "adequate" level of data protection to such personal data, unless a data transfer mechanism has been put in place or a derogation under the EU GDPR can be relied on. In July 2020, the Court of Justice of the EU, or the CJEU, limited how organizations could lawfully transfer personal data from the EEA to the United States by invalidating the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield Framework for purposes of international transfers and imposing further restrictions on the use of standard contractual clauses, or EU SCCs, including a requirement for companies to carry out a transfer privacy impact assessment, or TIA. The European Commission issued the revised EU SCCs on June 4, 2021 to account for the decision of the CJEU and recommendations made by the European Data Protection Board. On July 10, 2023, the European Commission adopted its Final Implementing Decision granting the United States adequacy, or the Adequacy Decision, for EU-U.S. transfers of personal data for entities self-certified to the EU-U.S. Data Privacy Framework, or DPF. Entities relying on EU SCCs for transfers to the United States are also able to rely on the analysis in the Adequacy Decision as support for their TIA regarding the equivalence of U.S. national security safeguards and redress.

The UK GDPR also imposes similar restrictions on transfers of personal data from the UK to jurisdictions that the UK Government does not consider 'adequate'. The UK's Information Commissioner's Office published: (i) its own form of EU SCCs, known as the International Data Transfer Agreement for transfers to outside of the UK; (ii) a "UK addendum" to the new EU SCCs which amends the relevant provisions of such clauses to work in a UK context; and (iii) its own version of the TIA (although entities may choose to adopt either the EU or UK-style TIA). Further, on September 21, 2023, the UK Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology established a UK-U.S. data bridge (i.e., a UK equivalent of the Adequacy Decision) and adopted UK regulations to implement the UK-U.S. data bridge ("UK Adequacy Regulations"). Personal data may now be transferred from the UK under the UK-U.S. data bridge through the UK extension to the DPF to organizations self-certified under the UK extension to the DPF.

The UK GDPR imposes separate but similar obligations to those under the EU GDPR and comparable penalties, including fines of up to £17.5 million or 4% of a noncompliant company's total worldwide annual turnover for the preceding financial year, whichever is higher.

On January 31, 2022, the European Union's Clinical Trials Regulation entered into application. This new regulation imposes obligations on the use of data generated from clinical trials and enables the EU patients to have the opportunity to access information about clinical trials.

As we continue to expand into other foreign countries and jurisdictions, we may be subject to additional laws and regulations that may affect how we conduct business.

Regulatory authorities in the PRC have implemented and are considering a number of legislative and regulatory proposals concerning data protection. For example, the PRC's Cyber Security Law, which became effective in June 2017, created the PRC's first national-level data protection for "network operators," which may include all organizations in the PRC that provide services over the internet or another information network. In addition, some industry-specific laws and regulations affect the collection and transfer of personal data in the PRC. For example, on May 28, 2019 the PRC State Council promulgated the Regulation on the Administration of Human Genetic Resources which became effective on July 1, 2019. Under the Regulation, international collaborative projects involving human genetic resources or HGR are subject to approval by the MOST, except for international collaborations on clinical trials intended to support marketing approval of drugs and devices in the PRC that do not transfer HGR Materials abroad. The PRC has established a record-filing procedure for such exceptions. This HGR regulatory regime is further confirmed by the Biosecurity Law of the PRC published by the Standing Committee of the NPC of the PRC in October 2020 and came into effect in April 2021. To comply with such record-filing procedure, the parties must submit information as to the types, quantities and purposes of the HGR used prior to the commencement of the trials. As for cross-border transfer of the HGR samples or associated data, they are subject to different forms of review and pre-approval, respectively. Any export or cross-border transfer of the HGR samples shall be subject to the approval of the MOST, and an export certificate shall be obtained. The provision of

HGR associated data to non-PRC parties or permitting uses of HGR associated data by non-PRC parties requires a record filing with MOST and submission of that corresponding information's copy. If such provision or permitting uses could impact the public health, national security or public interest of the PRC, an additional security review will be conducted. In May 2023, the MOST published the Implementing Rules for the Regulations of the PRC on the Administration of Human Genetic Resources, which offered certain clarification on the definition of non-PRC parties, the scope of international collaboration, HGR Information and HGR Materials, as well as criteria for security review. In March 2023, the 14th National People's Congress announced a restructuring of the State Council, under which the HGR approval authorities will likely be transferred from MOST to the National Health Commission, or the NHC. This move was in alignment with the amended Regulation on the Administration of Human Genetic Resources, which was amended in March 2024 and is set to take effect in May 2024. Under these amendments, the NHC will assume the responsibility of conducting the review and approval processes for HGR. It is possible that these laws may be interpreted and applied in a manner that is inconsistent with our practices, potentially resulting in disgorgement of illegal gains, confiscation of HGR samples and associated data, administrative fines, temporary (1-5 years) or permanent disbarment of companies and responsible persons from further HGR projects, or even criminal liability. Further, the parties of an international collaboration are required to jointly own patents arising from the international cooperation, which may adversely affect our ability to exclusively own patents arising from such collaborations as related to our products.

For further information regarding data protection and cybersecurity laws in the PRC, see "Item 3.D. "Risk Factors— Risks Related to Doing Business in the PRC — Compliance with the PRC's new Data Security Law, Cybersecurity Review Measures, Personal Information Protection Law, regulations and guidelines relating to the multi-level protection scheme and any other future laws and regulations may entail significant expenses and could materially affect our business."

Although we work to comply with applicable laws, regulations and standards, our contractual obligations and other legal obligations, these requirements are evolving and may be modified, interpreted and applied in an inconsistent manner from one jurisdiction to another, and may conflict with one another or other legal obligations with which we must comply. Any failure or perceived failure by us or our employees, representatives, contractors, consultants, collaborators, or other third parties to comply with such requirements or adequately address privacy and security concerns, even if unfounded, could result in additional cost and liability to us, damage our reputation, and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Recently enacted legislation, future legislation and healthcare reform measures may increase the difficulty and cost for us to obtain marketing approval for and commercialize our product candidates and may affect the prices we may set.

In the United States, the PRC, and some foreign jurisdictions, there have been, and we expect there will continue to be, a number of legislative and regulatory changes to the healthcare system, including cost-containment measures that may reduce or limit coverage and reimbursement for newly approved drugs and affect our ability to profitably sell any product candidates for which we obtain marketing approval. In particular, there have been and continue to be a number of initiatives at the U.S. federal and state levels that seek to reduce healthcare costs and improve the quality of healthcare.

For example, in March 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, collectively the Affordable Care Act, or the ACA, was enacted in the United States. Among the provisions of the ACA of importance to our potential product candidates, the ACA: established an annual, nondeductible fee on any entity that manufactures or imports specified branded prescription drugs and biologic agents; extended manufacturers' Medicaid rebate liability to covered drugs dispensed to individuals who are enrolled in Medicaid managed care organizations; expands eligibility criteria for Medicaid programs; expanded the entities eligible for discounts under the 340B Drug Discount Pricing program; increased the statutory minimum rebates a manufacturer must pay under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program; established a new Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to oversee, identify priorities in and conduct comparative clinical effectiveness research, along with funding for such research; and established a Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation at CMS to test innovative payment and service delivery models to lower Medicare and Medicaid spending.

Since its enactment, there have been executive, judicial and Congressional challenges to some aspects of the ACA. On June 17, 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed the most recent judicial challenge to the ACA brought by several states without specifically ruling on the constitutionality of the ACA.

In addition, other legislative changes have been proposed and adopted since the ACA was enacted. On August 2, 2011, the Budget Control Act of 2011 was signed into law, which, among other things, resulted in reductions to Medicare payments to providers, that started in 2013 and, due to subsequent legislative amendments to the statute, will remain in effect, with the exception of a temporary suspension from May 1, 2020 through March 31, 2022, through the first six months of the

fiscal year ending December 31, 2032, unless additional Congressional action is taken. On January 2, 2013, the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 was signed into law, which, among other things, reduced Medicare payments to several providers, including hospitals, and increased the statute of limitations period for the government to recover overpayments to providers from three to five years. On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 into law, which eliminated the statutory Medicaid drug rebate cap, beginning January 1, 2024. The rebate was previously capped at 100% of a drug's average manufacturer price.

Further, there has been heightened governmental scrutiny in the United States of pharmaceutical pricing practices in light of the rising cost of prescription drugs. Such scrutiny has resulted in several recent congressional inquiries and proposed and enacted federal and state legislation designed to, among other things, bring more transparency to product pricing, review the relationship between pricing and manufacturer patient programs, and reform government program reimbursement methodologies for products. In August 2022, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, or IRA, was signed into law. Among other things, the IRA imposes inflation rebates on drug and biological product manufacturers for products reimbursed under Medicare Parts B and D to if the prices of those products increase faster than inflation, which began in 2023; implements changes to the Medicare Part D benefit that, beginning in 2025, will cap benefit annual out-of-pocket spending at \$2,000, with new discount obligations for pharmaceutical manufacturers; and, beginning in 2026, establishes a "maximum fair price" for a fixed number of pharmaceutical and biological products covered under Medicare Parts B and D following a price negotiation process with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS. CMS has also taken steps to implement the IRA, including: on June 30, 2023, issuing guidance detailing the requirements of the first round of price negotiations, to take place during 2023 and 2024, for products subject to the "maximum fair price" provision that would become effective in 2026; on August 29, 2023, releasing the initial list of ten drugs subject to price negotiations, although the drug price negotiation program is currently subject to legal challenges; on November 17, 2023, releasing guidance outlining the methodology for identifying certain manufacturers eligible to participate in a phase-in period where discounts on applicable products will be lower than those required by the Medicare Part D Manufacturer Discount Program; and on December 14, 2023, releasing a list of 48 Medicare Part B products that had an adjusted coinsurance rate based on the inflationary rebate provisions of the IRA for the time period of January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024, among others. The IRA permits the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to implement many of these provisions through guidance, as opposed to regulation, for the initial years. For that and other reasons, it is currently unclear how the IRA will be effectuated. Similar or other drug pricing proposals could appear in future legislation.

At the state level, legislatures have increasingly passed legislation and implemented regulations designed to address pharmaceutical and biological product pricing, including transparency measures that require the disclosure of prices, including price changes, marketing costs, and research costs, among others. In some cases, state laws and regulations have been designed to encourage importation from other countries and bulk purchasing. Most recently, on January 5, 2024, the FDA approved Florida's importation plan to allow pharmacists and wholesalers in the state to import certain medications from Canada. In addition, several state laws enacted over the past few years require disclosures to state agencies and/or commercial purchasers with respect to price increases that exceed a certain level as identified in the relevant statutes. Some of these laws and regulations contain ambiguous requirements that government officials have not yet clarified. Given the lack of clarity in the laws and their implementation, our future reporting actions could be subject to the penalty provisions of the pertinent federal and state laws and regulations. In addition, regional healthcare authorities and individual hospitals are increasingly using bidding procedures to determine what pharmaceutical products and which suppliers will be included in their prescription drug and other healthcare programs. Price controls on payment amounts by third-party payors or other restrictions could harm our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

Additionally, on May 30, 2018, the Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2017, or the Right to Try Act, was signed into law. The law, among other things, provides a federal framework for some patients with life-threatening diseases or conditions to access some investigational new drug products that have completed a Phase I clinical trial. Under some circumstances, eligible patients can seek treatment without enrolling in clinical trials and without obtaining FDA approval under the FDA expanded access program. There is no obligation for a drug manufacturer to make its drug products available to eligible patients as a result of the Right to Try Act.

We expect that healthcare reform measures that may be adopted in the future may result in additional reductions in Medicare and other healthcare funding, more rigorous coverage criteria, new payment methodologies and additional downward pressure on the price that we may charge for any approved product. Any reduction in reimbursement from Medicare or other government programs may result in a similar reduction in payments from private payors. The implementation of cost containment measures or other healthcare reforms may prevent us from being able to generate revenue, attain profitability or commercialize our product candidates, if approved.

In the EU, similar developments may affect our ability to profitably commercialize our product candidates, if approved. On December 13, 2021, Regulation No 2021/2282 on Health Technology Assessment, or HTA, amending Directive 2011/24/EU, was adopted, or HTA Regulation. While the HTA Regulation entered into force in January 2022, it will only begin to

apply from January 2025 onwards, with preparatory and implementation-related steps to take place in the interim. Once applicable, it will have a phased implementation depending on the concerned products. The HTA Regulation intends to boost cooperation among EU member states in assessing health technologies, including new medicinal products, and provide the basis for cooperation at the EU level for joint clinical assessments in these areas. It will permit EU member states to use common HTA tools, methodologies, and procedures across the EU, working together in four main areas, including joint clinical assessment of the innovative health technologies with the highest potential impact for patients, joint scientific consultations whereby developers can seek advice from HTA authorities, identification of emerging health technologies to identify promising technologies early, and continuing voluntary cooperation in other areas. Individual EU member states will continue to be responsible for assessing non-clinical (e.g., economic, social, ethical) aspects of health technology, and making decisions on pricing and reimbursement.

Some of our investments may be subject to review from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, which may delay or block a transaction from closing.

The CFIUS has jurisdiction over investments in which a foreign person acquires control over a U.S. company, as well as some non-controlling investments in U.S. businesses that deal in critical technology, critical infrastructure, or sensitive personal data. Some transactions involving U.S. businesses that deal in critical technology are subject to a mandatory filing requirement. Accordingly, to the extent the U.S. portion of our business decides to take investments from foreign persons, or we decide to invest in or acquire, in whole or in part, a U.S. business, such investments could be subject to CFIUS' jurisdiction. To date, none of our investments have been subject to CFIUS review but, depending on the particulars of ongoing or future investments, we may be obligated to secure CFIUS approval before closing, which could delay the time period between signing and closing. If we determine that a CFIUS filing is not mandatory (or otherwise advisable), there is a risk that CFIUS could initiate its own review, if it determines that the transaction is subject to its jurisdiction. If an investment raises significant national security concerns, CFIUS has the authority to impose mitigation conditions or recommend that the President block a transaction.

If product liability lawsuits are brought against us, we may incur substantial liabilities and may be required to limit commercialization of our products.

We face an inherent risk of product liability as a result of the clinical trials of our product candidates and will face an even greater risk if we commercialize our product candidates. For example, we may be sued if our product candidates allegedly cause injury or are found to be otherwise unsuitable during product testing, manufacturing, marketing or sale. Any such product liability claims may include allegations of defects in manufacturing, defects in design, a failure to warn of dangers inherent in the product candidate, negligence, strict liability or a breach of warranties. Claims may be brought against us by clinical trial participants, patients or others using, administering or selling products that may be approved in the future. Claims could also be asserted under state consumer protection acts.

If we cannot successfully defend ourselves against product liability claims, we may incur substantial liabilities or be required to limit or cease the commercialization of our products. Even a successful defense would require significant financial and management resources. Regardless of the merits or eventual outcome, liability claims may result in:

- decreased demand for our products;
- injury to our reputation and significant negative media attention;
- difficulty attracting or withdrawal of clinical trial participants;
- costs to defend the related litigation;
- a diversion of management's time and our resources;
- substantial monetary awards to trial participants, patients or other claimants;
- product recalls, withdrawals or labeling, marketing or promotional restrictions;
- significant negative financial impact;
- the inability to commercialize our product candidates; and
- a decline in our ADS price.

We may need to increase our insurance coverage as we expand our clinical trials or if we commence commercialization of our product candidates. Insurance coverage is increasingly expensive. Our inability to obtain and retain sufficient product liability insurance at an acceptable cost to protect against potential product liability claims could prevent or inhibit the commercialization of our product candidates. Although we maintain such insurance, any claim that may be brought against us could result in a court judgment or settlement in an amount that is not covered, in whole or in part, by our insurance or

that is in excess of the limits of our insurance coverage. Our insurance policies will also have various exclusions, and we may be subject to a product liability claim for which we have no coverage. We may have to pay any amounts awarded by a court or negotiated in a settlement that exceed our coverage limitations or that are not covered by our insurance, and we may not have, or be able to obtain, sufficient capital to pay such amounts.

Our information technology systems, or those of our CROs, manufacturers, other contractors, vendors, consultants or collaborators, may fail or suffer system failures, security breaches or deficiencies in cybersecurity, which could result in a material disruption of our product development programs, compromise sensitive information related to our business or trigger contractual and legal obligations.

We collect and maintain information in digital form that is necessary to conduct our business, and we are increasingly dependent on computer systems, hardware, software technology infrastructure, and online sites and networks for both internal and external operations that are critical to and help operate our business (collectively, "IT Systems"). We own and manage some of these IT Systems but also rely on third parties for a range of IT Systems and related products and services, including but not limited to cloud computer services. In the ordinary course of our business, we, and certain of our third-party providers, collect, maintain, store, process and transmit large amounts of information about our customers, employees business partners, and other types of information, including confidential information, intellectual property, proprietary business information, clinical trial data, protected health information, and personal information, collectively "Confidential Information". It is critical that we do so in a secure manner to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of our Confidential Information. In particular, any adverse impact to the availability, integrity, or confidentiality of our IT Systems or Confidential Information can result in legal claims or proceedings (such as class actions), regulatory investigations and enforcement actions, fines and penalties, and negative reputational impact, any or all of which could materially adversely affect our business, operating results, and financial condition.

Despite the implementation of security measures, there can be no assurance that our cybersecurity risk management program and processes, including our policies, controls, or procedures, will be fully implemented, complied with or effective in protecting our IT Systems and Confidential Information. In particular, we face numerous and evolving cybersecurity risks that threaten the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of our IT Systems and Confidential Information. Our IT Systems and those of our current and future CROs and other contractors, consultants, vendors and collaborators, collectively "Third Parties" may fail and are vulnerable to cybersecurity incidents, attacks, breakdowns, data breaches, interruption or damage from computer viruses, bugs, misconfigurations, or other exploited vulnerabilities in commercial software that is integrated in our IT Systems, and malware (e.g. ransomware), cybersecurity threats, computer hackers, social engineering/phishing, fraud, degradation of service attacks, malicious code, human error or malfeasance, theft or misuse, distributed denial-of-service attacks, sophisticated nation-state and nation-state-supported actors, unauthorized access, natural disasters, terrorism, war, fire and telecommunication and electrical failures. Such IT Systems, including corporate firewalls, servers and connection to the Internet, face the risk of systemic failure that could disrupt our operations.

Cybersecurity incidents, including cyberattacks, cybersecurity breaches, computer viruses, malware and other incidents could cause misappropriation, loss or other unauthorized disclosure of Confidential Information. Increasingly complex methods, including through the use of AI, have been used in cyberattacks, including ransomware, phishing, structured query language injections and distributed denial-of-service attacks. For example, in May 2021, we experienced a phishing attack through one of our employee's email account. The threat actor successfully sent a payment request which was eventually processed. Though we recovered some of the loss from our cybersecurity insurance provider, the incident resulted in certain financial losses that we were not able to fully recover from our provider. The risk of a data security breach or disruption has generally increased as the number, intensity and sophistication of attempted attacks and intrusions from around the world have increased in the recent years.

Further, as a result of continued hybrid working environment, we may also face increased cybersecurity risks due to our reliance on internet and cloud technologies. We are dependent upon our IT Systems to operate our business, given the number of our employees who are working remotely, and such dependence may create additional opportunities for cybercriminals to exploit vulnerabilities. The techniques used by cybercriminals change frequently, may not be recognized until launched, and can originate from a wide variety of sources, including outside groups such as external service providers, organized crime affiliates, hacktivists, terrorist organizations or hostile foreign governments or agencies. As such, we may also experience cybersecurity breaches that may remain undetected for an extended period. Even if identified, we may be unable to adequately investigate or remediate incidents or breaches due to attackers increasingly using tools and techniques that are designed to circumvent controls, to avoid detection, and to remove or obfuscate forensic evidence.

We and some of our Third Parties are from time to time subject to cyberattacks and cybersecurity incidents. If such an event were to occur again and cause interruptions in our operations or result in the unauthorized use, disclosure of or access

to Confidential Information, it could result in a material disruption of our development programs and our business operations, whether due to a loss of our trade secrets or other similar disruptions cause us to breach our contractual obligations, subject us to mandatory corrective action, and otherwise subject us to liability under laws, regulations and contracts that protect the privacy and security of Confidential Information, which could result in significant legal and financial exposure and reputational damages.

Despite our contractual protections with such Third Parties, notifications and follow-up actions related to a cybersecurity breach could impact our brand and reputation, cause us to incur significant costs, including legal expenses, harm customer confidence and trust, hurt our expansion into new markets, cause us to incur remediation costs, or cause us to lose existing customers. We also rely on third parties to manufacture our product candidates, and similar events relating to their IT Systems could also have a material adverse effect on our business. To the extent that any disruption or security breach were to result in a loss of, or damage to, our data or applications, or inappropriate disclosure or use of confidential or proprietary information, we could incur liability, the further development and commercialization of our product candidates could be delayed, and we could be subject to significant fines, penalties or liabilities for any noncompliance with privacy and security laws. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations or prospects.

Further, the costs of attempting to protect our IT Systems against the foregoing risks and the costs of responding to a cyberattack are significant. In addition, data breaches of our and/or our Third Parties' security measures and the unauthorized dissemination of Confidential Information could expose us to the risk of financial or medical identity theft, or expose us or other third parties to a risk of loss or misuse of this information, and result in investigations, regulatory enforcement actions, material fines and penalties, loss of business, litigation or other actions which could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects, reputation, results of operations and financial condition. In addition, if we fail to adhere to our policies and other published statements or applicable laws concerning our processing, use, transmission and disclosure of Confidential Information, or if our statements or practices are found to be deceptive or misrepresentative, we could face regulatory actions, fines, and other liability.

Our cyber insurance coverage may not be sufficient to cover all claims, liabilities, and costs arising from the cybersecurity incidents, including fines and penalties. In addition, we cannot be certain that insurance for cybersecurity incidents will continue to be available to us on commercially reasonable terms, or at all, or that any insurer will not deny coverage as to any future claim. It could be difficult to predict the ultimate resolution of any such incidents or to estimate the amounts or ranges of potential loss, if any, that could result therefrom. If we cannot successfully resolve a cybersecurity incident or contain any potential loss, it could materially impact our ability to operate our business as well as our results of operations and financial position.

For details of our cybersecurity measures, strategies and governance, see Item 16.K. "Cybersecurity - Cybersecurity Risk Management, Strategy and Governance."

Our employees and independent contractors, including principal investigators, CROs, consultants and vendors, may engage in misconduct or other improper activities, including noncompliance with regulatory standards and requirements.

We are exposed to the risk that our employees and independent contractors, including principal investigators, CROs, consultants and vendors, may engage in misconduct or other improper activities. Misconduct by these parties could include intentional, reckless and/or negligent conduct or disclosure of unauthorized activities to us that violate: (1) the laws and regulations of the FDA, the NMPA or other similar regulatory requirements, including those laws that require the reporting of true, complete and accurate information to such authorities, (2) manufacturing standards, including cGMP requirements, (3) federal and state data privacy, security, fraud and abuse and other healthcare laws and regulations in the United States and abroad or (4) laws that require the true, complete and accurate reporting of financial information or data. Activities subject to these laws also involve the improper use or misrepresentation of information obtained in the course of clinical trials, the creation of fraudulent data in our preclinical studies or clinical trials, or illegal misappropriation of drug product, which could result in regulatory sanctions and cause serious harm to our reputation. It is not always possible to identify and deter misconduct by employees and other third parties, and the precautions we take to detect and prevent this activity may not be effective in controlling unknown or unmanaged risks or losses or in protecting us from governmental investigations or other actions or lawsuits stemming from a failure to be in compliance with such laws or regulations.

In addition, we are subject to the risk that a person or government could allege such fraud or other misconduct, even if none occurred. If any such actions are instituted against us, and we are not successful in defending ourselves or asserting our rights, those actions could have a significant impact on our business and financial results, including, without limitation,

the imposition of significant civil, criminal and administrative penalties, damages, monetary fines, disgorgements, possible exclusion from participation in Medicare, Medicaid and other healthcare programs, individual imprisonment, contractual damages, reputational harm, diminished profits and future earnings, additional reporting requirements and oversight if we become subject to a corporate integrity agreement or similar agreement to resolve allegations of non-compliance with these laws, and curtailment of our operations, any of which could adversely affect our ability to operate our business and our results of operations.

We may engage in strategic transactions that could impact our liquidity, increase our expenses and present significant distractions to our management.

From time to time, we may consider strategic transactions, such as acquisitions of companies, asset purchases and out-licensing or in-licensing of intellectual property, products or technologies. In addition, we may have, arrangements with governmental authorities that have obligations or responsibilities that we cannot successfully fulfill with potentially significant adverse consequences to us. Any future transactions could increase our near and long-term expenditures, result in potentially dilutive issuances of our equity securities, including our ADSs, or the incurrence of debt, contingent liabilities, amortization expenses or acquired in-process research and development expenses, any of which could affect our financial condition, liquidity and results of operations.

Additional potential transactions that we may consider in the future include a variety of business arrangements, including spin-offs, strategic partnerships, joint ventures, restructurings, divestitures, business combinations and investments. Future acquisitions may also require us to obtain additional financing, which may not be available on favorable terms or at all. These transactions may never be successful and may require significant time and attention of management. In addition, the integration of any business that we may acquire in the future may disrupt our existing business and may be a complex, risky and costly endeavor for which we may never realize the full benefits. Accordingly, although there can be no assurance that we will undertake or successfully complete any transactions of the nature described above, any such transactions that we do complete could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

Risks Related to Intellectual Property

Our success depends on our ability to obtain, maintain, protect and enforce our intellectual property and our proprietary technologies.

Our success depends in part on our ability to obtain and maintain patent, trade secret and other intellectual property and proprietary protection for our current and any future product candidates, proprietary technologies and their uses as well as our ability to operate without infringing upon, misappropriating or otherwise violating the intellectual property and proprietary rights of others. If we are unable to protect our intellectual property and proprietary rights or if our intellectual property and proprietary rights are inadequate for our current or any future product candidates, our competitive position could be harmed. We generally seek to protect our proprietary position by filing patent applications in the United States, the PRC and abroad related to our product candidates, proprietary technologies and their uses that are important to our business. We also seek to protect our proprietary position by acquiring or in-licensing relevant issued patents, pending patent applications and other intellectual property from third parties. We also rely on trade secrets, know-how and continuing technological innovation to develop and maintain our proprietary and intellectual property position.

Pending patent applications cannot be enforced against third parties practicing the technology claimed in such applications unless, and until, patents issue from such applications, and then only to the extent the issued claims cover such technology. There can be no assurance that our current or future patent applications or the patent applications of our current and future licensors will be considered patentable by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, or the USPTO, courts in the United States, the China National Intellectual Property Administration, or the CNIPA, courts in the PRC or by the patent offices and courts in other jurisdictions or will result in patents being issued. In addition, there can be no assurance that any issued patents will afford sufficient protection against competitors or other third parties with similar technology, or will not be infringed, designed around or invalidated. Even issued patents may later be found invalid or unenforceable, in whole or in part, or may be modified or revoked in proceedings instituted by third parties before various patent offices or in courts. Only limited protection may be available and may not adequately protect our rights or permit us to gain or keep any competitive advantage. In addition, under PRC patent law, any organization or individual that applies for a patent in a foreign country for an invention or utility model accomplished in the PRC is required to report to CNIPA for confidentiality examination.

Otherwise, if an application is later filed in the PRC, the patent right will not be granted. These uncertainties and/or limitations in our ability to properly protect the intellectual property rights relating to our current and any future product candidates could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

The patent application process is subject to numerous risks and uncertainties, and there can be no assurance that we or any of our potential future collaborators will be successful in protecting our current and any future product candidates by obtaining, maintaining, defending and enforcing patents. These risks and uncertainties include the following:

- the USPTO, CNIPA and various foreign governmental patent agencies require compliance with a number of procedural, documentary, fee payment and other obligations during the patent process, the noncompliance with which can result in abandonment or lapse of a patent or patent application, and partial or complete loss of patent rights in the relevant jurisdiction;
- patent applications may not result in any patents being issued;
- patents may be challenged, invalidated, modified, revoked, circumvented, found to be unenforceable or otherwise may not provide any competitive advantage;
- our competitors, many of whom have substantially greater resources than we do and many of whom have made significant investments in competing technologies, may seek or may have already obtained patents that will limit, interfere with or block our ability to make, use and sell our current and any future product candidates;
- there may be significant pressure on the U.S. government and international governmental bodies to limit the scope of patent protection both inside and outside the United States for disease treatments that prove successful, as a matter of public policy regarding worldwide health concerns; and
- countries other than the United States may have patent laws less favorable to patentees than those of the United States, allowing foreign competitors a better opportunity to create, develop and market competing products.

The patent prosecution process is also expensive and time consuming, and we and our licensors may not be able to file and prosecute all necessary or desirable patent applications at a reasonable cost or in a timely manner or in all jurisdictions where protection may be commercially advantageous. It is also possible that we and our licensors will fail to identify patentable aspects of our research and development output before it is too late to obtain patent protection. We and our current and future licensors may also inadvertently make statements to regulatory agencies during the regulatory approval process that may be inconsistent with positions that have been taken during prosecution of the patent applications, which may result in such patents being narrowed, invalidated or held unenforceable. Moreover, in some circumstances, we may not have the right to control the preparation, filing and prosecution of patent applications, or to maintain the patents, directed to technology that we license to or from third parties. We may also require the cooperation of our licensors, licensees or other collaborators in order to enforce or defend the licensed patent rights, and such cooperation may not be provided. Therefore, these patents and applications may not be prosecuted, maintained, enforced and defended in a manner consistent with the best interests of our business. We cannot be certain that patent prosecution and maintenance activities by our licensors have been or will be conducted in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, which may affect the validity and enforceability of such patents or any patents that may issue from such applications. If they fail to do so, this could cause us to lose rights in any applicable intellectual property that we in-license, and as a result our ability to develop and commercialize products or product candidates may be adversely affected and we may be unable to prevent competitors from making, using and selling competing products.

In addition, although we enter into non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements with parties who have access to patentable aspects of our research and development output, such as our employees, outside scientific collaborators, CROs, third-party manufacturers, consultants, advisors and other third parties, any of these parties may breach such agreements and disclose such output before a patent application is filed, thereby jeopardizing our ability to seek patent protection. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our competitive position, business, financial condition, results of operations and prospect.

If we fail to comply with our obligations under any license, collaboration or other agreements, or otherwise experience disruptions to our business relationships with our collaborators or licensors, we may be required to pay damages and could lose intellectual property rights that are necessary for developing and protecting our current and future product candidates.

We may license intellectual property rights in the future. If, for any reason, any license agreement is terminated or we otherwise lose the rights associated with such license, it could adversely affect our business. Any collaboration agreement or license agreement we have entered into, or are likely to enter into, imposes or is likely to impose, various development, commercialization, funding, diligence, sublicensing, insurance, patent prosecution and enforcement or other obligations on

us, as well as milestone, royalty, annual maintenance and other payment obligations. If we breach any material obligations, or use the intellectual property licensed to us in an unauthorized manner, or if, in spite of our efforts, a collaborator or licensor concludes that we have materially breached our obligations under such agreement, we may be required to pay damages and the licensor may have the right to terminate the license, which could result in us being unable to develop, manufacture, have manufactured, and commercialize products that are covered by the licensed technology or having to negotiate new or reinstated licenses on less favorable terms, or enable a competitor or other third party to gain access to the licensed technology. Additionally, if any future license agreement includes a sublicense from a third party who is not the original licensor of the intellectual property at issue, then we must rely on our direct licensor to comply with its obligations under the primary license agreements under which such licensor obtained rights in the applicable intellectual property, where we may have no relationship with the original licensor of such rights. If such a licensor fails to comply with its obligations under its upstream license agreement, the original third-party licensor may have the right to terminate the original license, which may terminate our sublicense. If this were to occur, we would no longer have rights to the applicable intellectual property unless we are able to secure our own direct license with the owner of the relevant rights, which we may not be able to do on reasonable terms or at all, or such license may be non-exclusive, thereby giving our competitors and other third parties access to the same technologies licensed to us. Any such events may impact our ability to continue to develop and commercialize our current and any future product candidates incorporating the relevant intellectual property.

We may need to obtain further licenses from third parties to advance our research or allow commercialization of our current and any future product candidates, and we cannot provide any assurances that third-party patents or other intellectual property or proprietary rights do not exist which might be enforced against our current and any future product candidates in the absence of such a license. We may fail to obtain any of these licenses on commercially reasonable terms, if at all. Even if we are able to obtain a license, it may be non-exclusive, thereby giving our competitors and other third parties access to the same technologies licensed to us. In that event, we may be required to expend significant time and resources to develop or license replacement technology. If we are unable to do so, we may be unable to develop or commercialize the affected product candidates, which could materially harm our business and the third parties owning such intellectual property rights could seek either an injunction prohibiting our sales, or, with respect to our sales, an obligation on our part to pay royalties and/or other forms of compensation.

Licensing of intellectual property is of high importance to our business and involves complex legal, business and scientific issues. Disputes may arise between us and our licensors regarding intellectual property subject to a license agreement, including:

- the scope of rights granted under the license agreement and other interpretation-related issues;
- whether and the extent to which our technology and processes infringe on, misappropriate or otherwise violate intellectual property of the licensor that is not subject to the license agreement;
- our right to sublicense patents and other intellectual or proprietary rights to third parties;
- our diligence obligations with respect to the use of the licensed technology in relation to our development and commercialization of our current and any future product candidates, and what activities satisfy those diligence obligations;
- our right to transfer or assign the license; and
- the ownership of patents, inventions, know-how and other intellectual property and proprietary rights resulting from activities performed by our licensors, us and our partners.

These agreements may be complex, and some provisions in such agreements may be susceptible to multiple interpretations. The resolution of any contract interpretation disagreement that may arise could narrow what we believe to be the scope of our rights to the relevant intellectual property or technology, or increase what we believe to be our financial or other obligations under the relevant agreement. Moreover, if disputes over intellectual property that we have licensed prevent or impair our ability to maintain our current licensing arrangements on acceptable terms, we may not be able to successfully develop and commercialize the affected product candidates. In addition, some of our agreements may limit or delay our ability to consummate some transactions, may impact the value of those transactions, or may limit our ability to pursue some activities. Any of the foregoing would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial conditions, results of operations and prospects.

If the scope of any patent protection we obtain is not sufficiently broad, or if we lose any of our patent protection, our ability to prevent our competitors and other third parties from commercializing product candidates similar or identical to ours would be adversely affected.

The patent position of biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies generally is highly uncertain, involves complex legal and factual questions, and has in recent years been the subject of much litigation. In addition, the laws of foreign countries may not protect our rights to the same extent as the laws of the United States. For example, European patent law restricts the patentability of methods of treatment of the human body more than U.S. law does. Publications of discoveries in scientific literature often lag behind the actual discoveries, and patent applications in the United States and other jurisdictions are typically not published until 18 months after filing, or in some cases not at all. Therefore, we cannot know with certainty whether we were the first to make the inventions claimed in our owned or licensed patents or pending patent applications, or that we were the first to file for patent protection of such inventions. As a result, the issuance, scope, validity, enforceability and commercial value of our patent rights are highly uncertain. Our future patent applications may not result in patents being issued which protect our technology or products, in whole or in part, or which effectively prevent others from commercializing competitive technologies and products. Changes in either the patent laws or interpretation of the patent laws in the United States and other countries may diminish the value of our patents or narrow the scope of our patent protection.

Similarly, in the PRC, intellectual property laws are constantly evolving, with efforts being made to improve intellectual property protection in the PRC. For example, PRC Patent Law was amended on October 17, 2020 and became effective on June 1, 2021. It provides that in order to compensate for the time taken up by the review and approval of new drugs for marketing, the patent administrative department shall grant compensation for the duration of patent rights for invention patents related to new drugs that have been granted a marketing license in the PRC. The compensation period shall not exceed five years, and the total valid patent right period shall not exceed fourteen years after the new drug is approved for marketing. Therefore, the terms of our PRC patents will be eligible for extension and allow us to extend patent protection of our products, and the terms of the patents owned by third parties may also be extended, which may in turn affect our ability to commercialize our products candidates without facing infringement risks. If we are required to delay commercialization for an extended period of time, technological advances may develop and new competitor products may be launched, which may render our product non-competitive. We also cannot guarantee that other changes to PRC intellectual property laws would not have a negative impact on our intellectual property protection.

The coverage claimed in a patent application can be significantly reduced before the patent is issued, and its scope can be reinterpreted after issuance. During the patent examination process, we or our licensors may be required to narrow the pending claims to overcome prior art, a process that may limit the scope of patent protection. Even if patent applications we own or license issue as patents, they may not issue in a form that will provide us with any meaningful protection, prevent competitors or other third parties from competing with us, or otherwise provide us with any competitive advantage. Any future patents that we own or license, now or in the future, may be challenged or circumvented by third parties or may be narrowed, modified, invalidated or revoked as a result of challenges by third parties. Consequently, we do not know whether our current or any future product candidates will be protectable or remain protected by valid and enforceable patents. Our competitors or other third parties may be able to circumvent our future patents or the patents of our current and future licensors by developing similar or alternative technologies or products in a non-infringing manner which could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

The issuance of a patent is not conclusive as to its inventorship, scope, validity or enforceability, and our owned and licensed patents may be challenged in the courts or patent offices in the United States, the PRC or elsewhere. The inventorship and ownership rights for patents that we own or in-license or may own or in-license in the future may be challenged by third parties. Such challenges could result in loss of exclusive rights to such patents, which could limit our ability to stop others from using or commercializing similar or identical technology and products, or require us to obtain a license from such third parties on commercially reasonable terms to secure exclusive rights. If any such challenges to inventorship or ownership were asserted, there is no assurance that a court would find in our favor or that, if we choose to seek a license, such license would be available to us on acceptable terms or at all. Moreover, we may be subject to a third-party submission of prior art to the USPTO challenging the priority of an invention claimed within one of our patents or patent applications (which submissions may be made prior to a patent's issuance) or otherwise become involved in pre- and post-issuance proceedings, including opposition, derivation, re-examination, revocation, inter partes review, post-grant review, interference or other proceedings challenging our patent rights or the patent rights of others from whom we have obtained licenses to such rights. For example, if we or a licensor or other collaborator initiate legal proceedings against a third party to enforce a patent covering one of our product candidates, the defendant could counterclaim that the patent covering our product candidate is invalid or unenforceable. An adverse determination in any such submission, proceeding

or litigation could reduce the scope of, or invalidate, our patent rights, in whole or in part, allow third parties to commercialize our technology or products and compete directly with us, without payment to us, or result in our inability to manufacture, have manufactured, or commercialize products without infringing third-party patent rights.

Any loss of patent rights, loss of exclusivity or patent claims being narrowed, invalidated or held unenforceable, in whole or in part, could limit our ability to stop others from using or commercializing similar or identical technology and products, without payments to us, limit the duration of the patent protection of our current or any future product candidates, or result in our inability to manufacture, have manufactured, and commercialize our product candidates, which could materially and adversely impact our business. Proceedings relating to intellectual property also may result in substantial cost and require significant time from our scientists and management, even if the eventual outcome is favorable to us. In addition, if the breadth or strength of protection provided by our patents and patent applications or the patents and patent applications of our current and future licensors is threatened, regardless of the outcome, it could dissuade companies from collaborating with us to license, develop or commercialize our current or any future product candidates. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial conditions, results of operations and prospects.

The patent protection and patent prosecution for our current or any future product candidates may be dependent on third parties.

We may in the future rely on third parties to file and prosecute patent applications and maintain patents and otherwise protect and enforce the licensed intellectual property under some current and future license agreements. Under such arrangements, we may not have sufficient control over these activities for some licensed patents or patent applications and other intellectual property rights. We cannot be certain that such activities by third parties have been or will be conducted in compliance with applicable laws and regulations or will result in valid and enforceable patents or other intellectual property rights. In addition, our current and future licensors or licensees may not be fully cooperative or disagree with us as to the prosecution, maintenance, enforcement or defense of any patent rights, which could compromise such patent rights. Therefore, we cannot be certain that such patents and patent applications will be prepared, filed, prosecuted, maintained, enforced, and defended in a manner consistent with the best interests of our business.

We may in the future enter into license agreements where the licensors or licensees may have the right to control enforcement of the licensed patents or defense of any claims asserting the invalidity of these patents, and even if we are permitted to pursue such enforcement or defense, it might require the cooperation of our licensors or licensees. We cannot be certain that our licensors or licensees will allocate sufficient resources or prioritize their or our enforcement of such patents or defense of such claims to protect our interests in the licensed patents. Even if we are not a party to these legal actions, an adverse outcome could harm our business because it might prevent us from continuing to license intellectual property that we may need to operate our business or result in invalidation or limitation of the scope of the licensed patents or other intellectual property rights. If any of our current or future licensors, licensees or collaborators fail to appropriately prosecute and maintain patent protection for patents covering our current or any future product candidates, our ability to develop and commercialize those product candidates may be adversely affected and we may not be able to prevent competitors or other third parties from making, using and selling competing products.

In addition, even where we have the right to control prosecution, maintenance, enforcement and defense of patent applications or patents we have acquired or licensed from third parties, we may still be adversely affected or prejudiced by actions or inactions of prior owners, licensors and/or their counsel that took place prior to us assuming control over such activities.

Licensors may retain rights to the technology that they license to us, including the right to use the underlying technology for noncommercial academic and research use, to publish general scientific findings from research related to the technology, and to make customary scientific and scholarly disclosures of information relating to the technology. It is difficult to monitor whether such licensors limit their use of the technology to these uses, and we could incur substantial expenses to enforce our rights to the licensed technology in the event of misuse.

If we are limited in our ability to utilize acquired or licensed technologies, or if we lose our rights to critical in-licensed technology, we may be unable to successfully develop, out-license, market and sell our products, which could prevent or delay new product introductions. Our business strategy depends on the successful development of licensed and acquired technologies into commercial products. Therefore, any limitations on our ability to utilize these technologies may impair our ability to develop, out-license or market and sell our product candidates. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

If we are not successful in obtaining patent term extensions for our current and future product candidates, our business may be harmed, and the lack of effective enforcement of patent linkage and the absence of patent term extension and data and market exclusivity for product candidates approved by the NMPA could increase the risk of early generic competition with our products in the PRC.

Patents have a limited lifespan. In the United States, for example, the natural expiration of a patent is generally 20 years after the filing of the earliest non-provisional application to which the patent claims priority. Various extensions may be available; however, the life of a patent, and the protection it affords, is limited. We may be required to disclaim a portion of patent term in order to overcome double patenting rejections from the applicable patent office, thus potentially shortening our exclusivity period. Without patent protection for our current or future product candidates, we may be open to competition, including from generic versions of such products. Given the amount of time required for the development, testing and regulatory review of new product candidates, patents protecting such candidates might expire before or shortly after such candidates are commercialized. Hence, we expect to seek extensions of patent terms in the United States and abroad.

Depending upon the timing, duration and specifics of FDA marketing approval of our current and future product candidates, one or more of our U.S. patents may be eligible for limited patent term restoration under the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984, referred to as the Hatch-Waxman Amendments. The Hatch-Waxman Amendments permit a patent term extension of up to five years beyond the normal expiration of the patent as compensation for patent term lost during drug development and the FDA regulatory review process, which is limited to the approved indication (or any additional indications approved during the period of extension). This extension is limited to one patent that covers the approved product, the approved use of the product, or a method of manufacturing the product. A patent term extension cannot extend the remaining term of a patent beyond a total of 14 years from the date of product approval, and only those claims covering such approved drug product, a method for using it or a method for manufacturing it may be extended. Patent term extension may also be available in some foreign countries upon obtaining the applicable regulatory approval for our current and any future product candidates. However, the applicable authorities, including the FDA and the USPTO in the United States, and any equivalent regulatory authority in other countries or areas, may not agree with our assessment of whether such extensions are available, and may refuse to grant extensions to our patents, or may grant more limited extensions than we request. We may not be granted an extension because of, for example, failing to apply within applicable deadlines, failing to apply prior to expiration of relevant patents or otherwise failing to satisfy applicable requirements. Moreover, the applicable time period or the scope of patent protection afforded could be less than we request.

If we or our licensors are unable to extend the expiration date of our or their existing patents or obtain new patents with longer expiry dates, as applicable, our competitors and other third parties may be able to take advantage of our investment in development and clinical trials by referencing our clinical and preclinical data to obtain approval of competing products following our patent expiration and launch their product earlier than might otherwise be the case.

The Hatch-Waxman Amendments also provide a process for patent linkage, pursuant to which the FDA will stay approval of some follow-on applications during the pendency of litigation between the follow-on applicant and the patent holder or licensee, generally for a period of 30 months. Finally, the Hatch-Waxman Amendments provide for statutory exclusivities that can prevent submission or approval of some follow-on marketing applications. For example, federal law provides a five-year period of non-patent data exclusivity within the United States to the first applicant to obtain approval of a new chemical entity and three years of exclusivity protecting some innovations to previously approved active ingredients where the applicant was required to conduct new clinical investigations to obtain approval for the modification. Similarly, the U.S. Orphan Drug Act provides seven years of market exclusivity for some drugs to treat rare diseases, where the FDA designates the product candidate as an orphan drug and the drug is approved for the designated orphan disease or condition. These provisions, designed to promote innovation, can prevent competing products from entering the market for a period of time after the FDA grants marketing approval for the innovative product.

In the PRC, however, as the law or regulation providing for patent linkage or data exclusivity (referred to as regulatory data protection) is not so mature, historically a lower-cost generic drug could emerge onto the market much more quickly. PRC regulators published regulations in 2021 for a patent dispute early resolution mechanism, which may be comparable to the patent linkage system in the U.S. The amendment to the PRC Patent Law which came into effect in 2021 introduced “patent term compensation” for a maximum of 5 years, corresponding to the patent term extension under the U.S. federal law. The implementation of patent term compensation is specified in the Implementation Rules of the Patent Law of the PRC and the Patent Examination Guidelines which came into effect in January 2024. Since the regulations are relatively new, uncertainties exist with respect to the actual execution of them. In addition, the draft amendment to the Regulations

for the Implementation of the Drug Administration Law in May 2022 was open for public comments through June 9, 2022, provided for 6 years data exclusivity of undisclosed trial data and other data of any drug containing a new chemical entity; no regulation has been finalized and adopted to implement data exclusivity in the PRC. These factors result in weaker protection for us against generic competition in the PRC than could be available to us in the United States. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

Obtaining and maintaining our patent protection depends on compliance with various procedural, document submission, fee payment and other requirements imposed by governmental patent agencies, and our patent protection could be reduced or eliminated for noncompliance with these requirements.

Periodic maintenance fees on any issued patent are due to be paid to the USPTO, CNIPA and other foreign patent agencies in several stages over the lifetime of the patent. In addition, the USPTO, CNIPA and various foreign national or international patent agencies require compliance with a number of procedural, documentary, fee payment and other similar provisions during the patent application process. While an inadvertent lapse can in many cases be cured by payment of a late fee or by other means in accordance with the applicable rules, there are situations in which noncompliance can result in abandonment or lapse of the patent or patent application, resulting in partial or complete loss of patent rights in the relevant jurisdiction. Noncompliance events that could result in abandonment or lapse of patent rights include, but are not limited to, failure to timely file national and regional stage patent applications based on an international patent application, failure to respond to official actions within prescribed time limits, non-payment of fees and failure to properly legalize and submit formal documents within prescribed time limits. If we or our licensors fail to maintain patents and patent applications, whether owned or in-licensed now or in the future, covering any of our current or future product candidates and technologies, our competitors might be able to enter the market, which would have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

Third-party claims or litigation alleging infringement, misappropriation or other violation of, or seeking to invalidate, patents or other intellectual and proprietary rights, may delay or prevent the development and commercialization of any of our current or future product candidates.

Our commercial success depends in part on our ability to develop, manufacture, market and sell our product candidates without infringing, misappropriating, or otherwise violating the intellectual property and proprietary rights of third parties. There is a substantial amount of litigation, both within and outside the United States, involving patent and other intellectual property rights in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, including patent infringement lawsuits and interference, derivation, inter partes review and post-grant review proceedings before the USPTO, as well as oppositions and similar processes in foreign jurisdictions. Litigation or other proceedings relating to intellectual property rights are often very complex in nature, may be very expensive and time-consuming, may divert our management's attention from our core business, and may result in unfavorable results that could limit our ability to prevent third parties from competing with our current and future product candidates.

One or more third parties may challenge our current or future patents, which could result in the invalidation of, or render unenforceable, some or all of the relevant patent claims, or a finding of non-infringement. For example, if a third party files an Abbreviated New Drug Application, or ANDA, for a generic copy of one of our products, and relies in whole or in part on studies conducted by or for us, the third party will be required to certify to the FDA that either: (1) there is no patent information listed in the FDA's publication, "Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations," commonly known as the "Orange Book", with respect to our NDA for the applicable approved product candidate; (2) the patents listed in the Orange Book have expired; (3) the listed patents have not expired, but will expire on a particular date and approval is sought after patent expiration; or (4) the listed patents are invalid or will not be infringed by the manufacture, use or sale of the third party's generic drug. A certification that the new drug will not infringe the Orange Book-listed patents for the applicable approved product candidate, or that such patents are invalid, is called a paragraph IV certification. If the third party submits a paragraph IV certification to the FDA, a notice of the paragraph IV certification must also be sent to us once the third party's ANDA is accepted for filing by the FDA. We may then initiate a lawsuit to defend the patents identified in the notice. The filing of a patent infringement lawsuit within 45 days of receipt of the notice automatically prevents the FDA from approving the third party's ANDA until the earliest of 30 months or the date on which the patent expires, the lawsuit is settled, or the court reaches a decision in the infringement lawsuit in favor of the third party. If we do not file a patent infringement lawsuit within the required 45-day period, the third party's ANDA will not be subject to the 30-month stay of FDA approval. Grounds for an unenforceability assertion includes an allegation that someone connected with prosecution of the patent withheld relevant information from the USPTO, or made a misleading statement, during prosecution. Any challenge to our current or future patents could result in the invalidation of some or all of the patents that might otherwise be eligible for listing in the Orange Book for one of our products. If a third party successfully challenges all of the patents that might otherwise be eligible for listing in the Orange Book for one of our

products, we will not be entitled to the 30-month stay of FDA approval upon the filing of an ANDA for a generic copy of our product.

We cannot provide any assurances that third-party patents do not exist which might be enforced against our current and future product candidates. Numerous U.S., PRC and other foreign issued patents and pending patent applications owned by third parties exist in the fields in which we are or may in the future be developing product candidates. As the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries expand and more patents are issued, and as we gain greater visibility and market exposure as a public company, the risk increases that our product candidates or other business activities may be subject to claims of infringement of the patent and other proprietary rights of third parties.

Third parties may assert that we are infringing their patents or employing their proprietary technology without authorization. There may be third-party patents or patent applications with claims to materials, formulations, methods of manufacture or methods for treatment related to the use or manufacture of our current and future product candidates. Because patent applications can take many years to issue and may be confidential for 18 months or more after filing, and because pending patent claims can be revised before issuance, there may be currently pending patent applications—including ones we are unaware of—that may later result in issued patents that our current and future product candidates may infringe. In addition, third parties may obtain patents in the future and claim that use of our technologies infringes upon these patents.

Even if we believe that such claims are without merit, there is no assurance that a court would find in our favor on questions of infringement, validity, enforceability, or priority. In order to successfully challenge the validity of a U.S. patent in federal court, we would need to overcome a presumption of validity. As this burden is a high one requiring us to present clear and convincing evidence as to the invalidity of any such U.S. patent claim, there is no assurance that a court of competent jurisdiction would invalidate the claims of any such U.S. patent. If any third-party patents were held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be valid and enforceable and cover the manufacturing process of any of our current and future product candidates, any molecules formed during such manufacturing process, any final products resulting from such manufacturing process, or our formulations or methods of use thereof, including combination therapy, the holders of any such patents may be able to block our ability to develop and commercialize the applicable product candidate unless we obtained a license under the applicable patents, or until such patents expire. Such a license would likely include significant payment and other obligations, or may not be available on commercially reasonable terms or at all. Even if we were able to obtain such a license, it could be granted on non-exclusive terms, thereby providing our competitors and other third parties access to the same technologies licensed to us. In addition, we may be subject to claims that we are infringing, misappropriating or otherwise violating others' intellectual property rights, such as trademarks, copyrights or trade secrets, and to the extent that our employees, consultants or contractors use intellectual property or proprietary information owned by others in their work for us, disputes may arise as to the rights in related or resulting know-how and inventions.

Parties making claims against us may obtain injunctive or other equitable relief, which could effectively block our ability to further develop and commercialize our current and future product candidates. Defense of these claims, regardless of their merit, would involve substantial litigation expense and would be a substantial diversion of employee resources from our business. In the event of a successful infringement or other intellectual property claim against us, we also may have to pay substantial damages, including treble damages and attorneys' fees for willful infringement, obtain one or more licenses from third parties, pay royalties or redesign our affected products, which may be impossible or require substantial time and monetary expenditure. We cannot predict whether any such license would be available at all or whether it would be available on commercially reasonable terms. Furthermore, even in the absence of litigation, we may need to obtain licenses from third parties to advance our research or allow commercialization of our current and future product candidates, and we have done so from time to time. We may fail to obtain any of these licenses at a reasonable cost or on reasonable terms, if at all. As a result, we might be unable to further develop and commercialize any affected product candidates, which could harm our business significantly. Claims that we have misappropriated the confidential information or trade secrets of third parties could have a similar negative impact on our business. Furthermore, because of the substantial amount of discovery required in connection with intellectual property litigation, there is a risk that some of our confidential information could be compromised by disclosure during this type of litigation. There could also be public announcements of the results of hearings, motions or other interim proceedings or developments. If securities analysts or investors perceive these results to be negative, it could have an adverse effect on the price of our ADSs or ordinary shares. Any of the foregoing would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

We may not identify relevant third-party patents or may incorrectly interpret the relevance, scope or expiration of a third-party patent, which might adversely affect our ability to develop and market our products.

We cannot guarantee that any of our patent searches or analyses, including the identification of relevant patents, the scope of patent claims or the expiration dates of relevant patents, are complete or thorough, nor can we be certain that we have identified each and every third-party patent and pending application in the United States, the PRC and elsewhere that is relevant to or necessary for the commercialization of our product candidates in any jurisdiction.

The scope of a patent claim is determined by an interpretation of the law, the written disclosure in a patent and the patent's prosecution history. Our interpretation of the relevance or the scope of a patent or a pending application may be incorrect, which may negatively affect our ability to market our products. We may incorrectly determine that our products are not covered by a third-party patent or may incorrectly predict whether a third party's pending application will issue with claims of relevant scope. Our determination of the expiration date of any patent in the United States, the PRC or elsewhere that we consider relevant may be incorrect, and if we fail to identify and correctly interpret relevant patents our ability to develop and market our products may be negatively affected.

We may need to acquire or license intellectual property from third parties, and such licenses may not be available or may not be available on commercially reasonable terms.

Because our development program may require the use of intellectual property rights held by other parties, the growth of our business may depend in part on our ability to acquire, in-license or use such third-party intellectual property rights. We may be unable to acquire or in-license any compositions, methods of use, processes or other third-party intellectual property rights from third parties that we identify as necessary for our current and any future product candidates. The licensing and acquisition of third-party intellectual property rights is a competitive area, and a number of more established companies are also pursuing strategies to license or acquire third-party intellectual property rights that we may consider attractive. These established companies may have a competitive advantage over us due to their size, cash resources and greater clinical development and commercialization capabilities. In addition, companies that perceive us to be a competitor may be unwilling to assign or license rights to us. We also may be unable to license or acquire third-party intellectual property rights on terms that would allow us to make an appropriate return on our investment. If we are unable to successfully obtain rights to required third-party intellectual property rights or maintain the existing intellectual property rights we have, we may have to abandon development of the applicable program and/or develop alternative approaches that do not infringe, misappropriate or otherwise violate such intellectual property rights. This could entail additional costs and development delays, and the development of such alternatives may not be feasible. Any of the foregoing could prevent us from developing or commercializing one or more of our product candidates, force us to modify such product candidates, or cease some aspect of our business operations, and our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects could suffer.

We may become involved in lawsuits to protect or enforce our or our licensors' patents or other intellectual property rights, which could be expensive, time-consuming and unsuccessful.

Competitors may infringe, misappropriate or otherwise violate our or our licensors' patents or other intellectual property rights. To counter infringement or unauthorized use, we or our licensors may be required to file legal claims, which can be expensive and time-consuming. In addition, in such a proceeding, a court may decide that an asserted patent is not valid or is unenforceable, or may refuse to stop the other party from using the technology at issue on the grounds that the asserted patent or other intellectual property right does not cover the third-party technology in question. An adverse result in any litigation or defense proceedings could put one or more asserted patents at risk of being invalidated or interpreted narrowly and could put related patent applications at risk of not issuing. The initiation of a claim against a third party may also cause the third party to bring counter claims against us, such as claims asserting that our patents are invalid or unenforceable. In patent litigation in the United States, the PRC and elsewhere, defendant counterclaims challenging the validity, enforceability or scope of asserted patents are commonplace. Grounds for a validity challenge could be an alleged failure to meet any of several statutory requirements, including lack of novelty, obviousness, non-enablement or lack of statutory subject matter. Grounds for an unenforceability assertion could be an allegation that someone connected with prosecution of the patent withheld relevant material information from the USPTO, CNIPA or any other applicable patent office, or made a materially misleading statement, during prosecution. Third parties may also raise similar validity claims before the USPTO in post-grant proceedings such as ex parte re-examinations, inter partes review, or post-grant review, or oppositions or similar proceedings outside the United States, in parallel with litigation or even outside the context of litigation. The outcome following legal assertions of invalidity and unenforceability is unpredictable. We cannot be certain that there is no invalidating prior art of which we and the patent examiner were unaware during prosecution. For patents

and patent applications that we license in the future, we may have limited or no right to participate in the defense of any licensed patents against challenge by a third party. If a defendant were to prevail on a legal assertion of invalidity or unenforceability, we would lose at least part, and perhaps all, of any future patent protection on our current or future product candidates. Such a loss of patent protection could harm our business.

We may not be able to detect or prevent, alone or with our licensors, infringement, misappropriation or other violation of our intellectual property rights, particularly in countries where the laws may not protect those rights as fully as in the United States. Any litigation or other proceedings to enforce our intellectual property rights may fail, and even if successful, may result in substantial costs and distract our management and other employees. Even if we establish infringement, the court may decide not to grant an injunction against further infringing activity and instead award only monetary damages, which may or may not be an adequate remedy. Furthermore, because of the substantial amount of discovery required in connection with intellectual property litigation, there is a risk that some of our confidential information could be compromised by disclosure during this type of litigation. There could also be public announcements of the results of hearings, motions or other interim proceedings or developments. If securities analysts or investors perceive these results to be negative, it could have an adverse effect on the price of our ADSs or ordinary shares. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

Derivation, interference or other proceedings may be necessary to determine priority of inventions relating to our current or future product candidates, and an unfavorable outcome may require us to cease using the related technology or to attempt to license rights from the prevailing party.

Derivation, interference or other proceedings provoked by third parties or brought by us or declared by the USPTO or similar proceedings in foreign patent offices may be necessary to determine the priority of inventions with respect to our current or future patents or patent applications or those of our current and future licensors. An unfavorable outcome could require us to cease using the related technology or to attempt to license rights to it from the prevailing party. Our business could be harmed if the prevailing party does not offer us a license on commercially reasonable terms or at all. Our defense of such proceedings may fail and, even if successful, may result in substantial costs and distract our management and other employees. In addition, the uncertainties associated with such proceedings could have a material adverse effect on our ability to raise the funds necessary to continue our clinical trials, continue our research programs, license necessary technology from third parties or enter into development or manufacturing partnerships that would help us bring our current and any future product candidates to market.

Because of the expense and uncertainty of litigation, we may not be in a position to enforce our intellectual property rights against third parties.

Because of the expense and uncertainty of litigation, we may conclude that even if a third party is infringing, misappropriating or otherwise violating our owned or in-licensed patents or other intellectual property rights, the risk-adjusted cost of bringing and enforcing a claim or action against such third party may be too high or not in the best interest of our shareholders. In such cases, we may decide that the more prudent course of action is to simply monitor the situation or initiate or seek some other non-litigious action or solution.

Patent reform legislation could increase the uncertainties and costs surrounding the prosecution of our current and future patent applications or those of our current and future licensors and the enforcement or defense of our current and future issued patents or those of our current and future licensors.

Obtaining and enforcing patents in the biopharmaceutical industry involve both technological and legal complexity and are therefore costly, time-consuming and inherently uncertain. Recent patent reform legislation in the United States and other countries could increase those uncertainties and costs.

On September 16, 2011, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, or the Leahy-Smith Act, was signed into law. The Leahy-Smith Act made a number of significant changes to United States patent laws. These include provisions that affect the way patent applications are prosecuted and challenged at the USPTO and may also affect patent litigation. The USPTO has developed and continues to develop new regulations and procedures to govern administration of the Leahy-Smith Act.

The Leahy-Smith Act established a “first-to-file” system, under which, assuming the other requirements for patentability are met, the first inventor to file a patent application generally will be entitled to a patent on the invention regardless of whether another inventor had made the invention earlier. This will require us to be cognizant of the time from invention to filing of a patent application and be diligent in filing patent applications, but circumstances could prevent us from promptly

filing patent applications on our inventions. Therefore, the Leahy-Smith Act and its implementation could make it more difficult to obtain patent protection for our inventions and increase the uncertainties and costs surrounding the prosecution of our patent applications and the enforcement or defense of our issued patents, all of which could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition. Similarly, the PRC also adopted a “first-to-file” system.

The Leahy-Smith Act also includes a number of significant changes that affect the way patent applications will be prosecuted and also may affect patent litigation. These include limiting where a patentee may file a patent infringement suit, allowing third-party submission of prior art to the USPTO during patent prosecution and providing for additional procedures to attack the validity of a patent at the USPTO by post-grant review, inter partes review and derivation proceedings. An adverse determination in any such submission or proceeding could reduce the scope or enforceability of, or invalidate, our patent rights, in whole or in part, which could adversely affect our competitive position.

Because of a lower evidentiary standard in USPTO proceedings compared to the evidentiary standard in U.S. federal courts necessary to invalidate a patent claim, a third party could potentially provide evidence in a USPTO proceeding sufficient for the USPTO to hold a claim invalid even though the same evidence would be insufficient to invalidate the claim if first presented in a district court action. Accordingly, a third party may attempt to use the USPTO procedures to invalidate our patent claims that would not have been invalidated if first challenged by the third party as a defendant in a district court action. Thus, the Leahy-Smith Act and its implementation could increase the uncertainties and costs surrounding the prosecution of our future patent applications or those of our current and future licensors and the enforcement or defense of our future issued patents or those of our current and future licensors, all of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

Changes in U.S. patent law, PRC patent law or patent laws in other countries could diminish the value of patents in general, thereby impairing our ability to protect our current and any future product candidates.

Obtaining and enforcing patents in the biopharmaceutical industry involve a high degree of technological and legal complexity. Therefore, obtaining and enforcing biopharmaceutical patents is costly, time consuming and inherently uncertain. Changes in either the patent laws or in the interpretations of patent laws in the United States, the PRC and other countries may diminish the value of our intellectual property and may increase the uncertainties and costs surrounding the prosecution of patent applications and the enforcement or defense of issued patents. We cannot predict the breadth of claims that may be allowed or enforced in our future patents or in third-party patents. In addition, there are periodic proposals for changes to the patent laws of the PRC, the United States and other countries that, if adopted, could impact our ability to enforce our proprietary technology.

In the PRC, intellectual property laws are constantly evolving, with efforts being made to improve intellectual property protection in the PRC. For example, PRC Patent Law was amended on October 17, 2020, and became effective on June 1, 2021. It provides that in order to compensate for the time taken up by the review and approval of new drugs for marketing, the patent administrative department shall grant compensation for the duration of patent rights for invention patents related to new drugs that have been granted a marketing license in the PRC. The compensation period shall not exceed five years, and the total valid patent right period shall not exceed fourteen years after the new drug is approved for marketing. Therefore, the terms of our PRC patents will be eligible for extension and allow us to extend patent protection of our products, and the terms of the patents owned by third parties may also be extended, which may in turn affect our ability to commercialize our products candidates without facing infringement risks. If we are required to delay commercialization for an extended period of time, technological advances may develop and new competitor products may be launched, which may render our product non-competitive. We also cannot guarantee that other changes to PRC intellectual property laws would not have a negative impact on our intellectual property protection.

Evolving judicial interpretation of patent law could also adversely affect our business. The U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit have issued numerous precedential opinions in recent years narrowing the scope of patent protection available in some circumstances or weakening the rights of patent owners in some situations. In addition to increasing uncertainty with regard to our ability to obtain patents in the future, this combination of events has created uncertainty with respect to the value of patents, once obtained. Depending on future actions by the U.S. Congress, the U.S. federal courts, the USPTO or similar authorities in foreign jurisdictions, the laws and regulations governing patents could change in unpredictable ways that would weaken our ability to obtain new patents or to enforce or defend patents that we have licensed or that we might own or license in the future. Similarly, changes in patent law and regulations in other countries or jurisdictions or changes in the governmental bodies that enforce them or changes in how the relevant governmental authority enforces patent laws or regulations may weaken our ability to obtain new patents or to enforce our current and future patents.

Europe's Unified Patent Court may in particular present uncertainties for our ability to protect and enforce our patent rights against competitors in Europe. In 2012, the European Patent Package, or EU Patent Package, regulations were passed with the goal of providing a single pan-European Unitary Patent and a new European Unified Patent Court, or UPC, for litigation involving European patents. Implementation of the EU Patent Package occurred in 2023. Under the UPC, all European patents, including those issued prior to ratification of the European Patent Package, will by default automatically fall under the jurisdiction of the UPC. The UPC will provide our competitors with a new forum to centrally revoke our European patents, and allow for the possibility of a competitor to obtain pan-European injunctions. It will be several years before we will understand the scope of patent rights that will be recognized and the strength of patent remedies that will be provided by the UPC. Under the EU Patent Package, we will have the right to opt our patents out of the UPC over the first seven years of the court's existence, but doing so may preclude us from realizing the benefits of the new unified court.

We may not be able to protect our intellectual property rights throughout the world, including in the PRC.

Filing, prosecuting and defending patents for our current and future product candidates in all relevant jurisdictions throughout the world could be prohibitively expensive, and our intellectual property rights in some countries outside the United States can be less extensive than those in the United States. The requirements for patentability differ in some jurisdictions, particularly developing countries. For example, the PRC has a heightened requirement for patentability and, specifically, requires a detailed description of medical uses of a claimed drug. In addition, the laws of some foreign countries, including the PRC, do not protect intellectual property rights to the same extent as federal and state laws in the United States. Consequently, we may not be able to prevent third parties from practicing our inventions in all countries outside the United States or from selling or importing products made using our inventions in and into the United States or other jurisdictions. Competitors may use our technologies in jurisdictions where we have not obtained patent protection to develop their own products and, further, may export otherwise infringing products to territories where we have patent protection but enforcement is not as strong as that in the United States. These products may compete with our current or any future product candidates, and our patents, the patents of our current and future licensors or other intellectual property rights may not be effective or sufficient to prevent them from competing. Additionally, some countries have compulsory licensing laws under which a patent owner may be compelled to grant licenses to third parties. Many countries also limit the enforceability of patents against government agencies or government contractors. In these countries, the patent owner may have limited remedies, which could materially diminish the value of such patent.

Many companies have encountered significant problems in protecting and defending intellectual property rights in foreign jurisdictions. The legal systems of many foreign countries do not favor the enforcement of patents and other intellectual property protection, which could make it difficult for us to stop the infringement, misappropriation or other violation of our intellectual property rights or the marketing of competing products in violation of our intellectual property or proprietary rights. As the validity, enforceability and scope of protection available under the relevant laws in the PRC are evolving, the historical implementation and enforcement of PRC intellectual property-related laws do not have strong precedential value. Accordingly, intellectual property and confidentiality legal regimes in the PRC may not afford protection the same way as in the United States or other countries. Policing unauthorized use of intellectual property or proprietary technology in foreign jurisdictions is difficult and expensive, and we may need to resort to litigation to enforce or defend patents issued to us or our current or future licensors or to determine the enforceability, scope and validity of our proprietary rights or those of others. Such litigation and proceedings to enforce our patent rights in foreign jurisdictions could result in substantial costs and divert our efforts and attention from other aspects of our business, could put our patents or the patents of our current and future licensors at risk of being invalidated or interpreted narrowly and our patent applications or the patent applications of our current and future licensors at risk of not issuing and could provoke third parties to assert claims against us. Moreover, the experience and capabilities of courts in foreign jurisdictions, including PRC courts, in handling intellectual property litigation varies, and outcomes are unpredictable. We may not prevail in any lawsuits that we initiate, and the damages or other remedies awarded, if any, may not be commercially meaningful. An adverse determination in any such proceeding or litigation could materially impair our intellectual property rights and may harm our business, prospects and reputation.

In addition, as permitted by laws of some countries, other parties may register trademarks which may look similar to our registered trademarks under some circumstances, which may cause confusion among consumers. We may not be able to prevent other parties from using trademarks that are similar to ours and our consumers may confuse our treatment centers with others using similar trademarks. In such case, the goodwill and value of our trademarks and the public perception of our brand and our image may be adversely affected. A negative perception of our brand and image could have a material and adverse effect on our sales, and therefore on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects. Accordingly, our efforts to enforce our intellectual property rights around the world may be inadequate to obtain a

significant commercial advantage from the intellectual property that we develop or license, and any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

In addition, geopolitical actions in various countries could increase the uncertainties and costs surrounding the prosecution or maintenance of our patent applications or those of any current or future licensors and the maintenance, enforcement or defense of our issued patents or those of any current or future licensors. For example, the United States and foreign government actions related to Russia's conflict in Ukraine may limit or prevent filing, prosecution, and maintenance of patent applications in Russia. Government actions may also prevent maintenance of issued patents in Russia. These actions could result in abandonment or lapse of our patents or patent applications, resulting in partial or complete loss of patent rights in Russia. If such an event were to occur, it could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Compulsory standards for remuneration to creators or inventors of the patents they contribute to our business could be considerable.

Under PRC laws, we are required to remunerate inventors or creators of patents they create for our business during the course of their employment. In the event of a dispute between an inventor or creator and us, there is a risk that the compulsory standards for remuneration, as set forth in relevant laws and regulations, may apply. Our policies do not include any rules regarding a predetermined lump sum or proportion of profits to award inventors as remuneration for the patents they contribute to our business and in the potential event of a dispute between us and an inventor, there is a potential risk that the compulsory standard for remuneration, as set forth in relevant laws and regulations, may apply. Such compulsory standards for remuneration could be considerable and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

If we are unable to protect the confidentiality of our trade secrets, our business and competitive position would be harmed.

We also rely on the protection of our trade secrets, including unpatented know-how, technology and other proprietary information, to maintain our competitive position. Although we have taken steps to protect our trade secrets and unpatented know-how, including entering into confidentiality agreements with third parties, and confidential information and inventions agreements with employees, consultants, CROs and advisors, we cannot provide any assurances that we have entered into such agreements with each party that may have or have had access to our trade secrets or proprietary information and that all such agreements have been duly executed, and any of these parties may breach the agreements and disclose or use our proprietary information, including our trade secrets, and we may not be able to obtain adequate remedies for such breaches. Monitoring unauthorized uses and disclosures of trade secrets and other confidential information is difficult, and we do not know whether the steps we have taken to protect our trade secrets or confidential information will be effective. Enforcing a claim that a party illegally disclosed or misappropriated a trade secret is difficult, expensive and time consuming, and the outcome is unpredictable. In addition, some courts inside and outside the United States are less willing or unwilling to protect trade secrets. We also seek to preserve the integrity and confidentiality of our data and trade secrets by maintaining physical security of our premises and physical and electronic security of our information technology systems. While we have confidence in these security measures, they may be breached.

Moreover, third parties may still lawfully obtain our trade secrets or proprietary information or may develop or otherwise come upon this or similar information independently, and we would have no right to prevent them from using that technology or information to compete with us. If any of these events occurs or if we otherwise lose protection for our trade secrets, the value of this information may be greatly reduced and our competitive position would be harmed. If we cannot otherwise maintain the confidentiality of our proprietary technology and other confidential information, then our ability to protect our trade secret information may be jeopardized. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

We may be subject to claims that our employees, consultants or independent contractors have wrongfully used or disclosed confidential information of their former employers or other third parties.

We employ individuals who were previously employed at other biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies. Although we endeavor to ensure that our employees, consultants and independent contractors do not use the intellectual property, proprietary information, know-how or trade secrets of others in their work for us, we may be subject to claims that we or our employees, consultants or independent contractors have inadvertently or otherwise used or disclosed alleged trade secrets or other confidential information of a former employer or another third party. We may also be subject to claims that former employers or other third parties have an ownership interest in our patents or other intellectual property. Litigation

may be necessary to defend against these claims, and there is no guarantee of success. If we fail in defending these claims, in addition to paying monetary damages, we may lose valuable intellectual property rights, such as exclusive ownership of, or right to use, valuable intellectual property, if such intellectual property rights are found to incorporate or be derived from the trade secrets or other proprietary information of third parties. Even if we are successful, litigation could result in substantial cost and be a distraction to our management and other employees. Moreover, any such litigation or the threat thereof may adversely affect our reputation, our ability to form strategic alliances or sublicense our rights to collaborators, engage with scientific advisors or hire employees or consultants, each of which would have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

In addition, while it is our policy to require our employees and contractors who may be involved in the development of intellectual property on our behalf to execute agreements assigning such intellectual property to us, we may be unsuccessful in executing such an agreement with each party who in fact develops intellectual property that we regard as our own. Such agreements may not be self-executing or may be breached, and we may be forced to bring claims against third parties, or defend claims they may bring against us, to determine the ownership of what we regard as our intellectual property. Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, and prospects.

If our trademarks and trade names are not adequately protected, then we may not be able to build name recognition in our markets of interest and our business may be adversely affected.

We intend to use registered or unregistered trademarks or trade names to brand and market ourselves and our products. We may design or create new trademarks and apply to register them, but our trademark applications may not be approved in the United States, the PRC or any other relevant jurisdiction. Third parties may oppose or attempt to cancel our trademark applications or trademarks, or otherwise challenge our use of the trademarks. In the event that our trademarks are successfully challenged, we could be forced to rebrand our drugs, which could result in loss of brand recognition and could require us to devote resources to advertising and marketing new brands. Competitors or other parties may adopt trade names or trademarks similar to ours, thereby impeding our ability to build brand identity and possibly leading to market confusion. In addition, they may infringe our trademarks and we may not have adequate resources to enforce our trademarks. If we attempt to enforce our trademarks and assert trademark infringement claims, a court may determine that the marks we have asserted are invalid or unenforceable, or that the party against whom we have asserted trademark infringement has superior rights to the marks in question. In this case, we could ultimately be forced to cease use of such trademarks.

We may license our trademarks and trade names to third parties, such as distributors. Though these license agreements may provide guidelines for how our trademarks and trade names may be used, a breach of these agreements or misuse of our trademarks and trade names by our licensees may jeopardize our rights in or diminish the goodwill associated with our trademarks and trade names.

Over the long term, if we are unable to establish name recognition based on our trademarks and trade names, then we may not be able to compete effectively and our business may be adversely affected.

Any collaboration arrangements that we have or may enter into in the future may not be successful, which could adversely affect our ability to develop and commercialize our products.

The success of our collaboration arrangements will depend heavily on the efforts and activities of our collaborators and partners.

Collaborations and partnerships are subject to numerous risks, which may include that:

- collaborators have significant discretion in determining the efforts and resources that they will apply to collaborations;
- collaborators may not pursue development and commercialization of our products or may elect not to continue or renew development or commercialization programs based on trial or test results, changes in their strategic focus due to the acquisition of competitive products, availability of funding or other external factors, such as a business combination that diverts resources or creates competing priorities;
- collaborators could independently develop, or develop with third parties, products that compete directly or indirectly with our products or product candidates;

- a collaborator with marketing, manufacturing and distribution rights to one or more products may not commit sufficient resources to or otherwise not perform satisfactorily in carrying out these activities;
- we could grant exclusive rights to our collaborators that would prevent us from collaborating with others;
- collaborators may not properly maintain, protect, enforce and defend our intellectual property rights or may use our intellectual property or proprietary information in a way that gives rise to actual or threatened litigation that could jeopardize or invalidate our intellectual property or proprietary information or expose us to potential liability;
- collaborators may infringe, misappropriate or otherwise violate the intellectual property or proprietary rights of third parties, which may expose us to litigation and potential liability;
- disputes may arise between us and a collaborator that cause the delay or termination of the research, development or commercialization of our current or future product candidates or that result in costly litigation or arbitration that diverts management attention and resources;
- collaborations may be terminated, and, if terminated, may result in a need for additional capital to pursue further development or commercialization of the applicable current or future products;
- collaborators may own or co-own intellectual property covering our product candidates that results from our collaborating with them, and in such cases, we would not have the exclusive right to develop or commercialize such intellectual property; and
- a collaborator's sales and marketing activities or other operations may not be in compliance with applicable laws which may result in civil or criminal proceedings involving us.

Any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, and prospects.

Intellectual property rights do not necessarily address all potential threats.

The degree of future protection afforded by our intellectual property rights is uncertain because intellectual property rights have limitations and may not adequately protect our business or permit us to maintain our competitive advantage. For example:

- others may be able to make products that are similar to our product candidates or utilize similar technologies that are not covered by the claims of the patents that we own or license now or in the future;
- we or our licensors or collaborators might not have been the first to make the inventions covered by the issued patents or pending patent applications that we own or license now or in the future;
- we or our licensors or collaborators might not have been the first to file patent applications covering some of our or their inventions;
- others may independently develop similar or alternative technologies or duplicate any of our technologies without infringing our owned or licensed intellectual property rights;
- it is possible that there are prior public disclosures that could invalidate our or our licensors' or collaboration partners' patents;
- issued patents that we hold rights to may fail to provide us with any competitive advantage, or may be held invalid or unenforceable, including as a result of legal challenges by our competitors or other third parties;
- our competitors or other third parties might conduct research and development activities in countries where we do not have patent rights or in countries where research and development safe harbor laws exist, and then use the information learned from such activities to develop competitive products for sale in our major commercial markets;
- we may not develop additional proprietary technologies that are patentable;
- the ownership, validity or enforceability of our or our licensors' or collaboration partners' patents or patent applications may be challenged by third parties;
- the patents or pending or future applications of others, if issued, may harm our business; and
- we may choose not to file a patent in order to maintain trade secrets or know-how, and a third party may subsequently file a patent covering such intellectual property.

Should any of these events occur, they could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

Risks Related to Ownership of Our ADSs

The trading price of our ADSs could be highly volatile, and purchasers of our ADSs could incur substantial losses.

The trading price of our ADSs has been and may continue to be volatile. The stock market in general and the market for shares of biopharmaceutical companies in particular have experienced extreme volatility that has often been unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. As a result of this volatility, some or all of the value of our ADSs may be lost. The market price for our ADSs may be influenced by those factors discussed in this “Risk Factors” section and many others, including:

- political tensions between the United States and the PRC;
- our ability to enroll subjects in our ongoing and planned clinical trials;
- results (and interpretations of results) of our clinical trials and preclinical studies, and the results (and interpretations of results) of trials of our competitors or those of other companies in our market sector;
- regulatory approval of our product candidates, or limitations to specific label indications or patient populations for its use, or changes or delays in the regulatory review process;
- regulatory developments in the United States, the PRC and foreign countries;
- changes in the structure of healthcare payment systems, especially in light of current reforms to the U.S. healthcare system;
- the success or failure of our efforts to acquire, license or develop additional product candidates;
- innovations or new products developed by us or our competitors;
- announcements by us or our competitors of significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments;
- manufacturing, supply or distribution delays or shortages;
- any changes to our relationship with any manufacturers, suppliers, licensors, future collaborators or other strategic partners;
- achievement of expected product sales and profitability;
- variations in our financial results or those of companies that are perceived to be similar to us;
- market conditions in the biopharmaceutical sector and issuance of securities analysts’ reports or recommendations;
- trading volume of our ADSs;
- an inability to obtain additional funding;
- sales of our securities by insiders and shareholders;
- general economic, industry and market conditions other events or factors, many of which are beyond our control;
- additions or departures of key personnel;
- the ongoing and future impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and actions taken to slow its spread;
- the changing global political environment and military actions and their effect on the economy and financial market; and
- intellectual property, product liability or other litigation against us.

In addition, in the past, shareholders have initiated class action lawsuits against biopharmaceutical companies following periods of volatility in the market prices of these companies’ shares. Such litigation, if instituted against us, could cause us to incur substantial costs and divert management’s attention and resources, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Unstable market and economic conditions may have serious adverse consequences on our business, financial condition and results of operations and the price of our ADSs.

From time to time, the global credit and financial markets have experienced extreme volatility and disruptions, including severely diminished liquidity and credit availability, declines in consumer confidence, declines in economic growth, increases in unemployment rates and uncertainty about economic stability. There can be no assurance that future deterioration in credit and financial markets and confidence in economic conditions will not occur. Our business strategy and performance may be adversely affected by any such economic downturn, volatile business environment or continued unpredictable and unstable market conditions. The financial markets and the global economy may also be adversely

affected by the current or anticipated impact of military conflict, including the Russia-Ukraine war and terrorism or other geopolitical events. Sanctions imposed by the United States and other countries in response to such conflicts, including the conflict in Ukraine, may also adversely impact the financial markets and the global economy, and any economic countermeasures by the affected countries or others could exacerbate market and economic instability. If the current equity and credit markets deteriorate, it may make any necessary debt or equity financing more difficult, more costly and more dilutive. Failure to secure any necessary financing in a timely manner and on favorable terms could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations and the price of our ADSs.

If we fail to meet the continued listing requirements of Nasdaq, it could result in a delisting of our ADSs.

Our ADSs are listed on the Nasdaq Global Market. In order to maintain our listing, we must meet minimum financial and other requirements, including requirements for a minimum closing bid price per share of \$1.00, a minimum amount of capital, and various corporate governance requirements.

Although we are currently in compliance with the Nasdaq Global Market's continued listing requirements, we have in the past been subject to notifications from Nasdaq that we were not in compliance with certain listing requirements, and we cannot assure investors that we will be able to continue to comply with such requirements in the future. In the event that our ADSs are delisted from the Nasdaq Global Market and are not eligible for quotation or listing on another market or exchange, trading of our ADSs could be conducted only in the over-the-counter market or on an electronic bulletin board established for unlisted securities such as the Pink Sheets or the OTC Bulletin Board. In such event, it could become more difficult to dispose of, or obtain accurate price quotations for, our ADSs, and there would likely also be a reduction in our coverage by securities analysts and the news media, which could cause the price of our ADSs to decline further. Also, it may be difficult for us to raise additional capital if we are not listed on a major exchange.

Further, being deemed an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, or the Investment Company Act, could lead to our being delisted. We are not an "investment company" and do not intend to become registered as an "investment company" under the Investment Company Act. Generally, a company is an "investment company" if it is or holds itself out as being engaged primarily in the business of investing, reinvesting or trading in securities or owns or proposes to own investment securities having a value exceeding 40% of the value of its total assets (exclusive of U.S. government securities and cash items) on an unconsolidated basis, unless an exception, exemption or safe harbor applies. We do not hold ourselves out as being primarily engaged, or proposing to engage primarily, in the business of investing, reinvesting or trading in securities. Rather, we have historically been and are currently primarily engaged in the business of development of therapies for inflammatory diseases. We intend to continue to conduct our operations so that we will not be deemed an investment company. However, our status under the Investment Company Act may depend on several factors. If we were to become subject to the Investment Company Act, any violation of the Investment Company Act could subject us to material adverse consequences, including potentially significant regulatory penalties. Additionally, as a foreign private issuer, we would not be eligible to register under the Investment Company Act. Accordingly, we would either have to obtain exemptive relief from the SEC or dispose of investments in order to fall outside the definition of an investment company, each of which may have a material adverse effect on the Company. Finally, being deemed an investment company under the Investment Company Act could also make us unable to comply with our reporting obligations as a public company in the United States, which would have a material adverse effect on the liquidity and value of our ADSs and ordinary shares, and may affect our ability to offer securities to investors in the United States market and our ability to continue to be listed on the Nasdaq Global Market.

An active, liquid trading market for our ADSs may not be maintained.

We can provide no assurance that we will be able to maintain an active trading market for our ADSs. The lack of an active market may impair the ability of any investor to sell our ADSs at the time an investor may wish to sell them or at a price that an investor may consider reasonable. An inactive market may also impair our ability to raise capital by selling shares and may impair our ability to acquire other businesses or technologies using our shares as consideration, which, in turn, could materially adversely affect our business.

Our executive officers, directors and principal shareholders, if they choose to act together, will have the ability to control or significantly influence all matters submitted to shareholders for approval. Furthermore, some of our current directors were appointed by our principal shareholders.

Our executive officers, directors and greater than 5% shareholders, in the aggregate, own approximately 76.9% of our outstanding ordinary shares (including 36,530,101 ordinary shares represented by ADSs and assuming no exercise of outstanding options). Furthermore, some of our current directors were appointed by our principal shareholders. As a result, such persons or their appointees to our board of directors, if they act together, will have the ability to control or

significantly influence all matters submitted to our board of directors or shareholders for approval, including the appointment of our management, the election and removal of directors and approval of any significant transaction, as well as our management and business affairs. This concentration of ownership may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control, impeding a merger, consolidation, takeover or other business combination involving us, or discouraging a potential acquirer from making a tender offer or otherwise attempting to obtain control of our business, even if such a transaction would benefit other shareholders.

We do not currently intend to pay dividends on our securities, and, consequently, the ability to achieve a return on investment in our ADSs will depend on appreciation, if any, in the price of our ADSs.

We have never declared or paid any cash dividend on our securities. We currently anticipate that we will retain future earnings for the development, operation and expansion of our business and do not anticipate declaring or paying any cash dividends for the foreseeable future. In addition, the terms of any future debt agreements may preclude us from paying dividends.

Our board of directors has complete discretion as to whether to distribute dividends, subject to the requirements of Cayman Islands law. In addition, our shareholders may by ordinary resolution declare a dividend, but no dividend may exceed the amount recommended by our directors. Under Cayman Islands law, a Cayman Islands company may pay a dividend out of either profit or its share premium account, provided that in no circumstances may a dividend be paid if this would result in its being unable to pay its debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business. Even if our board of directors decides to declare and pay dividends, the timing, amount and form of future dividends, if any, will depend on our future results of operations and cash flow, our capital requirements and surplus, the amount of distributions, if any, received by us from our subsidiaries, our financial condition, contractual restrictions and other factors deemed relevant by our board of directors. Accordingly, the return on any investment in our ADSs will depend on any future price appreciation of our ADSs. There is no guarantee that our ADSs will appreciate in value or even maintain the price at which our ADSs were or are purchased. Some or all of any investment in our ADSs may be lost.

Sales of a substantial number of our ADSs or ordinary shares by our existing shareholders in the public market could cause the price of our ADSs to fall.

Sales of a substantial number of our ADSs or ordinary shares in the public market or the perception that these sales might occur could significantly reduce the market price of our ADSs and impair our ability to raise adequate capital.

We have a total of 36,530,101 ordinary shares represented by ADSs outstanding, assuming no exercise of outstanding options, which are freely tradable, without restriction, in the public market, unless they are held or purchased by one of our affiliates. ADSs held by our affiliates are eligible for sale in the public market and will be subject to volume limitations under Rule 144 under the Securities Act.

The holders of approximately 18.6 million of our outstanding ordinary shares, or approximately 33.7% of our total outstanding ordinary shares, are entitled to rights with respect to the registration of their shares under the Securities Act. Registration of these shares (including, in the case of affiliates, for resale) under the Securities Act would result in these shares becoming freely tradable without restriction under the Securities Act. Any sales of securities by these shareholders could have a material adverse effect on the trading price of our ADSs.

We are an emerging growth company, and the reduced disclosure requirements applicable to emerging growth companies may make our ADSs less attractive to investors.

We are an emerging growth company, as defined in the JOBS Act, and may remain an emerging growth company until the last day of the fiscal year following the fifth anniversary of the completion of our IPO. However, if specific events occur prior to the end of such five-year period, including if we become a “large accelerated filer,” our annual gross revenues exceed \$1.235 billion or we issue more than \$1.0 billion of non-convertible debt in any three-year period, we will cease to be an emerging growth company prior to the end of such five-year period. For so long as we remain an emerging growth company, we are permitted and intend to rely on exemptions from some disclosure requirements that are applicable to other public companies that are not emerging growth companies. These exemptions include:

- not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements in the assessment of our internal control over financial reporting;

- not being required to comply with any requirement that may be adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding mandatory audit firm rotation or a supplement to the auditor's report providing additional information about the audit and the financial statements; and
- reduced disclosure and other obligations regarding executive compensation.

We have taken advantage of reduced reporting burdens in this annual report. Our ADSs may be less attractive by relying on these exemptions, and as a result, there may be a less active trading market for our ADSs and the trading price of our ADSs may be reduced or more volatile.

As a foreign private issuer, we are not subject to some U.S. securities law disclosure requirements that apply to a U.S. domestic issuer, which may limit the information publicly available to our shareholders.

As a foreign private issuer, we are not required to comply with all of the periodic disclosure and current reporting requirements of the Exchange Act and therefore there may be less publicly available information about us than if we were a U.S. domestic issuer. For example, we currently report financial information on a six-monthly basis and have no current plans to report financial information on a quarterly basis, as a U.S. domestic issuer would be required to do. Also, we are not subject to the proxy rules in the United States and disclosure with respect to our annual general meetings will be governed by the Cayman Islands' requirements. In addition, our officers, directors and principal shareholders are exempt from reporting (i.e., will not file Forms 3, 4, or 5 when they trade) and are not subject to the "short-swing" profit recovery provisions of Section 16 of the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder. Therefore, our shareholders may not have timely information and may not, for instance, know when our officers, directors and principal shareholders purchase or sell our ordinary shares or ADSs.

As a foreign private issuer, we are permitted to adopt some home country practices in relation to corporate governance matters that differ significantly from the Nasdaq corporate governance listing standards. These practices may afford less protection to shareholders than they would enjoy if we complied fully with corporate governance listing standards.

As a foreign private issuer, we are permitted to take advantage of some provisions in the Nasdaq listing rules that allow us to follow Cayman Islands law for some governance matters. Corporate governance practices in the Cayman Islands may differ significantly from corporate governance listing standards as, except for general fiduciary duties and duties of care, Cayman Islands law has no corporate governance regime which prescribes specific corporate governance standards. Cayman Islands law does not impose a requirement that our board of directors consist of a majority of independent directors. Nor does Cayman Islands law impose specific requirements on the establishment of a compensation committee or nominating committee or nominating process. To the extent we choose to follow home country practice in the future, our shareholders may be afforded less protection than they otherwise would have under corporate governance listing standards applicable to U.S. domestic issuers.

Under our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, investors do not have the same rights with respect to shareholder meetings and voting that shareholders of some U.S. corporations have.

Our holding company is incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands. Our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association provides that a quorum required for the transaction of business at any general meeting of shareholders shall consist of one or more shareholders present in person or by proxy, holding shares which carry in aggregate not less than one-third of all votes attaching to all of our shares in issue and entitled to vote. Additionally, our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association provides that any voting at any shareholders' meeting shall be decided by a show of hands unless a poll is demanded (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) by the chairperson of such meeting or by any one or more shareholders who together hold not less than 10% of the votes attaching to the total number of ordinary shares which are present in person or by proxy at the meeting. Although our minority quorum provisions satisfy the requirements applicable to Nasdaq-listed companies, some U.S. corporations have stricter quorum requirements than these. Additionally, shareholder votes of some U.S. corporations, such as corporations incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, must be in written form and cannot be conducted by a show of hands. Therefore, as a result of our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, investors do not have the benefit of the procedural protections relating to shareholder meetings and voting that shareholders of some U.S. corporations enjoy.

We may lose our foreign private issuer status in the future, which could result in significant additional costs and expenses.

As discussed above, we are a foreign private issuer, and therefore, we are not required to comply with all of the periodic disclosure and current reporting requirements of the Exchange Act. The determination of foreign private issuer status is made annually on the last business day of an issuer's most recently completed second fiscal quarter. We would lose our foreign private issuer status if, for example, more than 50% of our ordinary shares are directly or indirectly held by residents of the United States and we fail to meet additional requirements necessary to maintain our foreign private issuer status. If we lose our foreign private issuer status on this date, we will be required to file with the SEC periodic reports and registration statements on U.S. domestic issuer forms, which are more detailed and extensive than the forms available to a foreign private issuer. We will also have to mandatorily comply with U.S. federal proxy requirements, and our officers, directors and principal shareholders will become subject to the short-swing profit disclosure and recovery provisions of Section 16 of the Exchange Act. In addition, we will lose our ability to rely upon exemptions from specific corporate governance requirements under the Nasdaq listing rules. As a U.S.-listed public company that is not a foreign private issuer, we will incur significant additional legal, accounting and other expenses that we will not incur as a foreign private issuer, and accounting, reporting and other expenses in order to maintain a listing on a U.S. securities exchange.

Fluctuations in currency exchange rates may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and the value of any investment in our ADSs.

The value of the renminbi against the U.S. dollar and other currencies may fluctuate and is affected by, among other things, changes in political and economic conditions. On July 21, 2005, the PRC government changed its decade-old policy of pegging the value of the renminbi to the U.S. dollar, and the renminbi appreciated more than 20% against the U.S. dollar over the following three years. Between July 2008 and June 2010, this appreciation halted, and the exchange rate between the renminbi and U.S. dollar remained within a narrow band. In June 2010, the People's Bank of China, or PBOC, announced that the PRC government would increase the flexibility of the exchange rate, and thereafter allowed the renminbi to appreciate slowly against the U.S. dollar within the narrow band fixed by the PBOC. However, more recently, on August 11, 12 and 13, 2015, the PBOC significantly devalued the renminbi by fixing its price against the U.S. dollar 1.9%, 1.6%, and 1.1% lower than the previous day's value, respectively. On October 1, 2016, the renminbi joined the International Monetary Fund's basket of currencies that make up the Special Drawing Right, or SDR, along with the U.S. dollar, the Euro, the Japanese yen and the British pound. In the fourth quarter of 2016, the renminbi depreciated significantly while the U.S. dollar surged and the PRC experienced persistent capital outflows. With the development of the foreign exchange market and progress towards interest rate liberalization and renminbi internationalization, the PRC government may in the future announce further changes to the exchange rate system. There is no guarantee that the renminbi will not appreciate or depreciate significantly in value against the U.S. dollar in the future. It is difficult to predict how market forces, PRC and U.S. government's policies and regulations may impact the exchange rate between the renminbi and the U.S. dollar in the future.

Significant revaluation of the renminbi may have a material adverse effect on any investment in our ADSs. For example, to the extent that we need to convert U.S. dollars into renminbi for our operations, appreciation of the renminbi against the U.S. dollar would have an adverse effect on the renminbi amount we would receive from the conversion. Conversely, if we decide to convert our renminbi into U.S. dollars for the purpose of making payments for dividends on our ordinary shares or ADSs or for other business purposes, appreciation of the U.S. dollar against the renminbi would have a negative effect on the U.S. dollar amount available to us. In addition, appreciation or depreciation in the value of the renminbi relative to U.S. dollars would affect our financial results reported in U.S. dollar terms regardless of any underlying change in our business or results of operations.

Very limited hedging options are available in the PRC to reduce our exposure to exchange rate fluctuations. To date, we have not entered into any hedging transactions in an effort to reduce our exposure to foreign currency exchange risk. While we may decide to enter into hedging transactions in the future, the availability and effectiveness of these hedges may be limited and we may not be able to adequately hedge our exposure or at all. In addition, our currency exchange losses may be magnified by PRC exchange regulations that restrict our ability to convert renminbi into non-PRC currency.

Holders of our ADSs have fewer rights than our shareholders and must act through the depositary to exercise their rights.

Holders of our ADSs do not have the same rights as our registered shareholders. As a holder of our ADSs, an investor will not have any direct right to attend general meetings of our shareholders or to cast any votes at such meetings. As a holder

of our ADSs, an investor will only be able to exercise the voting rights carried by the underlying ordinary shares which are represented by our ADSs indirectly by giving voting instructions to the depository in accordance with the provisions of the deposit agreement. Upon receipt of voting instructions from any investor, the depository will try, as far as is practicable, to vote the ordinary shares underlying our ADSs in accordance with investor instructions. If we ask for investor instructions, then upon receipt of investor voting instructions, the depository will try to vote the underlying ordinary shares in accordance with these instructions. If we do not instruct the depository to ask for investor instructions, the depository may still vote in accordance with instructions the investor gives, but it is not required to do so. An investor will not be able to directly exercise any right to vote with respect to the underlying ordinary shares unless the investor withdraws the shares, and becomes the registered holder of such shares prior to the record date for the general meeting. When a general meeting is convened, an investor may not receive sufficient advance notice of the meeting to withdraw the shares underlying our ADSs and become the registered holder of such shares to allow the investor to attend the general meeting and to vote directly with respect to any specific matter or resolution to be considered and voted upon at the general meeting. In addition, under our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, for the purposes of determining those shareholders who are entitled to attend and vote at any general meeting, our directors may close our register of members and/or fix in advance a record date for such meeting, and such closure of our register of members or the setting of such a record date may prevent an investor from withdrawing the ordinary shares underlying our ADSs and becoming the registered holder of such shares prior to the record date, so that an investor would not be able to attend the general meeting or to vote directly. If we ask for instructions from investors, the depository will notify investors of the upcoming vote and will arrange to deliver our voting materials to investors. We have agreed to give the depository notice of shareholder meetings sufficiently in advance of such meetings. Nevertheless, we cannot assure investors that investors will receive the voting materials in time to ensure that investors can instruct the depository to vote the underlying ordinary shares represented by our ADSs. In addition, the depository and its agents are not responsible for failing to carry out voting instructions or for their manner of carrying out voting instructions. This means that investors may not be able to exercise any right to direct how the shares underlying our ADSs are voted and investors may have no legal remedy if the shares underlying our ADSs are not voted as requested. In addition, in an investor's capacity as an ADS holder, the investor will not be able to call a shareholders' meeting.

Except in limited circumstances, the depository for our ADSs will give us a discretionary proxy to vote the ordinary shares underlying our ADSs if investors do not vote at shareholders' meetings, which could adversely affect the interests of investors.

Under the deposit agreement for our ADSs, if investors do not vote, the depository will deem that investors have instructed the depository to give us a discretionary proxy to vote the ordinary shares underlying our ADSs at shareholders' meetings unless:

- we have instructed the depository that we do not wish a discretionary proxy to be given;
- we have informed the depository that there is substantial opposition as to a matter to be voted on at the meeting;
- a matter to be voted on at the meeting would have a material adverse impact on shareholders; or
- the voting at the meeting is to be conducted via a show of hands unless voting by poll is required by the applicable listing rules or our articles of association.

The effect of this discretionary proxy is that investors cannot prevent our ordinary shares underlying our ADSs from being voted, except under the circumstances described above. This may make it more difficult for shareholders to influence our management. Holders of our ordinary shares are not subject to this discretionary proxy.

Investors may not receive distributions on our ADSs or any value for them if such distribution is illegal or impractical or if any required government approval cannot be obtained in order to make such distribution available to any investor.

Although we do not have any present plan to pay any dividends, the depository of our ADSs has agreed to pay to investors the cash dividends or other distributions it or the custodian receives on ordinary shares or other deposited securities underlying our ADSs, after deducting its fees and expenses and any applicable taxes and governmental charges. Investors will receive these distributions in proportion to the number of ordinary shares our ADSs represent. However, the depository is not responsible if it decides that it is unlawful or impractical to make a distribution available to any holders of ADSs. For example, it would be unlawful to make a distribution to a holder of ADSs if it consists of securities whose offering would require registration under the Securities Act but are not so properly registered or distributed under an applicable exemption from registration. The depository may also determine that it is not reasonably practicable to distribute some property. In these cases, the depository may determine not to distribute such property. We have no obligation to register under the U.S. securities laws any offering of ADSs, ordinary shares, rights or other securities received through such distributions. We

also have no obligation to take any other action to permit the distribution of ADSs, ordinary shares, rights or anything else to holders of ADSs. This means that investors may not receive distributions we make on our ordinary shares or any value for them if it is illegal or impractical for us to make them available to investors. These restrictions may cause a material decline in the value of our ADSs.

Investors' right to participate in any future rights offerings may be limited, which may cause dilution to holdings in our ADSs.

We may from time to time distribute rights to our shareholders, including rights to acquire our securities. However, we cannot make rights available to investors in the United States unless we register the rights and the securities to which the rights relate under the Securities Act or an exemption from the registration requirements is available. Also, under the deposit agreement, the depository bank will not make rights available to investors unless either both the rights and any related securities are registered under the Securities Act, or the distribution of them to ADS holders is exempted from registration under the Securities Act. We are under no obligation to file a registration statement with respect to any such rights or securities or to endeavor to cause such a registration statement to be declared effective. Moreover, we may not be able to establish an exemption from registration under the Securities Act. If the depository does not distribute the rights, it may, under the deposit agreement, either sell them, if possible, or allow them to lapse. Accordingly, investors may be unable to participate in our rights offerings and may experience dilution in holdings in our ADSs.

We may be classified as a passive foreign investment company, which could result in adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences to U.S. Holders of our ADSs or ordinary shares.

We would be classified as a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for any taxable year if, after the application of specific look-through rules, either: (i) 75% or more of our gross income for such year is "passive income" (as defined in the relevant provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended) (the income test), or (ii) 50% or more of the value of our assets (generally determined on the basis of a quarterly average) during such year is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income (the asset test). Based on the value of our assets, including goodwill, and the composition of our income and assets, we do not believe we were a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes for our taxable year ended December 31, 2023. However, the application of the PFIC rules is subject to uncertainty in several respects, and we cannot assure investors that we will not be a PFIC for any taxable year. Adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences could apply to a U.S. Holder (as defined in "Taxation—United States Federal Income Taxation Considerations") if we are treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during which such U.S. Holder holds our ADSs or ordinary shares.

Investors may be subject to limitations on transfers of our ADSs.

Our ADSs are transferable on the books of the depository. However, the depository may close its transfer books at any time or from time to time when it deems expedient in connection with the performance of its duties. In addition, the depository may refuse to deliver, transfer or register transfers of ADSs generally when our books or the books of the depository are closed, or at any time if we or the depository deems it advisable to do so because of any requirement of law or of any government or governmental body, or under any provision of the deposit agreement, or for any other reason.

Investors' rights to pursue claims against the depository as a holder of ADSs are limited by the terms of the deposit agreement.

Under the deposit agreement, any action or proceeding against or involving the depository, arising out of or based upon the deposit agreement or the transactions contemplated thereby or by virtue of owning our ADSs may only be instituted in a state or federal court in New York, New York, and any investor, as a holder of our ADSs, will have irrevocably waived any objection which the investor may have to the laying of venue of any such proceeding, and irrevocably submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of such courts in any such action or proceeding. The depository may, in its sole discretion, require that any dispute or difference arising from the relationship created by the deposit agreement be referred to and finally settled by an arbitration conducted under the terms described in the deposit agreement. These arbitration provisions govern such dispute or difference and do not, in any event, preclude investors from pursuing claims under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act in state or federal courts.

ADS holders may not be entitled to a jury trial with respect to claims arising under the deposit agreement, which could result in less favorable outcomes to the plaintiff(s) in any such action.

The deposit agreement governing our ADSs representing our ordinary shares provides that, subject to the depositary's right to require a claim to be submitted to arbitration, the federal or state courts in the City of New York have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine claims arising under the deposit agreement and in that regard, to the fullest extent permitted by law, ADS holders, including purchasers of ADSs in secondary transactions, waive the right to a jury trial of any claim they may have against us or the depositary arising out of or relating to our ordinary shares, our ADSs or the deposit agreement, including any claim under the U.S. federal securities laws.

If we or the depositary opposed a jury trial demand based on the waiver, the court would determine whether the waiver was enforceable based on the facts and circumstances of that case in accordance with the applicable state and federal law. To our knowledge, the enforceability of a contractual pre-dispute jury trial waiver in connection with claims arising under the federal securities laws has not been finally adjudicated by the U.S. Supreme Court. In determining whether to enforce a contractual pre-dispute jury trial waiver provision, courts will generally consider whether a party knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily waived the right to a jury trial. We believe that a contractual pre-dispute jury trial waiver provision is generally enforceable, including under the laws of the State of New York, which govern the deposit agreement. We believe that this is the case with respect to the deposit agreement and our ADSs. It is advisable that investors consult legal counsel regarding the jury waiver provision before investing in our ADSs.

If an investor or any other holders or beneficial owners of ADSs bring a claim against us or the depositary in connection with matters arising under the deposit agreement or our ADSs, including claims under federal securities laws, an investor or such other holder or beneficial owner may not be entitled to a jury trial with respect to such claims, which may have the effect of limiting and discouraging lawsuits against us and/or the depositary. If a lawsuit is brought against us and/or the depositary under the deposit agreement, it may be heard only by a judge or justice of the applicable trial court, which would be conducted according to different civil procedures and may result in different outcomes than a trial by jury would have had, including results that could be less favorable to the plaintiff(s) in any such action.

Nevertheless, if this jury trial waiver provision is not enforced, to the extent a court action proceeds, it would proceed under the terms of the deposit agreement with a jury trial. No condition, stipulation or provision of the deposit agreement or ADSs serves as a waiver by any holder or beneficial owner of ADSs or by us or the depositary of compliance with any substantive provision of the U.S. federal securities laws and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Investors may face difficulties in protecting the interests of investors, and the ability to protect the rights of investors through U.S. courts may be limited, because we are incorporated under Cayman Islands law.

Our holding company is an exempted company incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands. Our corporate affairs are governed by our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act (As Revised) of the Cayman Islands and the common law of the Cayman Islands. The rights of shareholders to take action against our directors and the fiduciary duties of our directors to us under Cayman Islands law are to a large extent governed by the common law of the Cayman Islands. The common law of the Cayman Islands is derived in part from comparatively limited judicial precedent in the Cayman Islands as well as from the common law of England, the decisions of whose courts are of persuasive authority, but are not binding, on a court in the Cayman Islands. The rights of our shareholders and the fiduciary duties of our directors under Cayman Islands law are not as clearly established as they would be under statutes or judicial precedents in some jurisdictions in the United States. In particular, the Cayman Islands has a less developed body of securities laws than the United States. Some U.S. states, such as Delaware, have more fully developed and judicially interpreted bodies of corporate law than the Cayman Islands. In addition, Cayman Islands companies may not have the standing to initiate a shareholder derivative action in a federal court of the United States.

Shareholders of Cayman Islands exempted companies like us have no general rights under Cayman Islands law to inspect corporate records (other than the memorandum and articles of association, any special resolutions passed by such companies, and the registers of mortgages and charges of such companies) or to obtain copies of lists of shareholders of these companies. Under Cayman Islands law, the names of our current directors can be obtained from a search conducted at the Registrar of Companies. Our directors have discretion under our amended and restated articles of association, to determine whether or not, and under what conditions, our corporate records may be inspected by our shareholders, but are not obliged to make them available to our shareholders. This may make it more difficult for investors to obtain the information needed to establish any facts necessary for a shareholder motion or to solicit proxies from other shareholders in connection with a proxy contest.

As a result of all of the above, our public shareholders may have more difficulty in protecting their interests in the face of actions taken by management or members of our board of directors than they would as public shareholders of a company incorporated in the United States.

We may continue to experience or experience additional material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting in the future. If our remediation of our material weaknesses is not effective, or if we experience additional material weaknesses in the future or otherwise fail to maintain proper and effective internal control over financial reporting, our ability to produce accurate and timely consolidated financial statements could be impaired, investors may lose confidence in our financial reporting and the trading price of our ADSs may decline.

Pursuant to Section 404 of Sarbanes-Oxley, our management has been required to report upon the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting beginning annually with the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022. When we lose our status as an “emerging growth company” and reach an accelerated filer threshold, our independent registered public accounting firm will be required to attest to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. The rules governing the standards that must be met for management to assess our internal control over financial reporting are complex and require significant documentation, testing and possible remediation. To comply with the requirements of being a reporting company under the Exchange Act, we have and will need to continuously upgrade our information technology systems, implement additional financial and management controls, reporting systems and procedures and hire additional accounting and finance staff. If we or, if required, our auditor is unable to conclude that our internal control over financial reporting is effective, investors may lose confidence in our financial reporting and the trading price of our ADSs may decline.

In connection with the audit of our consolidated financial statements, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, we and our independent registered public accounting firm identified two material weakness in our internal control over the financial statement closing process. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of our annual or interim consolidated financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. The material weaknesses that have been identified relate to (i) our lack of sufficient and competent financial reporting and accounting personnel with appropriate knowledge of IFRS and reporting requirements set forth by the SEC to address complex IFRS technical accounting issues, and to prepare and review consolidated financial statements and related disclosures in accordance with IFRS and SEC reporting requirements; and (ii) our lack of formal and effective financial closing policies and procedures, specifically those related to period end expenses cut-off and accruals.

During the year ended December 31, 2022, we remediated these material weaknesses and took steps to strengthen our internal control over financial reporting through the development and implementation of processes and controls over the financial reporting process. Specifically, we implemented period-end financial closing policies and procedures, including expense reconciliation between finance and operation departments, executed the developed staffing plan for hiring additional accounting and finance personnel, hired additional qualified resources with appropriate knowledge and expertise to handle complex accounting issues and effectively prepare financial statements and conducted regular and continuous IFRS accounting and financial reporting training programs for our financial reporting and accounting personnel. No additional actions were taken during the year ended December 31, 2023.

We cannot assure investors that there will not be additional material weaknesses or any significant deficiencies in our internal control over financial reporting in the future. Any failure to maintain effective internal control over financial reporting could severely inhibit our ability to accurately report our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. If we are unable to conclude that our internal control over financial reporting is effective, or if our independent registered public accounting firm determines we have a new material weakness or significant deficiency in our internal control over financial reporting once that firm begin its Section 404 reviews, investors may lose confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial reports, the market price of our ADSs could decline, and we could be subject to sanctions or investigations by Nasdaq, the SEC or other regulatory authorities. Failure to remedy any material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting, or to implement or maintain other effective control systems required of public companies, could also restrict our future access to the capital markets.

Our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association contain anti-takeover provisions that could discourage a third party from acquiring us, which could limit our shareholders' opportunity to sell their shares, including ordinary shares represented by our ADSs, at a premium.

Our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association contain provisions to limit the ability of others to acquire control of us or cause us to engage in change-of-control transactions. These provisions could have the effect of depriving our shareholders of an opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over prevailing market prices by discouraging third parties from seeking to obtain control of us in a tender offer or similar transaction. For example, our board of directors has the authority, without further action by our shareholders, to issue preferred shares in one or more series and to fix their designations, powers, preferences, privileges, and relative participating, optional or special rights and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption and liquidation preferences, any or all of which may be greater than the rights associated with our ordinary shares, in the form of ADS or otherwise. Preferred shares could be issued quickly with terms calculated to delay or prevent a change in control of us or make removal of management more difficult. If our board of directors decides to issue preferred shares, the price of our ADSs may fall and the voting and other rights of the holders of our ordinary shares and ADSs may be materially and adversely affected.

We could be subject to securities class action litigation.

In the past, securities class action litigation has often been brought against a company following a decline in the market price of its securities. This risk is especially relevant for us, because biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies have experienced significant share price volatility in recent years. If we face such litigation, it could result in substantial costs and a diversion of management's attention and resources, which could harm our business.

If securities or industry analysts do not continue to publish research or publish inaccurate or unfavorable research about our business, the market price for our ADSs and trading volume could decline.

The trading market for our ADSs relies in part on the research and reports that equity research analysts publish about us or our business. We do not control these analysts. If research analysts do not maintain adequate research coverage or if one or more of the analysts who covers us downgrades our ADSs or publishes inaccurate or unfavorable research about our business, the market price for our ADSs would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts cease coverage of us or fail to publish reports on us regularly, we could lose visibility in the financial markets, which, in turn, could cause the market price or trading volume for our ADSs to decline significantly.

The increasing use of social media platforms presents new risks and challenges.

Social media is increasingly being used to communicate about us and the diseases our products are designed to treat. Social media practices in the biopharmaceutical industry continue to evolve and regulations relating to such use are not always clear and create uncertainty and risk of noncompliance with regulations applicable to our business. For example, patients may use social media channels to comment on the effectiveness of a product or to report an alleged adverse event. When such disclosures occur, there is a risk that we fail to monitor and comply with applicable adverse event reporting obligations or we may not be able to defend ourselves or the public's legitimate interests in the face of the political and market pressures generated by social media due to restrictions on what we may say about our products. There is also a risk of inappropriate disclosure of sensitive information or negative or inaccurate posts or comments about us on any social networking website. Further, there is a risk that unmerited or unsupported claims about our products may circulate on social media. If any of these events were to occur or we otherwise fail to comply with applicable regulations, we could incur liability, face overly restrictive regulatory actions, or incur other harm to us and our business, including damage to the reputation of our products.

Risks Related to Doing Business in the PRC

Changes in the political and economic policies of the PRC government may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations and may result in our inability to sustain our growth and expansion strategies.

Our financial condition and results of operations are affected to a significant extent by economic, political and legal developments in the PRC, where we have significant operations. The PRC economy differs from the economies of most developed countries in many respects, including the extent of government involvement, level of development, growth rate,

regulation of foreign exchange and allocation of resources. Before the adoption of its reform and opening up policies in 1978, the PRC was primarily a planned economy. In recent years, the PRC government has been reforming the PRC economic system and government structure. For example, the PRC government has implemented economic reform and measures emphasizing the utilization of market forces in the development of the PRC economy in the past three decades. These reforms have resulted in significant economic growth and social prospects.

While the PRC economy has experienced significant growth in the past three decades, growth has been uneven, both geographically and among various sectors of the economy. The PRC government has implemented various measures to encourage economic growth and guide the allocation of resources. Some of these measures may benefit the overall PRC economy, but may also have a negative effect on us. For example, our financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected by government regulation of capital investments or changes in tax regulations that are currently applicable to us. In addition, in the past the PRC government implemented some measures, including interest rate increases, to manage the pace of economic growth. These measures may cause decreased economic activity in the PRC, which may adversely affect our business and results of operations. In July 2021, the PRC government provided new guidance on PRC-based companies raising capital outside of the PRC, including through arrangements called variable interest entities, or VIEs. In December 2021, China Securities Regulatory Commission, or CSRC, published for public comment the draft rules that require Chinese companies including VIEs to file with the CSRC within three business days after applying for listing on a foreign exchange. On February 17, 2023, the CSRC enacted the Trial Measures for Administration of the Overseas Securities Offerings and Listings by Domestic Enterprises, and several supporting rules, or, collectively the New Filing Rules. According to the New Filing Rules and combined with the clarification in the CSRC Answers to Reporters' Questions, PRC-based companies adopting VIE structure are allowed to carry out offerings and listings outside the PRC, but at the same time, the New Filing Rules emphasize the examination and verification requirements for the listing of the PRC-based companies with VIE structure. In light of such developments, the SEC has imposed enhanced disclosure requirements on PRC-based companies seeking to register securities with the SEC. Although we do not have a VIE structure, due to our operations in the PRC, any future PRC, U.S. or other rules and regulations that place restrictions on capital raising or other activities or require enhanced disclosure by PRC-based companies could adversely affect our business and results of operations. If the business environment in the PRC deteriorates from the perspective of PRC or international investment, the PRC government may intervene with our operations and our business in the PRC and the United States, and the market price of our ADSs could be adversely affected.

The PRC government may intervene in or influence our operations in accordance with laws and regulations, which could result in a material change in our operations and significantly and adversely impact the value of our ADSs.

The PRC government has significant oversight over the conduct of our business and may intervene or influence our operations as the government deems appropriate to further regulatory, political and societal goals in accordance with laws and regulations. In recent years, the PRC government published new policies that significantly affected some industries such as the education and internet industries, and we cannot rule out the possibility that it will in the future release regulations or policies regarding our industry or us that could require us to seek permission from PRC governmental authorities to continue to operate our business, which may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Until December 2022, PCAOB had historically been unable to inspect our independent registered public accounting firm's audit work performed for our financial statements, and this inability of PCAOB to inspect our auditors in the past had deprived our investors of the benefits of such inspections. If, in the future, the PCAOB is once again unable to inspect or investigate completely the work of our independent registered public accounting firm, investors will be deprived of the benefits of PCAOB inspections

Our auditor, the independent registered public accounting firm that issues the audit report included elsewhere in this annual report, as an auditor of companies that are traded publicly in the United States and a firm registered with the PCAOB, is subject to laws in the United States pursuant to which the PCAOB conducts regular inspections to assess its compliance with the applicable professional standards. Since our auditor is located in the PRC, a jurisdiction where the PCAOB was historically unable to conduct inspections without the approval of the PRC authorities, there is a risk that the PCAOB will not be able to fully inspect or investigate our auditor in the future.

The inability to conduct PCAOB inspections in the PRC in the past had made it more difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of our independent registered public accounting firm's audit procedures or quality control procedures as compared to auditors outside of the PRC that are subject to the PCAOB inspections. On December 15, 2022, the PCAOB issued a report that vacated its December 16, 2021 determination and removed mainland China and Hong Kong from the list of jurisdictions where it is unable to inspect or investigate completely registered public accounting firms. If, in the future, the

PCAOB no longer has full access to inspect or investigate completely accounting firms in the PRC and Hong Kong, and we use an accounting firm headquartered in one of these jurisdictions to issue an audit report on our financial statements filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, we and investors in our ADSs would be deprived of the benefits of such PCAOB inspections again, which could cause investors in our ADSs and potential investors in our ADSs to lose confidence in our audit procedures and reported financial information and the quality of our financial statements.

Our ADSs and shares may be prohibited from trading in the United States under the HFCAA in the future if the PCAOB is once again unable to inspect or investigate completely auditors located in the PRC, and as a result the Nasdaq Global Market may make a determination to delist our securities. If this happens there is no certainty that we will be able to list our ADSs or shares on a non-U.S. exchange or that a market for our shares will develop outside of the U.S. The delisting of our ADSs or prohibition from trading, or the threat of their being delisted or prohibited from trading, may materially and adversely affect the value of our ADSs.

Our independent registered public accounting firm that issued the audit report included in this annual report, as an auditor of companies that are traded publicly in the United States and a firm registered with the PCAOB, is required by the laws of the United States to undergo regular inspections by the PCAOB to assess its compliance with the laws of the United States and professional standards. Pursuant to the HFCAA if the SEC determines that we have filed audit reports issued by a registered public accounting firm that has not been subject to inspections by the PCAOB for two consecutive years, the SEC will prohibit our shares or the ADSs from being traded on a national securities exchange or in the over-the-counter trading market in the United States. As a result of such trading prohibition, the Nasdaq Global Market may make a determination to delist our securities.

On December 16, 2021, the PCAOB issued a report to notify the SEC of its determination that the PCAOB was unable to inspect or investigate completely registered public accounting firms headquartered in the PRC and Hong Kong, including our auditor. In May 2022, the SEC listed us as a Commission-Identified Issuer under the HFCAA following the filing of our annual report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021. On December 15, 2022, the PCAOB issued a report that vacated its December 16, 2021 determination and removed the PRC and Hong Kong from the list of jurisdictions where it is unable to inspect or investigate completely registered public accounting firms. For this reason, until such time as the PCAOB issues any new determination, we do not expect to be identified as a Commission-Identified Issuer under the HFCAA.

If the PCAOB determines in the future that it no longer has full access to inspect and investigate completely accounting firms in the PRC and Hong Kong and we continue to use an accounting firm headquartered in one of these jurisdictions to issue an audit report on our financial statements filed with the SEC, we would again be identified as a Commission-Identified Issuer. There can be no assurance that we would not be identified as a Commission-Identified Issuer in the future, and if we were so identified for two consecutive years, we would become subject to the prohibition on trading under the HFCAA and as a result the Nasdaq Global Market may make a determination to delist our securities.

If this happens there is no certainty that we will be able to list our ADSs or shares on a non-U.S. exchange or that a market for our shares will develop outside of the U.S.

A prohibition on being able to trade in the United States would substantially impair investors ability to sell or purchase our ADSs when they wish to do so, and the risk and uncertainty associated with delisting would have a negative impact on the price of our ADSs. Also, such a prohibition would significantly affect our ability to raise capital on terms acceptable to us, or at all, which would have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition, and prospects.

Compliance with the PRC's new Data Security Law, Cybersecurity Review Measures, Personal Information Protection Law, regulations and guidelines relating to the multi-level protection scheme and any other future laws and regulations may entail significant expenses and could materially affect our business.

The PRC has implemented or is implementing rules and is considering a number of additional proposals relating to data protection. The PRC's new Data Security Law took effect in September 2021. The Data Security Law provides that the data processing activities must be conducted based on "data classification and hierarchical protection system" for the purpose of data protection and prohibits entities in the PRC from transferring data stored in the PRC to foreign law enforcement agencies or judicial authorities without prior approval by the authorized PRC governmental authority.

Additionally, the PRC's Cyber Security Law requires companies to take some organizational, technical and administrative measures and other necessary measures to ensure the security of their networks and data stored on their networks. Specifically, the Cyber Security Law provides that the PRC adopt a multi-level protection scheme, or MLPS, under which

network operators are required to perform obligations of security protection to ensure that the network is free from interference, disruption or unauthorized access, and prevent network data from being disclosed, stolen or tampered.

In 2022, the Cyberspace Administration of China or the CAC took action against several PRC internet companies in connection with their initial public offerings on U.S. securities exchanges, for alleged national security risks and improper collection and use of the personal information of PRC data subjects. In April 2020, the Chinese government promulgated the Cybersecurity Review Measures or the “2020 Cybersecurity Review Measures, which came into effect on June 1, 2020. In July 2021, the CAC and other related authorities released a draft amendment to the 2020 Cybersecurity Review Measures for public comments. On December 28, 2021, the Chinese government promulgated amended Cybersecurity Review Measures, or the 2022 Cybersecurity Review Measures, which came into effect and replaced the 2020 Cybersecurity Review Measures on February 15, 2022.

According to the 2022 Cybersecurity Review Measures, (i) critical information infrastructure operators, or CIIOs that purchase network products and services and internet platform operators that conduct data processing activities are subject to cybersecurity review in accordance with the 2022 Cybersecurity Review Measures if such activities affect or may affect national security; and (ii) internet platform operators holding personal information of more than one million users and seeking to have their securities list on a stock exchange in a foreign country shall file for cybersecurity review with the Cybersecurity Review Office. The 2022 Cybersecurity Review Measures remain unclear on whether the relevant requirements will be applicable to the follow-on offerings of companies that have completed initial public offerings on stock exchanges outside the PRC. As of the date of this annual report, we have not been informed by any PRC government agency that we qualify as a CIIO or internet platform operator, and we are not a data processor in possession of more than one million users’ personal information. Further, we have not been involved in any cybersecurity-related investigation initiated by the CAC or any other PRC government authority, and have not received any cybersecurity-related warning or sanction from the PRC government authorities, or any notice from relevant authorities requesting that we file for the cybersecurity review. Therefore, based on our understanding of the current PRC laws and regulations, we are of the view that we are unlikely to be subject to such cybersecurity review arising from our continued listing on a U.S. stock exchange or offerings of our securities thereon. The CAC, however, has the discretion to initiate cybersecurity review on data processing activities which are deemed to affect or may affect national security. Thus, we cannot preclude the possibility that we would be subject to ex officio cybersecurity reviews by the CAC, and it is uncertain whether being listed in the United States would increase such possibility. If we are subject to such cybersecurity review, we may be ordered to suspend business or discontinue the development of new product candidates or business partnerships, among other things, pending completion of the review. If we fail to pass the cybersecurity review, we may face penalties such as fines, suspension of business, closure of websites, or revocation of relevant business licenses and permits, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

On November 14, 2021, the CAC released the draft Administrative Regulation on Network Data Security, or the Draft Administrative Regulation, for public comments through December 13, 2021. Under the Draft Administrative Regulation, foreign listed data processors shall carry out annual data security evaluation and submit the evaluation report to the municipal cyberspace administration authority.

On July 7, 2022, the CAC promulgated the Security Assessment Measures for Outbound Data Transfer, or the Security Assessment Measures, which came into effect on September 1, 2022. Pursuant to the Security Assessment Measures, a data processor shall apply to competent authorities for security assessment prior to transferring any data outside of the PRC if the transfer involves (i) important data; (ii) personal information transferred outside the PRC by a CIIO and a data processor that processes personal information of more than one million individuals; (iii) personal information transferred by a data processor outside the PRC who has already provided personal information of 100,000 persons or sensitive personal information of 10,000 persons outside the PRC since January 1 of the previous year; or (iv) other circumstances as requested by the CAC.

On March 22, 2024, the CAC promulgated the Provisions on Promoting and Regulating Cross-border Data Transfer, which narrow the scope of conditions that shall apply for a security assessment. Pursuant to the Provisions on Promoting and Regulating Cross-border Data Transfer, any data processor which exports personal information shall apply for a security assessment before transferring any personal information abroad if it satisfies any of the following conditions: (1) personal information and important data will be provided overseas by any operator of critical information infrastructure; (2) important data will be provided overseas by any data processor other than an operator of critical information infrastructure, or personal information of more than 1,000,000 individuals in aggregate (excluding sensitive personal information) or sensitive personal information of more than 10,000 individuals in aggregate has been provided overseas since January 1 of the current year. If personal information of more than 100,000 individuals but less than 1,000,000 individuals in aggregate

(excluding sensitive personal information) or sensitive personal information of less than 10,000 individuals in aggregate has been provided overseas by any data processor other than an operator of critical information infrastructure since January 1 of the current year, standard contracts for personal information transfer shall be entered into with the overseas receivers or the certification of personal information protection shall be passed in accordance with the law. Despite the above, where a data processor transfers data abroad, it may be exempted from applying for a cross-border transfer security assessment, concluding a standard contract for personal information to be provided abroad or passing a security certificate for personal information protection if it satisfies any of the following conditions: (1) where it is really necessary to provide personal information abroad for the purpose of concluding or performing a contract to which an individual concerned is a party, such as cross-border shopping, cross-border delivery, cross-border remittance, cross-border payment, cross-border account opening, air ticket and hotel reservation, visa handling and examination services; (2) where it is really necessary to provide employees' personal information abroad for the purpose of conducting cross-border human resources management in accordance with the employment rules and regulations and collective contracts formulated in accordance with the law; (3) where it is really necessary to provide personal information abroad in an emergency to protect the life, health and property safety of a natural person; or (4) where a data processor other than a critical information infrastructure operator provides abroad the personal information (excluding sensitive personal information) of not more than 100,000 persons accumulatively as of January 1 of the current year. As of the date of this annual report, we have not processed more than 1,000,000 persons' personal information or 10,000 persons' sensitive personal information outside the PRC since January 1, 2024. In addition, as of the date of this annual report, we have not been informed by any PRC government agency that we qualify as a CIIO, and the *Information Security Technology-Guidance for Identifying Important Data* are only drafts for comments and have not been officially adopted.

Also, the National People's Congress released the Personal Information Protection Law, which became effective on November 1, 2021. The Personal Information Protection Law provides a comprehensive set of data privacy and protection requirements that apply to the processing of personal information and expands data protection compliance obligations to cover the processing of personal information of persons by organizations and individuals in the PRC, and the processing of personal information of persons in the PRC outside of the PRC if such processing is for purposes of providing products and services to, or analyzing and evaluating the behavior of, persons in the PRC. The Personal Information Protection Law also provides that critical information infrastructure operators and personal information processing entities who process personal information meeting a volume threshold to be set by PRC cyberspace regulators are also required to store in the PRC personal information generated or collected in the PRC, and to pass a security assessment administered by PRC cyberspace regulators for any export of such personal information. Lastly, the Personal Information Protection Law provides for significant fines for serious violations of up to RMB 50 million or 5% of annual revenues from the prior year and may also be ordered to suspend any related activity or be revoked the relevant business permits or business license by competent authorities. We do not maintain, nor do we intend to maintain, personally identifiable health information of patients in the PRC. We do, however, collect and maintain de-identified health data for clinical trials in compliance with local regulations.

China's National Information Security Standardization Technical Committee issued the Practice Guidelines for Cybersecurity Standards — Security Certification Specifications for Cross-border Processing of Personal Information on June 24, 2022 and issued Version 2.0 of such guidelines on December 16, 2022, or collectively, the Security Certification Specifications. The Security Certification Specifications serve as guidance for how personal information security certification should be conducted for cross-border transfer of personal information. However, the Security Certification Specifications are only recommended guidelines and compliance is not mandatory.

On February 22, 2023, the CAC issued the Measures for the Standard Contract for Cross-Border Transfer of Personal Information, or the Standard Contract Measures, along with the formal version of the standard contractual clauses for cross-border transfer of personal information stipulated under the *Personal Information Protection Law*. The Standard Contract Measures came into effect on June 1, 2023, and provide a six-month grace period. It specifies the applicable scope of, conditions to enter into and detailed filing requirements for standard contracts on cross-border transfer of personal information, which become a part of the compliance mechanism for personal information protection. Any violation of the Standard Contract Measures shall be punished in accordance with the Personal Information Protection Law and other laws and regulations. The Personal Information Protection Law provides punishment measures such as ordering corrections, warnings, etc. which would be applied based on the severity of the violation. On March 22, 2024, the CAC promulgated Personal Information Export Standard Contract Filing Guidelines (Second Edition), which is to match the Provisions on Promoting and Regulating Cross-border Data Transfer promulgated on the same day. Personal Information Export Standard Contract Filing Guidelines (Second Edition) further clarify the applicable scope of, conditions to enter into and detailed filing requirements for standard contracts on cross-border transfer of personal information. In December 2023, the Implementing Guidelines for Contracts on Cross-border Flow of Personal Information in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (Mainland, Hong Kong) jointly formulated by the CAC and the Innovation, Technology and

Industry Bureau of Hong Kong, provides that the personal information processors and recipients of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (“GBA”) may, in accordance with the requirements of the Implementing Guidelines, carry out the cross-border flow of personal information between the Mainland and Hong Kong within the GBA by entering into a standard contract, except for personal information notified by the relevant authorities or regions or publicly announced as important data.

Interpretation, application and enforcement of these laws, rules and regulations evolve from time to time and their scope may continually change, through new legislation, amendments to existing legislation or changes in enforcement. Compliance with such laws, rules and regulations could significantly increase the cost of our operations, require significant changes to our operations or even prevent us from operating in jurisdictions in which we currently operate or in which we may operate in the future. Despite our efforts to comply with applicable laws, rules, regulations and other obligations relating to privacy, data protection and information security, it is possible our operations could fail to meet all of the requirements imposed on us. Any failure on our part to comply, or any compromise of security that results in unauthorized access, use or release of personal information or other data, or the perception or allegation that any failure or compromise has occurred, could damage our reputation, discourage new and existing partners, vendors or other parties from contracting with us or result in investigations, fines, suspension or other penalties by governmental authorities and private claims or litigation, any of which could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. Even if our operations are not subject to legal challenge, the perception of privacy concerns, whether or not valid, may harm our reputation and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. Moreover, the legal uncertainty created by such laws, rules and regulations and the recent PRC government actions could materially adversely affect our ability to raise capital, or to do so on favorable terms, including engaging in public or private equity or debt financings in the U.S. market.

Our PRC subsidiaries have obtained all necessary licenses and approvals to conduct our operations in the PRC and, to date, no application for any such licenses and approvals has been denied. If we fail to receive any requisite permission or approval from the CSRC, CAC or other PRC regulatory authorities for any offering of our securities or the continued listing of our securities on a U.S. stock exchange or for our operations, or obtain the waiver of such permission or approval, in a timely manner, or at all, or wrongly conclude that such permissions or approvals are not required, or if applicable laws, regulations, or interpretations change and obligate us to obtain such permission or approvals in the future, we may be subject to fines and penalties, suspension or limitations on our business activities in the PRC, revocation of our business licenses, website closure, delay or restrictions on the contribution of proceeds from any offering into the PRC, or other sanctions that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, reputation and prospects.

PRC laws and regulations governing our current business operations are sometimes vague and uncertain, and therefore, these risks may result in a material negative change in our subsidiaries’ operations, significant depreciation of the value of our ADSs, or a complete hindrance of our ability to offer or continue to offer our securities to investors, which could cause the value of the securities of investors to become worthless.

Our operations in the PRC are governed by PRC laws, rules and regulations. Our PRC subsidiaries are subject to laws, rules and regulations applicable to foreign investment in the PRC. The PRC legal system is a civil law system based on written statutes. Unlike the common law system, prior court decisions may be cited for reference but have limited precedential value.

The PRC government has initiated a series of regulatory actions and statements to regulate business operations in the PRC, including cracking down on illegal activities in the securities market, enhancing supervision over PRC-based companies listed outside the PRC using variable interest entity structure, or VIE structure, adopting new measures to extend the scope of cybersecurity reviews, and expanding the efforts in anti-monopoly enforcement. Since these statements and regulatory actions are relatively new, it is highly uncertain how soon legislative or administrative regulation making bodies will respond and what existing or new laws or regulations or detailed implementations and interpretations will be modified or promulgated, if any, and the potential impact of such modified or new laws and regulations will have on our daily business operation, the ability to accept foreign investments and list on a U.S. or other foreign exchange. Although we do not have a VIE structure, due to our operations in the PRC, any future PRC, U.S. or other rules and regulations that place restrictions on capital raising or other activities or require enhanced disclosure by PRC-based companies could adversely affect our business and results of operations and the market price of our ADSs.

Recently enacted laws, rules and regulations may not sufficiently cover all aspects of economic activities in the PRC or may be subject to significant degrees of interpretation by PRC regulatory agencies. In particular, because these laws, rules and regulations are relatively new, and because of the limited number of published decisions and the non-binding nature of

such decisions, and because the laws, rules and regulations often give the relevant regulator a certain degree of discretion in how to enforce them, the interpretation and enforcement of these laws, rules and regulations involve uncertainties and can be inconsistent and unpredictable. In addition, the PRC legal system is based in part on government policies and internal rules, some of which are not published on a timely basis or at all, and which may have a retroactive effect. As a result, we may not be aware of our violation of these policies and rules until after the occurrence of the violation.

Any administrative and court proceedings in the PRC or any jurisdiction where we operate our business may be protracted, resulting in additional substantial costs and diversion of resources and management attention. Since PRC administrative and court authorities have the right to exercise conclusive discretion in interpreting and implementing statutory and contractual terms, depending on the facts and circumstances, it may be more difficult to evaluate the outcome of administrative and court proceedings and the level of legal protection we enjoy. These factors may impede our ability to enforce the contracts we have entered into and could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In the past few years, PRC regulators have announced regulatory actions aimed at providing the PRC government with greater oversight over sectors of the economy in the PRC, including the for-profit education sector and technology platforms that have a quantitatively significant number of users located in the PRC. Although the biotechnology industry is already highly regulated in the PRC and while there has been no indication to date that such actions or oversight would apply to companies like us, the PRC government may in the future take regulatory actions that materially affect the business environment and financial markets in the PRC as they relate to us, our ability to operate our business, our liquidity and our access to capital.

The approval of and the filing with the CSRC may be required under a PRC regulation in connection with any future offerings of our securities in the U.S. market.

The PRC government has indicated an intent to take actions to exert more oversight and control over offerings that are conducted outside the PRC and/or foreign investment in China-based issuers. For example, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council jointly issued the Opinions on Severely Cracking Down on Illegal Securities Activities According to Law, or the Opinions, which was made available to the public on July 6, 2021. The Opinions emphasized the need to strengthen administration over illegal securities activities, and the need to strengthen supervision over listings outside the PRC by PRC companies. Effective measures, such as promoting the construction of relevant regulatory systems will be taken to deal with the risks and incidents of PRC-based companies listed outside the PRC, and cybersecurity and data privacy protection requirements and similar matters. The Opinions and any related implementing rules to be enacted may subject us to compliance requirements in the future.

On February 17, 2023, the CSRC enacted the Trial Measures for Administration of the Overseas Securities Offerings and Listings by Domestic Enterprises, and several supporting rules, collectively the New Filing Rules. Under the New Filing Rules, PRC-based companies involved in any of the following circumstances shall not list or offer securities on foreign exchanges where: (i) the listing for financing is expressly prohibited by the laws, regulations and relevant provisions; (ii) the offering outside of the PRC and listing threatens or endangers the national security upon examination and verification by the relevant competent department of the PRC State Council; (iii) such PRC-based company or its controlling shareholder or actual controller has, in the past three years, committed a criminal offence such as corruption, bribery, encroachment or misappropriation of property or undermined the order of socialist market economy; (iv) such PRC-based company is under investigation by the judicial authority for being suspected of committing a crime or being involved in a major violation of laws or regulations, which has not yet reached a clear conclusion; or (v) there are major ownership disputes over the equity interests held by such PRC-based company's controlling shareholder or the shareholder controlled by the controlling shareholder or actual controller. Where a PRC-based company falls under any of the aforesaid circumstances prior to its listing and offering outside the PRC, such PRC-based company shall suspend or terminate its listing and offering outside the PRC, and report to the CSRC and the relevant competent department of the PRC State Council in a timely manner.

In addition, under the New Filing Rules, an issuer listed outside the PRC will be subject to the following obligations of filing or report: (i) if the issuer issues securities (excluding the securities issued for the purpose of implementing equity incentive, distribution of stock dividends, share split, etc.) in the same stock exchange outside the PRC, or such issuer issues convertible bonds, exchangeable bonds or preferred shares after its issuance and listing outside the PRC, it shall make a filing with the CSRC within three (3) business days upon the completion of such issuance; (ii) if the issuer seeks for the secondary listing or primary listing in any other stock exchange outside the PRC after its issuance and listing

outside the PRC, it shall make a filing with the CSRC within three (3) business days after submitting the application documents for issuance and listing outside the PRC; (iii) if the issuer issues the securities in installments within the scope of authorization after its issuance and listing outside the PRC, it shall make a filing with the CSRC within three (3) business days after the completion of its first issuance and state the total amount of the securities to be issued. After the completion of each remaining issuance, it shall submit a consolidated report on the issuance to CSRC; (iv) an issuer listed outside of the PRC shall report detailed information to the CSRC within three (3) business days from the occurrence and announcement of the following major events, including the change of such issuer's control right, investigation and punishment imposed by the regulatory security authority outside of the PRC or the relevant competent authority, change of its listing status or listed sector, and the termination of listing voluntarily or compulsorily; and (v) where there is any material change in the major business and operation activities of an issuer listed outside the PRC and such change does not fall within the scope of filing requirement, such issuer shall, within three (3) business days from the occurrence of such change, submit a special report and a legal opinion issued by a PRC law firm to the CSRC to explain the relevant information.

Since the New Filing Rules are relatively new, as of the date of this annual report, substantial uncertainties exist with respect to the interpretations and implementations of the New Filing Rules. Based on a set of Q&A published on the CSRC's official website in connection with the release of the New Filing Rules, a CSRC official indicated that the PRC domestic companies that have completed a public offering and listing outside the PRC prior to the enactment of the New Filing Rules shall be regarded as existing issuers, or Existing Issuers. Existing Issuers are not required to file with CSRC immediately, but will be required to file with CSRC as required in the future for any future offering or listing of securities (which, for the purposes of the New Filing Rules, are defined thereunder as equity shares, depository receipts, corporate bonds convertible to equity shares, and other equity securities that are offered and listed outside the PRC, either directly or indirectly, by PRC domestic companies) in markets outside the PRC, either via direct or indirect means, within three working days upon completion of issuance of such securities.

As an Existing Issuer, we will be subject to the requirements imposed by the New Filing Rules in connection with future securities offerings, including future sales of our ADSs under our "at the market" offering program. We cannot assure investors that we will be able to complete such filing or comply with any other requirements that will be imposed on us under the New Filing Rules, on a timely basis or at all. Failure to comply with the filing requirements or any other requirements under the New Filing Rules could result in orders of rectification, warnings, fines to the relevant PRC domestic companies ranging from RMB 1 million to RMB 10 million and fines on the controlling shareholder and other responsible persons, restrictions on our operations, having to delist from a stock exchange, the halting of securities offerings to foreign investors and other actions that could materially and adversely affect our operations and the interests of our investors and cause a significant depreciation in the price of our ordinary shares and ADSs.

Additionally, the requirements imposed by the New Filing Rules may delay or deter future offerings of our securities and impair our ability to obtain financing on acceptable terms or at all.

Further, on February 24, 2023, the CSRC, the Ministry of Finance and other competent authorities issued the Provisions on Strengthening the Confidentiality and Archives Administration of Overseas Securities Offering and Listing by Domestic Enterprises, or the Confidentiality and Archives Provisions, which took effect on March 31, 2023, replaced the Provisions on Strengthening the Confidentiality and Archives Administration of Overseas Securities Offering and Listing issued on October 20, 2009. Under the Confidentiality and Archives Provisions, for securities offerings and listings outside the PRC (either directly or indirectly), the PRC-based companies shall strictly abide by relevant PRC laws and regulations to strengthen the legal consciousness for the confidentiality of state secrets and archives administration, and establish and improve the confidentiality and archives administration system, including without limitation (i) if a PRC-based company or its listed entity outside of the PRC intends to provide or publicly disclose certain documents and materials involving state secrets or governmental work secrets to other parties, including securities companies, security service agencies, regulatory authorities outside the PRC, and other entities and individuals, it must first report to and obtain the approval from competent governmental authority and make a filing with the competent secrecy administrative department; and (ii) the PRC-based company and securities companies or securities service providers with which it shares regulated information must first obtain the approval of CSRC or competent governmental authorities before cooperating with or providing any documents and materials for inspection and investigation by securities regulatory authorities or relevant competent authorities outside the PRC. As the Confidentiality and Archives Provisions were recently promulgated, their interpretation and implementation remain substantially uncertain. It is possible that the implementation of this regulation could hinder our ability to comply with U.S. securities laws and continued listing requirements or impede routine due diligence by securities counsel, potential underwriters or other investors, for instance by preventing or delaying the provision of requested information or the filing of material agreements or disclosures. The fruition of such risks could significantly limit or

completely hinder our access to the U.S. capital markets and could cause the value of our securities, particularly our ADSs, to significantly decline or become worthless.

If we fail to receive any requisite permission or approval from or complete the filing with the CSRC or other PRC regulatory authorities for any offering or listing of our securities, or obtain the waiver of such permission or approval, in a timely manner, or at all, we may be subject to fines and penalties, suspension or limitations on our business activities in China, revocation of our business licenses, website closure, delay or restrictions on the contribution of proceeds from any offering into the PRC, or other sanctions that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, reputation and prospects. In addition, the CSRC, CAC or other PRC regulatory agencies may also take actions requiring us, or making it advisable for us, to halt any offering. Consequently, if investors engage in market trading or other activities in anticipation of and prior to the settlement and delivery of the securities we may offer from time to time in the future, investors would be doing so at the risk that the settlement and delivery may not occur.

Additionally, given the current regulatory environment in the PRC, we are still subject to the uncertainty of interpretation and enforcement of the rules and regulations in the PRC, which can change quickly with little advance notice, and any future actions of the PRC authorities. It is uncertain whether we will be required to obtain permission from the PRC government to maintain our listing on any U.S. exchange (including retroactively), and even if such permission is sought, whether it will be denied or rescinded. Any future actions by the CSRC or other PRC regulatory authorities to exert more oversight and control over offerings conducted outside the PRC and foreign investment in PRC-based issuers could significantly limit or completely hinder our ability to offer securities to investors and cause the value of our securities to significantly decline or become worthless.

Certain PRC regulations may make it more difficult for us to pursue growth through acquisitions. Any failure by us to comply with PRC anti-monopoly laws and regulations may result in governmental investigations or enforcement actions, litigation or claims against us and could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

On August 8, 2006, six PRC regulatory agencies, including the Ministry of Commerce, or MOFCOM, the State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, the State Administration of Taxation, or SAT, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, currently known as the SAMR, the CSRC, and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, or SAFE, jointly adopted the Regulations on Mergers and Acquisitions of Domestic Enterprises by Foreign Investors, or M&A Rules, which came into effect on September 8, 2006 and were amended on June 22, 2009. The M&A Rules include, among other things, provisions that purport to require that an offshore special purpose vehicle that is controlled by PRC domestic companies or individuals and that has been formed for the purpose of a listing of securities outside the PRC through acquisitions of PRC domestic companies or assets to obtain the approval of the CSRC prior to the listing and trading of such special purpose vehicle's securities on a stock exchange outside the PRC. On September 21, 2006, the CSRC published on its official website procedures regarding its approval of listings outside the PRC by special purpose vehicles. However, substantial uncertainty remains regarding the scope and applicability of the M&A Rules to offshore special purpose vehicles.

These regulations also established additional procedures and requirements that are expected to make merger and acquisition activities in the PRC by non-PRC investors more time-consuming and complex. For example, the M&A rules require that the MOFCOM be notified in advance of any change-of-control transaction in which a non-PRC investor takes control of a PRC domestic enterprise if (i) any important industry is concerned, (ii) such transaction involves factors that have or may have impact on the national economic security, or (iii) such transaction will lead to a change in control of a PRC domestic enterprise which holds a famous trademark or PRC time-honored brand. The approval from the MOFCOM shall be obtained in circumstances where companies outside of PRC established or controlled by PRC enterprises or residents acquire affiliated PRC domestic companies. Mergers, acquisitions or contractual arrangements that allow one market player to take control of or to exert decisive impact on another market player must also be notified in advance to the anti-monopoly authority under the State Council when the threshold under the Provisions on Thresholds for Prior Notification of Concentrations of Undertakings issued by the State Council in August 2008 and last amended in January 2024, is triggered. In addition, the security review rules issued by the MOFCOM that became effective in September 2011 specify that mergers and acquisitions by non-PRC investors that raise "national defense and security" concerns and mergers and acquisitions through which non-PRC investors may acquire de facto control over domestic enterprises that raise "national security" concerns are subject to strict review by the MOFCOM, and the rules prohibit any activities attempting to bypass a security review, including by structuring the transaction through a proxy or contractual control arrangement. We may grow our business in part by acquiring other companies operating in our industry. Complying with the requirements of the new regulations to complete such transactions could be time-consuming, and any required approval

processes, including approval from the MOFCOM, may delay or inhibit our ability to complete such transactions, which could affect our ability to expand our business or maintain our market share. In addition, as PRC governmental authorities have a certain degree of discretion in interpreting and implementing statutory provisions, we cannot assure the investors that we are not required to obtain such approval or pass such review under PRC laws, regulations or policies if the relevant PRC governmental authorities take a contrary position, nor can we predict whether or how long it will take to obtain such approval or pass such review. Any failure to obtain or delay in obtaining the requisite governmental approval or review would subject us to sanctions imposed by the relevant PRC regulatory authority, including orders to stop the illegal act, confiscation of illegal income and a fine ranging from 1% to 10% of the sale amount of the preceding year or not more than 500,000 RMB (the specific amount of fines shall be determined in consideration of the nature of the illegal act, the extent and the period of time during which the act was continuing etc.).

While the application of the M&A Rules remains unclear, we believe, based on our understanding of the current PRC laws and regulations, that the CSRC approval under the M&A Rules would not be required in the context of future offerings of our securities in the U.S. market because Connect SZ, was incorporated as a PRC domestic company in May 2012 and became a sino-foreign equity venture on August 23, 2012 in compliance with the M&A Rules, such that the M&A Rules are not applicable to us. However, the CSRC has not issued any definitive rule or interpretation concerning whether follow-on offerings of securities in the U.S. market are subject to the M&A Rules. There can be no assurance that the relevant PRC government agencies, including the CSRC, would reach the same conclusion as us. If the CSRC or any other PRC regulatory body determines that we need to obtain the CSRC's approval for follow-on offerings or if the CSRC or any other PRC government authorities promulgates any interpretation or implements rules that would require us to obtain CSRC or other governmental approvals for follow-on offerings, we may be unable to obtain such approvals on a timely basis or at all and we may face adverse actions or sanctions by the CSRC or other PRC regulatory agencies if we proceed with an offering of our securities without first receiving any required approvals. In any such event, these regulatory agencies may impose fines and penalties on our operations in the PRC, limit our operating privileges in the PRC, delay or restrict the repatriation of the proceeds from future offerings into the PRC or take other actions that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, reputation and prospects.

Governmental control of currency conversion may limit our ability to remit funds out of the PRC and utilize our capital or future revenues effectively and could affect the value of any investment in our ADSs.

As a holding company, we are dependent upon cash dividends, distributions and other transfers from our subsidiaries to make dividend payments. As of December 31, 2023, there have not been any such dividends or other distributions from our subsidiaries. In addition, none of our subsidiaries have ever issued any dividends or distributions to us or to U.S. investors.

The majority of our income is expected to be received in Renminbi, and shortages in foreign currencies may restrict our ability to pay dividends or other payments, or otherwise satisfy our foreign currency denominated obligations, if any. Under existing PRC foreign exchange regulations, payments of current account items, including profit distributions, interest payments and expenditures from trade-related transactions can be made in foreign currencies without prior approval from the State Administration of the Foreign Exchange in the PRC as long as certain procedural requirements are met. Approval from appropriate government authorities is required if Renminbi is converted into foreign currency and remitted out of the PRC to pay capital expenses such as the repayment of loans denominated in foreign currencies. The PRC government may, at its discretion, impose restrictions on access to foreign currencies for current account transactions and if this occurs in the future, we may not be able to pay dividends in foreign currencies to our shareholders.

The PRC government imposes regulation on the convertibility of the renminbi into non-PRC currencies and, in some cases, the remittance of currency out of the PRC. We fund our PRC operations and expect to receive some of our future revenues in renminbi. Approval from or registration with appropriate PRC governmental authorities is required where renminbi is to be converted into non-PRC currency and remitted out of the PRC to pay capital expenses such as the repayment of loans denominated in non-PRC currencies. As a result, we need to obtain SAFE approval to use cash generated from the operations of our PRC subsidiaries to pay off their respective debt in a currency other than renminbi owed to entities outside the PRC, or to make other capital expenditure payments outside the PRC in a currency other than renminbi.

In light of the flood of capital outflows of the PRC in 2016 due to the weakening renminbi, the PRC government has imposed more restrictive foreign exchange policies and stepped-up scrutiny of major outbound capital movement including direct investment outside the PRC. More restrictions and a substantial vetting process have been put in place by SAFE to regulate cross-border transactions falling under the capital account. If any of our shareholders regulated by such policies fails to satisfy the applicable direct investment outside the PRC filing or approval requirement timely or at all, it may be subject to penalties from the relevant PRC authorities. The PRC government may at its discretion further restrict access in

the future to non-PRC currencies for current account transactions. If the foreign exchange control system prevents us from obtaining sufficient non-PRC currencies to satisfy our non-PRC currency demands, we may not be able to pay dividends in non-PRC currencies to our shareholders, including holders of our ADSs.

PRC regulation of loans to, and direct investments in, PRC entities by offshore holding companies may restrict or prevent us from making loans or additional capital contributions to our PRC subsidiaries.

We are permitted under PRC laws and regulations to provide funding to our PRC subsidiaries, which are treated as “foreign-invested enterprises” under PRC laws, through loans or capital contributions. However, loans by us to our PRC subsidiaries to finance their activities cannot exceed statutory limits and must be registered with the local counterpart of SAFE and capital contributions to our PRC subsidiaries are subject to the requirement of making necessary registration with competent governmental authorities in the PRC

SAFE promulgated the Notice by the SAFE of Further Deepening Reform and Promoting Cross-border Trade and Investment Facilitation, or Circular 28 in 2023, effective on December 4, 2023. According to Circular 28 in 2023, the capital funds and foreign exchange receipts under the account of foreign debts of a non-financial enterprise and RMB funds obtained from foreign exchange settlement thereof shall be used under the principles of veracity and self-use, and shall not be used for expenditures prohibited by laws. Unless otherwise prescribed, they shall not be used for investment in securities or other wealth management investment, except for wealth management products with risk ratings of not higher than Grade II and structured deposits, and for granting loans to non-affiliated enterprises, except explicitly permitted in the business scope or in special regions. Circular 28 in 2023 may significantly limit our ability to transfer any non-PRC currency we hold, to our PRC subsidiaries, which may adversely affect our liquidity and our ability to fund and expand our business in the PRC. On October 23, 2019, SAFE promulgated the Circular of the SAFE on Further Promoting the Facilitation of Cross-border Trade and Investment, or Circular 28 in 2019, which permits non-investment non-PRC-invested enterprises to use their capital funds obtained from exchange settlement outside the PRC to make equity investments in the PRC, with genuine investment projects and in compliance with effective non-PRC investment restrictions and other applicable laws. On April 10, 2020, SAFE issued a Notice of Optimizing Foreign Exchange Administration to Support Foreign Business Development, which allows foreign enterprises to use receipts of capital funds from outside the PRC without providing banks with authenticity certification materials on a transaction-by-transaction basis in advance, provided that the use of such receipts of capital funds from outside the PRC is genuine and in compliance with certain applicable administrative regulations. However, since the promulgation of Circular 28 in 2019, substantial uncertainties remain as to its interpretation and implementation in practice.

In light of the various requirements imposed by PRC regulations on loans to, and direct investments in, our PRC subsidiaries, we cannot assure investors that we will be able to complete the necessary government registrations or obtain the necessary government approvals on a timely basis, if at all, with respect to future loans or future capital contributions by us to our PRC subsidiaries. As a result, uncertainties exist as to our ability to provide prompt financial support to our PRC subsidiaries when needed. If we fail to complete such registrations or obtain such approvals, our ability to use non-PRC currency, and to capitalize or otherwise fund our PRC operations may be negatively affected, which could materially and adversely affect our liquidity and our ability to fund and expand our business.

Any failure to comply with PRC regulations regarding the registration requirements for employee share incentive plans may subject our equity incentive plan participants or us to fines and other legal or administrative sanctions.

In February 2012, SAFE promulgated the Notices on Issues Concerning the Foreign Exchange Administration for Domestic Individuals Participating in Stock Incentive Plan of Overseas Publicly Listed Company, replacing earlier rules promulgated in 2007. Pursuant to these rules, PRC citizens and non-PRC citizens who reside in the PRC for a continuous period of not less than one year and participate in any share incentive plan of a public company listed outside the PRC are required to register with the SAFE through a PRC qualified agent, which could be the PRC subsidiaries of such company listed outside the PRC, and complete other procedures, unless some exceptions are available. In addition, a non-PRC-entrusted institution must be retained to handle matters in connection with the exercise or sale of share options and the purchase or sale of shares and interests. We and our executive officers and other employees who are PRC citizens or non-PRC citizens living in the PRC for a continuous period of not less than one year and have been granted options are subject to these regulations. Failure to complete SAFE registrations may subject them to fines of up to RMB300,000 for entities and up to RMB50,000 for individuals and may also limit our ability to contribute additional capital into our PRC subsidiaries and our PRC subsidiaries’ ability to distribute dividends to us. We also face regulatory uncertainties that could restrict our ability to adopt additional incentive plans for our directors, executive officers and employees under PRC law. See Item 6. “Directors, Senior Management and Employees – Compensation.”

In addition, the SAT has issued some circulars concerning employee share options and restricted shares. Under these circulars, our employees working in the PRC who exercise share options or are granted restricted shares will be subject to PRC individual income tax. Our PRC subsidiaries have obligations to file documents related to employee share options or restricted shares with relevant tax authorities and to withhold individual income taxes for those employees who exercise their share options. If our employees fail to pay or we fail to withhold their income taxes according to relevant laws and regulations, we may face sanctions imposed by the tax authorities or other PRC government authorities. See Item 6. “Directors, Senior Management and Employees – Compensation.”

PRC regulations relating to offshore investment activities by PRC residents may limit our PRC subsidiaries’ ability to change their registered capital or distribute profits to us or otherwise expose us or our PRC resident beneficial owners to liability and penalties under PRC laws.

In July 2014, SAFE promulgated the Circular on Relevant Issues Concerning Foreign Exchange Control on Domestic Residents’ Offshore Investment and Financing and Roundtrip Investment Through Special Purpose Vehicles, or Circular 37. Circular 37 requires PRC residents (including PRC individuals and PRC corporate entities as well as non-PRC individuals that are deemed as PRC residents for foreign exchange administration purposes) to register with SAFE or its local branches in connection with their direct or indirect offshore investment activities. Circular 37 further requires amendment to the SAFE registrations in the event of any changes with respect to the basic information of the offshore special purpose vehicle, such as change of a PRC individual shareholder, name and operation term, or any significant changes with respect to the offshore special purpose vehicle, such as increase or decrease of capital contribution, share transfer or exchange, or mergers or divisions. Circular 37 is applicable to our shareholders or beneficial owners who are PRC residents and may be applicable to any offshore acquisitions that we make in the future. According to the Notice on Further Simplifying and Improving Policies for the Foreign Exchange Administration of Direct Investment released on February 13, 2015 by the SAFE, which was amended on December 30, 2019, local banks will examine and handle foreign exchange registration for direct investment outside the PRC, including the initial foreign exchange registration and amendment registration, under Circular 37 from June 1, 2015.

If our shareholders or beneficial owners who are PRC residents or entities do not complete their registration with the local SAFE branches or qualified local banks, our PRC subsidiaries may be prohibited from distributing to us its profits and proceeds from any reduction in capital, share transfer or liquidation, and we may be restricted in our ability to contribute additional capital to our PRC subsidiaries. Moreover, failure to comply with the SAFE registration described above could result in liability under PRC laws for evasion of applicable foreign exchange restrictions.

We may not be informed of the identities of all the PRC residents or entities holding direct or indirect interest in our securities, nor can we compel our shareholders or beneficial owners to comply with SAFE registration requirements. We cannot assure investors that all shareholders or beneficial owners of ours who are PRC residents or entities have complied with, and will in the future make, obtain or update any applicable registrations or approvals required by, SAFE regulations.

The failure or inability of such shareholders or beneficial owners to comply with SAFE regulations, or failure by us to amend the foreign exchange registrations of our PRC subsidiaries, could subject us or the non-compliant shareholders or beneficial owners to fines or legal sanctions, restrict our non-PRC or cross-border investment activities, limit our PRC subsidiaries’ ability to make distributions or pay dividends to us or affect our ownership structure. As a result, our business operations and our ability to distribute any future profits to investors could be materially and adversely affected.

We may be treated as a resident enterprise for PRC tax purposes under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law, and we may therefore be subject to PRC income tax on our global income.

Under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law and its implementing rules, enterprises established under the laws of jurisdictions outside of the PRC with “de facto management bodies” located in the PRC may be considered PRC tax resident enterprises for tax purposes and may be subject to the PRC enterprise income tax at the rate of 25% on their global income. “De facto management body” refers to a managing body that exercises substantial and overall management and control over the production and operations, personnel, accounting and assets of an enterprise. The SAT issued the Notice Regarding the Determination of Chinese-Controlled Offshore-Incorporated Enterprises as PRC Tax Resident Enterprises on the Basis of De Facto Management Bodies, or Circular 82, on April 22, 2009, which was most recently amended on December 29, 2017. Circular 82 provides specific criteria for determining whether the “de facto management body” of a PRC-controlled offshore-incorporated enterprise is located in the PRC. Although Circular 82 only applies to offshore enterprises controlled by PRC enterprises, not those controlled by non-PRC enterprises or individuals, the determining criteria set forth in Circular 82 may reflect the SAT’s general position on how the “de facto management body” test should

be applied in determining the tax resident status of offshore enterprises, regardless of whether they are controlled by PRC enterprises. If we were to be considered a PRC resident enterprise, we would be subject to PRC enterprise income tax at the rate of 25% on our global income. In such case, our cash flow may be materially reduced as a result of our global income being taxed under the Enterprise Income Tax Law. We believe that none of our entities outside of the PRC is a PRC resident enterprise for PRC tax purposes. However, the tax resident status of an enterprise is subject to determination by the PRC tax authorities and uncertainties remain with respect to the interpretation of the term “de facto management body.”

Dividends paid to our non-PRC investors (should we ever pay dividends) and gains on the sale of our ADSs by our non-PRC investors may become subject to PRC tax.

Under the Enterprise Income Tax Law and its implementation regulations issued by the State Council, a 10% PRC withholding tax is applicable to dividends paid to investors that are non-resident enterprises, which do not have an establishment or place of business in the PRC or which have such establishment or place of business but the dividends are not effectively connected with such establishment or place of business, to the extent such dividends are derived from sources within the PRC. Any gain realized on the transfer of ADSs or ordinary shares by such investors is also subject to PRC tax at a current rate of 10%, if such gain is regarded as income derived from sources within the PRC. If we are deemed a PRC resident enterprise, dividends paid on our ordinary shares or ADSs, and any gain realized from the transfer of our ordinary shares or ADSs, would be treated as income derived from sources within the PRC and would as a result be subject to PRC taxation. Furthermore, if we are deemed a PRC resident enterprise, dividends paid to individual investors who are non-PRC residents and any gain realized on the transfer of ADSs or ordinary shares by such investors may be subject to PRC tax (which in the case of dividends may be withheld at source) at a rate of 20%. Any PRC tax liability may be reduced by an applicable tax treaty. However, if we or any of our subsidiaries established outside the PRC are considered a PRC resident enterprise, it is unclear whether holders of our ADSs would be able to claim the benefit of income tax treaties or agreements entered into between the PRC and other countries or areas. If dividends paid to our non-PRC investors, or gains from the transfer of our ADSs by such investors, are deemed as income derived from sources within the PRC and thus are subject to PRC tax, the value of our ADSs may decline significantly.

We and our shareholders face uncertainties with respect to indirect transfers of equity interests in PRC resident enterprises or other assets attributed to a PRC establishment of a non-PRC company, or immovable properties located in the PRC owned by non-PRC companies.

On February 3, 2015, the SAT issued the Bulletin on Issues of Enterprise Income Tax on Indirect Transfers of Assets by Non-PRC Resident Enterprises, or Bulletin 7, which was amended on December 29, 2017. Pursuant to this Bulletin 7, an “indirect transfer” of assets, including non-publicly traded equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise, by non-PRC resident enterprises may be re-characterized and treated as a direct transfer of PRC taxable assets if such arrangement does not have a reasonable commercial purpose and was established for the purpose of avoiding payment of PRC enterprise income tax. As a result, gains derived from such indirect transfer may be subject to PRC enterprise income tax. According to Bulletin 7, “PRC taxable assets” include assets attributed to an establishment in the PRC, immovable properties located in the PRC, and equity investments in PRC resident enterprises, in respect of which gains from their transfer by a direct holder, being a non-PRC resident enterprise, would be subject to PRC enterprise income taxes. When determining whether there is a “reasonable commercial purpose” of the transaction arrangement, features to be taken into consideration include, without limitation: whether the main value of the equity interest of the relevant offshore enterprise derives from PRC taxable assets; whether the assets of the relevant offshore enterprise mainly consists of direct or indirect investment in the PRC or if its income mainly derives from the PRC; whether the offshore enterprise and its subsidiaries directly or indirectly holding PRC taxable assets have real commercial nature which is evidenced by their actual function and risk exposure; the duration of existence of the business model and organizational structure; the replicability of the transaction by direct transfer of PRC taxable assets; and the tax situation of such indirect transfer and applicable tax treaties or similar arrangements. In respect of an indirect offshore transfer of assets of a PRC establishment, the resulting gain is to be included with the enterprise income tax filing of the PRC establishment or place of business being transferred, and would consequently be subject to PRC enterprise income tax at a rate of 25%. Where the underlying transfer relates to the immovable properties located in the PRC or to equity investments in a PRC resident enterprise, which is not related to a PRC establishment or place of business of a non-resident enterprise, a PRC enterprise income tax of 10% would apply, subject to available preferential tax treatment under applicable tax treaties or similar arrangements, and the party who is obligated to make the transfer payments has the withholding obligation. Bulletin 7 does not apply to transactions of sale of shares by investors through a public stock exchange where such shares were acquired from a transaction through a public stock exchange. On October 17, 2017, the SAT promulgated the Announcement of the SAT on Issues Concerning the Withholding of Non-resident Enterprise Income Tax at Source, or the SAT Circular 37, which became effective on

December 1, 2017 and was most recently amended on June 15, 2018. SAT Circular 37, among other things, simplified procedures of withholding and payment of income tax levied on non-resident enterprises.

We face uncertainties as to the reporting and other implications of past and future transactions where PRC or other taxable assets are involved, such as offshore restructuring, sale of the shares in our offshore subsidiaries or investments. We may be subject to filing obligations, required to obtain independent valuations, or taxed if we are the transferor in such transactions, and may be subject to withholding obligations if we are the transferee in such transactions under Bulletin 7 and SAT Circular 37. If there are transfers of our securities by investors that are non-PRC resident enterprises, our PRC subsidiaries may be requested to assist in the filing under Bulletin 7 and SAT Circular 37. As a result, we may be required to expend valuable resources to comply with Bulletin 7 and SAT Circular 37 or to request the relevant transferors from whom we purchase taxable assets to comply with these publications, or to establish that we should not be taxed under these publications, which may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We and our shareholders face uncertainties with respect to reorganizations or restructurings that we may undertake.

We have historically undertaken various reorganizations and restructurings of our subsidiaries and of intellectual property and other assets. We currently anticipate that we may undertake further reorganizations or restructurings that may, for instance, involve licensing or assigning of intellectual property and other assets, but any further reorganization or restructuring has still to be effected, remains to be fully planned out, would involve complexity, and no assurance can be given that any such reorganization or restructuring would be effective at achieving its intended goals and may result in unintended tax or other consequences that may materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

We could be adversely affected by rising political tensions and any potential conflicts between the United States and the PRC.

Rising political tensions and any potential conflicts between the United States and the PRC could reduce levels of trade, investments, technological exchanges and other economic activities between the two major economies, which would have a material adverse effect on global economic conditions and the stability of global financial markets. Any of these factors could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects, financial condition and results of operations. Furthermore, there have been media reports in recent years on deliberations within the U.S. government regarding potentially limiting or restricting PRC-based companies from accessing U.S. capital markets. If any such deliberations were to materialize, the resulting legislation may have a material and adverse impact on the stock performance of PRC-based issuers listed in the United States. It is unclear if this proposed legislation would be enacted.

A substantial part of our drug discovery and clinical operations are conducted in the PRC and the United States, and we are required to comply with the PRC, U.S. or other laws and regulations on import and export controls, including the U.S. Department of Commerce's Export Administration Regulations. Currently, such laws and regulations do not restrict our ability to offer our U.S.-origin drug discovery tools to our subsidiaries in the PRC. However, we may be affected by future changes in U.S. import or export control laws and regulations. If we were unable to transfer our U.S.-origin drug discovery tools to the PRC, source U.S.-origin software and components from third parties or otherwise access U.S. technology as a result of such regulatory changes, our business, results of operations and financial condition would be materially and adversely affected.

The PRC and the United States have each imposed tariffs that have adversely affected trade between the two countries. Tariffs could potentially increase the price of our clinical supplies and negatively impact our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Recent litigation, regulatory scrutiny and negative publicity surrounding PRC-based companies listed in the United States may result in increased regulatory scrutiny of us and negatively impact the trading price of our ADSs.

We believe that litigation, regulatory scrutiny and negative publicity surrounding PRC-based companies that are listed in the United States have negatively impacted stock prices for such companies. U.S.-listed public companies that have substantial operations in the PRC have been the subject of intense scrutiny by investors, equity-based research organizations and regulatory agencies, such as the SEC and PCAOB. Some of these companies have become subject to shareholder litigation or are conducting internal or external investigations into allegations of, among other things, accounting irregularities and mistakes, a lack of effective internal controls over financial accounting and inadequate corporate governance policies. Any similar scrutiny of us, regardless of its lack of merit, could result in a diversion of

management resources and energy, potential costs to defend ourselves against rumors or litigation, decreases and volatility in our ADS trading price, and increased directors and officers insurance premiums, and could have a material adverse effect upon our business, results of operations and financial condition.

The enforcement of the PRC Labor Law, Labor Contract Law, and other labor-related regulations in the PRC may increase our labor costs and limit our flexibility to use labor. If we fail to comply with PRC labor-related laws, we may be exposed to penalties.

According to the PRC Labor Contract Law, an employer is obliged to sign an unfixed-term labor contract with any employee who has worked for the employer for 10 consecutive years. Further, if an employee requests or agrees to renew a fixed-term labor contract that has already been entered into twice consecutively, the resulting contract must have an unfixed term, with some exceptions. The employer must pay economic compensation to an employee where a labor contract is terminated or not renewed upon expiration in accordance with the PRC Labor Contract Law, except for some situations which are specifically regulated. As a result, our ability to terminate employees is significantly restricted. In addition, the PRC government has issued various labor-related regulations to further protect the rights of employees. According to such laws and regulations, employees who have worked continuously for not less than 12 months are entitled to annual leave ranging from five to 15 days and are able to be compensated for any untaken annual leave days in the amount of three times their daily salary, subject to some exceptions. In the event that we decide to change our employment or labor practices, the PRC Labor Contract Law and its implementation rules may also limit our ability to effect those changes in a manner that we believe to be cost-effective. In addition, as the interpretation and implementation of these new regulations are still evolving, our employment practices may not be at all times deemed in compliance with the new regulations. If we are subject to severe penalties or incur significant liabilities in connection with labor disputes or investigations, our business and financial conditions may be adversely affected.

Companies operating in the PRC are required to participate in various government sponsored employee benefit plans, including social insurance, housing funds and other welfare-oriented payment obligations, and contribute to the plans in amounts equal to specific percentages of salaries, including bonuses and allowances, of their employees up to a maximum amount specified by the local government from time to time. The requirement to maintain employee benefit plans has not been implemented consistently by local governments in the PRC given the different levels of economic development in different locations. We may not pay social security and housing fund contributions in strict compliance with the relevant PRC regulations for and on behalf of our employees due to differences in local regulations and inconsistent implementation or interpretation by local authorities in the PRC and varying levels of acceptance of the housing fund system by our employees. We may be subject to fines and penalties for any such failure to make payments in accordance with the applicable PRC laws and regulations. We may be required to make up the contributions for these plans as well as to pay late fees and fines. If we are subject to penalties, late fees or fines in relation to any underpaid employee benefits, our financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected.

Some of our leasehold interests in leased properties have not been registered with the relevant PRC governmental authorities as required by relevant PRC laws. The failure to register leasehold interests may expose us to potential fines.

We have not registered one of our lease agreements with the relevant government authorities. Under the relevant PRC laws and regulations, we may be required to register and file with the relevant government authority executed leases. The failure to register the lease agreements for our leased properties will not affect the validity of these lease agreements, but the competent housing authorities may order us to register the lease agreements in a prescribed period of time and impose a fine ranging from RMB1,000 to RMB10,000 for each non-registered lease if we fail to complete the registration within the prescribed timeframe.

Our business benefits from tax benefits or financial incentives and discretionary policies granted by governmental authorities in the PRC. Expiration, elimination or reduction of these incentives or policies would have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Governmental authorities in the PRC have granted tax benefits or financial incentives to our PRC subsidiaries as part of their efforts to encourage the development of PRC businesses, including in connection with the Contract for Granting the Right to Use State-owned Construction Land, or Land Use Agreement, and the investment agreement, or Investment Agreement, with governmental authorities in the PRC which we previously entered into. We have terminated the plan to build the facilities for which we had obtained land use rights.

In April 2023, the Jiangsu Taicang High-tech Industrial Development Zone Administrative Commission, or Jiangsu Taicang HIDC, and Connect SZ entered into an agreement for the Jiangsu Taicang HIDC to repurchase from Connect SZ the land use rights at the original purchase price and to terminate the Land Use Agreement and the relevant provisions of the Investment Agreement. The cancellation registration of the land use rights was completed in April 2023 and the Company received the purchase price in September 2023.

We wrote off construction-in-progress assets related to our purchase of land use rights in 2021, as we terminated in 2022 our construction project to build a research and development laboratory, manufacturing facility, and administrative offices on the land with respect to which land use rights had been purchased. However, in the event that we do attempt in the future to develop additional facilities, we may incur higher costs and expenses than we would have incurred under our prior plan. We may encounter difficulties in accessing future opportunities and benefits from discretionary policies granted by governmental authorities in the PRC, which in turn would negatively affect our financial condition and results of operations.

The timing, amount and criteria of tax benefits or governmental financial incentives are determined within the sole discretion of the local government authorities and cannot be predicted with certainty before we actually receive any financial incentive. We do not have the ability to influence government authorities in making these decisions. Governmental authorities may decide to reduce or eliminate tax benefits or incentives in accordance with laws and regulations. In addition, some of the governmental tax benefits or financial incentives are granted on a project or milestone basis and subject to the satisfaction of some conditions, including compliance with the applicable investment or financial incentive agreements and completion of the specific project or milestone therein. We cannot guarantee that we will satisfy all relevant conditions, and if we fail, we may be deprived of the relevant tax benefits or incentives. We cannot assure investors of the continued or future availability of governmental tax benefits or incentives currently enjoyed by us. Any elimination or reduction of tax benefits or financial or other incentives granted to us would have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

The pharmaceutical industry in the PRC is highly regulated and such regulations are subject to change which may affect approval and commercialization of our drugs.

Most of our research and development operations and facilities are in the PRC, which we believe confers clinical, commercial and regulatory advantages. The pharmaceutical industry in the PRC is subject to comprehensive government regulation and supervision encompassing the approval, registration, manufacturing, packaging, licensing and marketing of new drugs. See Item 4. Business Overview—Government Regulation and Product Approval—PRC Regulation” for a discussion of the regulatory requirements that are applicable to our current and planned business activities in the PRC. In recent years, the regulatory framework in the PRC regarding the pharmaceutical industry has undergone significant changes, and we expect that it will continue to undergo significant changes. Any such changes or amendments may result in increased compliance costs on our business or cause delays in or prevent the successful development or commercialization of our product candidates in the PRC and reduce the current benefits we believe are available to us from developing and manufacturing product candidates in the PRC. PRC authorities have become increasingly vigilant in enforcing laws in the pharmaceutical industry and any failure by us or our partners to maintain compliance with applicable laws and regulations or obtain and maintain required licenses and permits may result in the suspension or termination of our business activities in the PRC. We believe our strategy and approach are aligned with the PRC government’s regulatory policies, but we cannot ensure that our strategy and approach will remain so aligned.

We may be restricted by industry-specific laws and regulations from transferring our scientific data outside of the PRC.

On May 28, 2019, the State Council promulgated the Regulation on the Administration of Human Genetic Resources, or the Regulation, which became effective on July 1, 2019. Under this Regulation, provision of human genetic resources materials or HGR Materials and human genetic resources information, or HGR Information, to non-PRC parties is subject to different forms of review and pre-approval. HGR Materials refers to genetic materials, such as organs, tissues or cells, which contain the human genome, genes and their products, and HGR Information refers to genetic information or data generated by using the HGR Materials. Only in order to obtain marketing authorization for relevant drugs and medical devices in the PRC and in the event without export, no approval is required in international clinical trial cooperation using the PRC’s HGR Materials and HGR Information at clinical institutions. However, the type, quantity and usage of the HGR Materials and HGR Information to be used shall be filed with the Ministry of Science and Technology, or MOST, before clinical trials. Otherwise, international cooperation in scientific research carried out by utilization of the PRC’s HGR Materials and HGR Information shall meet specified conditions, and the two cooperative parties shall jointly submit an application, which shall be approved by the MOST. In addition, delivery, mailing or carrying out of HGR Materials outside of the PRC shall be subject to the approval of the MOST, and an export certificate shall be obtained. The provision of HGR

Information to non-PRC parties or permitting uses of HGR Information by non-PRC parties requires a record filing with MOST and submission of that corresponding information's copy. If such provision or permitting uses could impact the public health, national security or public interest of the PRC, an additional security review will be conducted. In March 2024, the Regulation on the Administration of Human Genetic Resources was amended, effective from May 2024, under which the HGR approval authorities will be transferred from MOST to the NHC. Following this, the NHC will undertake review and approval processes for HGR.

If we are unable to obtain the necessary approvals or complete the necessary filing process in a timely manner, or at all, our research and development of product candidates may be hindered, which may materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial conditions and prospects. If relevant PRC governmental authorities consider the transmission of our materials, data or information to be in violation of relevant regulations, we may be subject to specific administrative penalties imposed by those government authorities, including warnings, orders to make corrections, confiscation of illegal gains as well as the HGR Materials and HGR Information illegally collected and preserved, fines of not less than one million RMB but not more than 10 million RMB (if the illegal gains are more than one million RMB, the fine shall be more than 5 times and less than 10 times the illegal gains), and temporary (1-5 years) or permanent debarment of companies, institutions and responsible persons from further human genetic resources projects, or even criminal liability.

The ability of U.S. authorities to bring actions for violations of U.S. securities law and regulations against us, our directors, executive officers or the expert named in this annual report may be limited. Therefore, investors may not be afforded the same protection as provided to investors in U.S. domestic companies.

The SEC, the U.S. Department of Justice, or the DOJ, and other U.S. authorities often have substantial difficulties in bringing and enforcing actions against non-U.S. companies such as us, and non-U.S. persons, such as our directors and officers in the PRC. Due to jurisdictional limitations, matters of comity and various other factors, the SEC, the DOJ and other U.S. authorities may be limited in their ability to pursue bad actors, including in instances of fraud, in emerging markets such as the PRC. With respect to our operations and assets in the PRC, there are significant legal and other obstacles for U.S. authorities to obtain information needed for investigations or litigation against us or our directors, executive officers or other gatekeepers in case we or any of these individuals engage in fraud or other wrongdoing. In addition, local authorities in the PRC may be constrained in their ability to assist U.S. authorities and non-PRC investors in connection with legal proceedings. As a result, if we, our directors, executive officers or other gatekeepers commit any securities law violation, fraud or other financial misconduct, the U.S. authorities may not be able to conduct effective investigations or bring and enforce actions against us, our directors, executive officers or other gatekeepers. Therefore, investors may not be able to enjoy the same protection provided by various U.S. authorities as it is provided to investors in U.S. domestic companies.

Investors may experience difficulties in effecting service of legal process, enforcing non-PRC judgments or bringing original actions in the PRC, based on United States or other non-PRC laws, against us, our directors, executive officers or the expert named in this annual report. Therefore, investors may not be able to enjoy the protection of such laws in an effective manner.

With respect to our operations and assets in the PRC, it may not be possible to effect service of process upon us, our directors and officers, including with respect to matters arising under U.S. federal securities laws or applicable state securities laws. Even if an investor obtains a judgment against us, our directors or officers, or the expert named in this annual report in a U.S. court or other court outside the PRC, an investor may not be able to enforce such judgment against us or them in the PRC. The PRC does not have treaties providing for the reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments of courts in the United States or most other western countries. Therefore, recognition and enforcement in the PRC of judgments of a court in any of these jurisdictions may be difficult or impossible. In addition, investors may not be able to bring original actions in the PRC based on the U.S. or other non-PRC laws against us, our directors or officers, or the expert named in this annual report. As a result, shareholder claims that are common in the United States, including class actions based on securities law and fraud claims, are difficult or impossible to pursue as a matter of law and practicality in the PRC.

For example, in the PRC, there are significant legal and other obstacles to obtaining information needed for shareholder investigations or litigation outside the PRC or otherwise with respect to non-PRC entities. Although the local authorities in the PRC may establish a regulatory cooperation mechanism with the securities regulatory authorities of another country or region to implement cross-border supervision and administration, such regulatory cooperation with the securities regulatory authorities in the United States have not been efficient in the absence of mutual and practical cooperation mechanism. According to Article 177 of the PRC Securities Law which became effective in March 2020, no securities regulator outside

the PRC is allowed to directly conduct investigation or evidence collection activities within the territory of the PRC. Accordingly, without the consent of the competent PRC securities regulators and relevant authorities, no organization or individual may provide the documents and materials relating to securities business activities to parties outside the PRC. While detailed interpretation of or implementation rules under Article 177 of the PRC Securities Law is not yet available, the inability for a securities regulator outside the PRC to directly conduct investigation or evidence collection activities within the PRC may further increase difficulties faced by investors in protecting the interests of investors. Therefore, investors may not be able to effectively enjoy the protection offered by the U.S. laws and regulations that are intended to protect public investors in the U.S.

Additional remedial measures could be imposed on PRC-based accounting firms, including our independent registered public accounting firm, in administrative proceedings instituted by the SEC, as a result of which our consolidated financial statements may be determined to not be in compliance with SEC requirements.

In December 2012, the SEC brought administrative proceedings against the PRC-based accounting firms, including our independent registered public accounting firm, alleging that they had violated U.S. securities laws by failing to provide audit work papers and other documents related to some other PRC-based companies under investigation by the SEC. In February 2015, each of the four PRC-based accounting firms agreed to a censure and to pay a fine to the SEC to settle the dispute and avoid suspension of their ability to practice before the SEC and to audit U.S.-listed companies. The settlement required the firms to follow detailed procedures to seek to provide the SEC with access to such firms' audit documents via the CSRC. If the firms did not follow these procedures or if there is a failure in the process between the SEC and the CSRC, the SEC could impose penalties such as suspensions, or it could restart the administrative proceedings. If our independent registered public accounting firm is subject to additional legal challenges or penalties such as suspensions, our ability to file our consolidated financial statements in compliance with SEC requirements could be impacted. A determination that we have not timely filed consolidated financial statements in compliance with SEC requirements could ultimately lead to our de-listing from Nasdaq or deregistration from the SEC, or both, which would substantially reduce or effectively terminate the trading of our ADSs in the United States.

In the event that the PRC-based accounting firms become subject to additional legal challenges by the SEC or the PCAOB depending upon the final outcome, listed companies in the United States with major PRC operations may find it difficult or impossible to retain auditors in respect of their operations in the PRC, which could result in financial statements being determined to not be in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act, including possible de-listing. Moreover, any negative news about any such future proceedings against these audit firms may cause investor uncertainty regarding PRC-based, U.S.-listed companies such as us and the market price of our ADSs may be adversely affected.

If our independent registered public accounting firm were denied, even temporarily, the ability to practice before the SEC and we were unable to timely find another registered public accounting firm to audit and issue an opinion on our consolidated financial statements, our consolidated financial statements could be determined not to be in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act. Such a determination could ultimately lead to the de-listing of our ADSs from Nasdaq or deregistration from the SEC, or both, which would substantially reduce or effectively terminate the trading of our ADSs in the United States.

General Risks

We are subject to risks arising from potential health epidemics.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic or other epidemic diseases, as well as government actions and our own policies and those of third parties to reduce the spread of COVID-19 or other epidemic diseases has negatively impacted and in the future may continue to negatively impact productivity and slow down or delay our ongoing and future clinical trials, preclinical studies and research and development activities, and have caused, and may further cause, disruptions to our supply chain and may impair our ability to execute our business development strategy. For example, enrollment of our Phase 2 clinical trial of icabelimod in patients with CD in the PRC was prematurely terminated due to challenges in recruitment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the event that government authorities were to reinstate or impose new restrictions in response to spread of the virus or variants of the virus or other epidemic diseases, our employees who currently are working onsite may no longer be able to access our facilities, and our operations may be limited or curtailed.

Any future epidemic diseases may cause disruptions that could severely impact our business, preclinical studies and clinical trials, including:

- delays in receiving authorizations from local regulatory authorities to initiate our planned clinical trials;

- delays or additional difficulties in enrolling and retaining patients in our clinical trials;
- risk that patients may withdraw from our clinical trials following enrollment as a result of contracting any health conditions or being forced to quarantine, which could adversely influence the results of a clinical trial by increasing the number of adverse events or patients lost to follow-up;
- delays or difficulties in clinical site initiation or expansion, including difficulties in recruiting clinical site investigators and clinical site staff;
- delays in clinical sites receiving the supplies and materials needed to conduct our clinical trials, including interruptions in global shipping that may affect the transport of clinical trial materials;
- changes in regulations as part of a response to epidemic diseases which may require us to change the ways in which our clinical trials are conducted, which may result in unexpected costs, or to discontinue such clinical trials altogether;
- diversion of healthcare resources away from the conduct of clinical trials, including the diversion of hospitals serving as our clinical trial sites and hospital staff supporting the conduct of our clinical trials;
- interruption of key clinical trial activities, such as clinical trial site monitoring, due to limitations on travel imposed or recommended by federal or state governments, employers and others, or interruption of clinical trial subject visits and study procedures, the occurrence of which could affect the integrity of clinical trial data;
- delays in necessary interactions with regulators, ethics committees and other agencies and contractors due to limitations in employee resources or forced furloughs of government or contractor personnel;
- interruption or delays in the operations of the FDA, the NMPA or other regulatory authorities, which may adversely affect review and approval timelines; and
- refusal of a regulatory authority to accept data from clinical trials in affected geographies outside its jurisdiction.

These and other disruptions in our operations and the global economy could negatively impact our business, operating results and financial condition.

Our clinical trials have been, and may in the future be, affected by epidemic diseases. For example, some of our clinical trial sites experienced slow-down of enrollment of new patients in clinical trials, denied access to site monitors and were otherwise impacted in some of their operations. Similarly, our ability to recruit and retain principal investigators and site staff who, as healthcare providers, may have heightened exposure to epidemic diseases, may be adversely impacted. We and our CROs have made and may, in the future, make adjustments to the operation of our trials in an effort to ensure the monitoring and safety of patients and minimize risks to trial integrity during the pandemic, which could delay our clinical trials, increase the cost of completing our clinical trials and may negatively impact the integrity, reliability or robustness of the data from our clinical trials.

In addition, quarantines, shelter-in-place and similar government orders related to epidemic or infectious diseases, or the perception that such orders, shutdowns or other restrictions on the conduct of business operations could occur, could adversely affect personnel at third-party manufacturing facilities upon which we rely, or the availability or cost of materials, which could disrupt the supply chain for our product candidates. To the extent our suppliers and service providers are unable to comply with their obligations under our agreements with them or they are otherwise unable to deliver or are delayed in delivering goods and services to us due to epidemic diseases, our ability to continue meeting clinical supply demand for our product candidates or otherwise advancing development of our product candidates may become impaired.

Inflationary pressures and persistently high prices and uncertain availability of raw materials or other inputs used by our suppliers, or instability in logistics and related costs, could negatively impact our operation, preclinical studies and clinical trials.

Increases in prices, including as a result of inflation and rising interest rates, for raw materials or other inputs that our suppliers use, or increases in logistics and related costs, have led and may continue to lead to higher operation costs for us. In addition, any increase in the cost, or reduced availability, of critical materials for our suppliers could lead to higher costs for our preclinical studies and clinical trials and impede our ability to successfully reach the safety and efficacy results of our product candidates. Further, increasing global demand for, and uncertain supply of, such materials could disrupt our or our suppliers' ability to obtain such materials in a timely manner and/or could lead to increased costs. Geopolitical risk, fluctuations in supply and demand, fluctuations in interest rates, fluctuations in exchange rates, and other economic and

political factors have created and may continue to create pricing pressure for raw materials and other inputs. These inflationary pressures could, in turn, negatively impact our operation and business.

We or the third parties upon whom we depend may be adversely affected by earthquakes, fires or other natural disasters and our business continuity and disaster recovery plans may not adequately protect us from a serious disaster.

Our facilities are located in San Diego, California, and Taicang, Suzhou, PRC, which are areas that have experienced earthquakes. If earthquakes, fires, other natural disasters, terrorism and similar unforeseen events beyond our control prevented us from using all or a significant portion of our facilities, it may be difficult or, in certain cases, impossible for us to continue our business for a substantial period of time. We do not have a disaster recovery or business continuity plan in place and may incur substantial expenses as a result of the absence or limited nature of our internal or third-party service provider disaster recovery and business continuity plans, which, particularly when taken together with our lack of earthquake insurance, could have a material adverse effect on our business. Furthermore, some parties in our supply chain may be operating from single sites, increasing their vulnerability to natural disasters or other sudden, unforeseen and severe adverse events. If such an event were to affect our supply chain, it could have a material adverse effect on our ability to conduct our clinical trials, our development plans and business.

If we fail to comply with environmental, health and safety laws and regulations, we could become subject to fines or penalties or incur costs that could have a material adverse effect on the success of our business.

We are subject to numerous environmental, health and safety laws and regulations, including those governing laboratory procedures and the handling, use, storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes. Each of our operations involve the use and production of hazardous and flammable materials, including chemicals and biological materials. We generally contract with third parties for the disposal of these materials and wastes. We cannot eliminate the risk of contamination or injury from these materials. We could be held liable for any resulting damages in the event of contamination or injury resulting from the use of hazardous materials by us or the third parties with whom we share our facilities, and any liability could exceed our resources. We also could incur significant costs associated with civil or criminal fines and penalties.

We may incur costs and expenses due to injuries to our employees resulting from the use of hazardous materials. We do not maintain insurance for environmental liability or toxic tort claims that may be asserted against us in connection with our storage or disposal of hazardous materials.

In addition, we may incur substantial costs in order to comply with current or future environmental, health and safety laws and regulations. These current or future laws and regulations may impair our research and development. Failure to comply with these laws and regulations also may result in substantial fines, penalties or other sanctions.

ITEM 4. INFORMATION ON THE COMPANY.

A. History and Development of the Company

General Information

We were incorporated in November 2015 as a Cayman Islands exempted company incorporated with limited liability and our affairs are governed by our memorandum and articles of association, as amended from time to time, the Companies Act (As Revised) of the Cayman Islands and the common law of the Cayman Islands. Our legal name is Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited, and our commercial name is Connect Biopharma. Prior to this, our business was conducted by Suzhou Connect Biopharma Co., Ltd., or Connect SZ, which was incorporated in May 2012 in Suzhou in the PRC. Our registered office in the Cayman Islands is at the offices of Maples Corporate Services Limited at PO Box 309, Ugland House, Grand Cayman, KY1-1104, Cayman Islands. Our principal executive office is located in the United States at 12265 El Camino Real, Suite 350, San Diego, California 92130. We have appointed Connect Biopharm LLC, at 12265 El Camino Real, Suite 350, San Diego, California 92130, as our agent upon whom process may be served in any action brought against us in the United States. Our PRC research, development and administration facility is located at Science and Technology Park, East R&D Building, 3rd Floor, 6 Beijing West Road, Taicang, Jiangsu, China 215400. Our website address is www.connectbiopharm.com. The information contained on, or accessible through, our website does not constitute a part of this annual report. We have included our website address in this annual report solely as an inactive textual reference. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC at www.sec.gov.

We are a holding company, and we may rely on dividends and other distributions on equity paid by our subsidiaries for our cash and financing requirements, including the funds necessary to pay dividends and other cash distributions to our shareholders or holders of our ADSs or to service any debt we may incur. If any of our subsidiaries incurs debt on its own behalf in the future, the instruments governing such debt may restrict its ability to pay dividends to us. To date, there have not been any such dividends or other distributions from our subsidiaries. In addition, none of our subsidiaries have ever issued any dividends or distributions to us or to U.S. investors. In the future, cash proceeds raised from financing activities outside of the PRC may be transferred by us to our subsidiaries via capital contribution or shareholder loans, as the case may be.

The Company's internal cash transfer practices are supported by documented analysis and approvals. Specifically, the policies are supported by quarterly, in some cases, monthly, evaluation of liquid cash requirements to support each subsidiary's operations and net working capital requirements. The evaluations include reviewing the contracts with our approved vendors, estimates of goods and services and related upcoming payments, and other internal cash requirements. The analysis is followed by documented review and internal cash transfer approval by members of management. Where any transfers require registration with foreign exchange agencies, additional documentation and procedures are performed to register such transfers before completing the transfer process.

Under PRC laws and regulations, there are restrictions on the Company's PRC subsidiaries with respect to transferring some of their net assets to the Company either in the form of dividends, loans, or advances. Restricted net assets including paid-in capital and statutory reserve funds of the Company's PRC subsidiaries was RMB 85.3 million (USD 31.8 million translated from renminbi to U.S. dollars at RMB 7.0827 to US\$1.00, representing the exchange rate as of December 31, 2023 set forth in the China Foreign Exchange Trade System) as of December 31, 2023 and RMB 221.5 million (USD 31.8 million translated from renminbi to U.S. dollars at RMB 6.9646 to US\$1.00, representing the exchange rate as of December 31, 2022 set forth in the China Foreign Exchange Trade System) as of December 31, 2022.

For a description of our principal capital expenditures and divestitures for the three years ended December 31, 2023 and for those currently in progress, see Item 5. "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects."

Corporate Establishment

- In May 2012, Connect SZ was incorporated as a limited liability under the laws of the PRC. At such time, Connect SZ held 100% of the equity interests of Connect Biopharm LLC, or Connect US, a single member LLC organized under the laws of the State of California. Connect US commenced its operations in January 2012.
- In July 2014, Connect Biopharma Australia PTY LTD, or Connect AU, was formed as a limited liability company incorporated under the laws of Australia.
- In October 2015, Connect Biopharma (Shanghai) Co., Ltd., or Connect SH, was formed as a limited liability company incorporated under the laws of the PRC.
- In November 2015, Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited was formed as a Cayman Islands exempted company with limited liability, and in December 2015, Connect HK was formed as a limited liability company under the laws of Hong Kong. Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited and Connect HK were formed for the purpose of effecting the reorganization described below as holding companies for the majority shareholders of Connect SZ.
- Connect Biopharma (Beijing) Co., Ltd., or Connect BJ, was formed subsequent to the reorganization and restructuring described below in July 2019 as a limited liability company incorporated under the laws of the PRC.
- In November, 2021, Connect Biopharma (Shenzhen), Co. Ltd., or Connect SE, was formed as a limited liability company incorporated under the laws of the PRC.

The Reorganization and the Restructuring

- In January 2016, the Company and its subsidiaries underwent a reorganization, or the Reorganization, pursuant to which Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited issued ordinary shares to Dr. Wei and Dr. Pan, each of whom were founders of the company group, in exchange for their equity interests held in Connect SZ. As a result of issuance of the ordinary shares, Dr. Wei and Dr. Pan held 100% of the equity interests in the Company and Connect HK and retained joint control over the Company and its subsidiaries.
- Following the issuance of equity interests in the Company to Dr. Wei and Dr. Pan, the remaining 30% of the equity interests in Connect SZ were held by an existing investor. These interests are referred to as the Non-Controlling Interests.
- In October 2018, we underwent a restructuring, pursuant to which we transferred 100% of the outstanding shares of our subsidiaries Connect US and Connect AU (which were then held by Connect SZ) to Connect HK.

Following such transfer, Connect US and Connect AU become wholly owned subsidiaries of Connect HK. Also in October 2018, we issued ordinary shares of Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited to the holders of Non-Controlling Interests in Connect SZ in exchange for such Non-Controlling Interests and Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited issued Series Pre-A convertible preferred shares, par value \$0.0001 per share, or the Series Pre-A Preferred Shares, and Series A convertible preferred shares, par value \$0.0001 per share, or the Series A Preferred Shares, to the preferred shareholders of Connect SZ as consideration for the same equity interests they held in Connect SZ, respectively. Following these transactions, the shareholders of Connect SZ became shareholders of our company and Connect SZ became a wholly owned subsidiary of Connect HK. We refer to the 2018 events described above as the Restructuring.

- Connect SZ continues to hold 100% of the equity interest in Connect SH, Connect BJ and Connect SE.

Following the Reorganization and the Restructuring, each as described above, Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited became the ultimate parent of the Company and all its subsidiaries. On March 23, 2021, we completed our initial public offering, or IPO, for a total cash consideration of USD 219.9 million, before netting underwriting discounts and commissions of USD 15.4 million.

B. Business Overview

We are a global clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing therapies for the treatment of T cell-driven inflammatory diseases. Our goal is to build a rich pipeline of internally designed, wholly owned small molecules and antibodies targeting other aspects of T cell biology. Our core expertise is in the use of functional cellular assays with T cells to screen and discover potent product candidates against immune targets.

Our two most advanced clinical-stage programs include highly differentiated product candidates against validated targets. Our lead product candidate, rademikibart, is an antibody designed to target interleukin-4 receptor alpha, or IL-4R α , which is a validated target for the treatment of inflammatory diseases such as atopic dermatitis, or AD, and asthma. The estimated global market for AD was approximately \$8.5 billion in 2022 and is expected to grow to \$23.2 billion by 2028, with a compound annual growth rate, or CAGR, of 18.2%. The estimated global market for asthma was approximately \$8.8 billion in 2022 and is expected to exceed \$12.0 billion by 2028, a CAGR of 6.0%. Based on observed results in preclinical studies and clinical trials, rademikibart has the potential to be differentiated from the previously approved IL-4Ra antibody. We recently completed a pivotal trial in moderate-to-severe AD patients in the PRC, in which primary and key secondary endpoints were met in Stage 1 of the trial, followed by consistent efficacy results demonstrated during the Stage 2 maintenance portion of the trial. We also recently completed a global Phase 2b trial evaluating rademikibart in Type 2 inflammatory asthma, in which primary and key secondary endpoints were met. We are evaluating the initiation of a global Phase 3 program in adult patients with moderate-to-severe AD or moderate-to-severe asthma. Furthermore, we are developing icanelimod, a modulator of a T cell receptor known as sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 1, or S1P1, for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, or IBD. Specifically, we are developing icanelimod for ulcerative colitis, or UC, in the context of seeking out-licensing partnerships.

Our immune modulator product candidates originate from our approach to drug discovery based on using biologically relevant functional cellular assays to conduct primary drug screens instead of high-throughput biochemical assays. The clinical and preclinical results we have observed for our product candidates support the potential for this physiologically relevant methodology to yield highly differentiated solutions, in a more efficient manner. Our approach is agnostic to drug modalities and has been used to identify both small molecule and antibody product candidates.

We are advancing rademikibart, an investigational anti-IL-4R α antibody, for the treatment of inflammatory diseases such as AD and asthma. Inhibition of IL-4R α blocks the action of two inflammatory cytokines: interleukin-4, or IL-4, and interleukin-13, or IL-13. In a randomized, placebo-controlled Phase 1a trial in healthy volunteers, administration of a single dose of rademikibart was well-tolerated and led to suppression of a serum biomarker of inflammation. In both our randomized, double-blinded placebo-controlled global Phase 2b trial completed in adult AD patients in 2022, and a randomized, double-blinded placebo-controlled China pivotal trial completed in adult AD patients in 2023, we observed significant improvements in primary and key secondary endpoints on skin clearance, disease severity, and itch, and rademikibart was generally well-tolerated. Although no head-to-head trials have been conducted, and data from unrelated clinical trials cannot reliably be compared due to differences in trial designs, site locations, subject characteristics and other factors, we believe that rademikibart has three potential advantages over the current standard of care: (1) in Stage 2 of the China pivotal trial in adult AD patients, we saw a more durable long-term clinical response for patients compared to third-party clinical response data reported for other biologics, including with respect to percentage of patients that maintained skin clearance and reduction of disease severity over a one-year period, (2) in our global Ph2b trial in moderate-to-severe adult asthma patients, we saw a more positive efficacy outcomes in terms of lung function improvement and faster onset of relief compared to certain third-party clinical response data reported for other biologics; and (3) a more convenient

proposed dosing regimen in adult patients with moderate to severe AD, as evidenced by both our recent China pivotal trial and our global Phase 2b trial data showing positive results with our Q4W (300 mg dose every four weeks) dose, which is a less frequent dosing schedule than the Q2W (300 mg dose every two weeks) dose for adult and adolescent patients with moderate to severe AD and asthma.

Icanbelimod is an investigational, oral small molecule modulator of S1P1, a regulator of T cell mobilization out of lymph nodes into the periphery. Inhibiting S1P1 leads to reduction in the levels of these T cells in circulation and a reduction in autoimmune-related inflammation. S1P1 is a validated therapeutic target with three drugs approved to treat multiple sclerosis: fingolimod, marketed as Gilenya® by Novartis, siponimod, marketed as Mayzent® by Novartis, and ozanimod, marketed as Zeposia®, by Bristol Myers Squibb. Evidence from third-party clinical trials suggests that the potential of S1P1 modulators is far broader than multiple sclerosis and includes highly prevalent diseases with high unmet need such as UC, and Zeposia received approval for the treatment of adults with moderately to severely active UC from the FDA and EMA in 2021. The estimated global market for UC was approximately \$5.9 billion in 2021 and expected to exceed \$11.0 billion in 2028, a CAGR of 9.3%. We believe that icanbelimod is well-positioned to potentially address these diseases due to the potency, specificity and pharmacokinetics observed in our preclinical studies and clinical trials. We have completed a global Phase 2 trial in UC and reported both top-line results for the induction period in 2022 and long-term results of the maintenance period in 2023. The results showed icanbelimod significantly improved measures of disease severity during the induction period, sustained that the observed improvement clinical remission during the maintenance period, and was generally well-tolerated. The Company is actively seeking to out-license icanbelimod for future trials in UC and CD to capitalize on its potential to address patients with UC and CD.

Our Pipeline

Connect Biopharma Has Global Development & Commercialization Rights to All Product Candidates

	INDICATION	DISCOVERY/ PRECLINICAL	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PIVOTAL OR PHASE 3	STATUS/ANTICIPATED MILESTONES
Rademikibart: anti-IL-4Rα mAb (Th2 cell modulator)	Atopic Dermatitis (AD) - China ^a					Commercial partner Simcere having ongoing regulatory discussions with CDE ^b ; Update expected as early as Q2'24
	Atopic Dermatitis (AD) - Global					FDA Type C meeting in Q2'24
	Asthma - Global					Positive global Ph2b trial data; FDA EoP2 meeting in Q2'24
Icanbelimod: Small molecule targeting S1P1 (Th1 cell modulator)	Ulcerative Colitis (UC) - Global					Positive UC maintenance data reported; Seeking partnership to advance into future trials for both indications
	Crohn's Disease (CD) ^b - Global					

- a Simcere, our partner in Greater China who holds responsibility for future development and NDA submission, is progressing its regulatory discussion with the Center for Drug Evaluation of China's National Medical Products Administration, or CDE, ahead of a planned NDA filing for rademikibart for patients with AD. We expect to receive an update from Simcere as early as the second quarter of 2024 on these next steps.
- b Phase 2 CD trial ended early due to COVID-19-related enrollment challenges.

Our Strategy

Our goal is to become a global biopharmaceutical company developing and commercializing therapies for patients suffering from inflammatory diseases. Our strategy to achieve this goal is as follows:

- **Discover and develop product candidates targeting inflammatory diseases with significant unmet medical need.** We specialize in designing and developing product candidates that modulate the immune system, with a particular focus on T cells. By leveraging our internal expertise and unique insights in therapeutic targeting of the immune system, our goal is to identify highly differentiated, potentially best-in-class product candidates against validated targets as well as potential first-in-class molecules against novel targets. We will continue to focus on the discovery and development of product candidates targeting inflammatory diseases with significant unmet medical need and affecting millions of patients worldwide.

- **Continue development of our three most advanced product candidates where feasible.** We believe rademikibart and icanelimod each have the potential to provide significant therapeutic benefit to patients suffering from inflammatory disorders, such as AD, IBD, and asthma. We plan to advance these product candidates where feasible into and through clinical trials in the indications currently being investigated. In addition, we plan to expand the development of our product candidates into other indications.
- **Seek partnerships with commercial-stage companies to leverage their marketing, manufacturing, and clinical infrastructures.** For large disease indications like AD or asthma, significant capital and resources are required to complete registration-level clinical studies for regulatory approval and successfully bring them to market. We have entered into a commercial partnership with Simcere Licensee with respect to rademikibart in Greater China and we plan to seek high-value collaborative partnerships in which we can leverage the commercial infrastructure and strength of global partners and regional partners in select territories.
- **Advance our earlier stage programs and continue to invest in R&D to expand and enhance our pipeline.** We are continuing to expand our pipeline of product candidates by applying our expertise in immunology to select targets, design assays, and execute preclinical drug discovery programs.
- **Leverage our core strengths in the United States and the PRC and expand our operations globally.** We currently have operations in the United States, the PRC, Australia, Europe, and Hong Kong. Globally, we leverage our relationships with clinical research organizations, large patient population and local infrastructure in ways that we believe provide us with a competitive advantage. In addition, we plan to leverage our expertise and relationships regarding drug development in the United States and the PRC.

Dysregulation of T Cells in Inflammatory Diseases

T cells are a type of lymphocyte, or white blood cell, responsible for controlling and shaping the immune response to foreign substances such as pathogens and allergens. Dysregulation of T cells often leads to the development of multiple diseases related to autoimmunity and inflammation. These diseases include respiratory diseases such as asthma, dermatological diseases such as AD, gastrointestinal diseases such as IBD and neurodegenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis. As understanding of the details of T cell biology has evolved over the last two decades, a number of targeted drugs have been developed for these diseases that directly modulate T cell biology.

A subclass of T cells called T helper cells assists in determining the appropriate immune response based on the nature of the attack on the body. T helper cells themselves belong to two major subcategories, leading to two types of immune responses known as Th1 and Th2 immune responses.

Broadly speaking, Th1 immune responses are pro-inflammatory in nature. When the body needs to respond to pathogens inside the cell, it triggers a Th1 response. Dysregulation of this Th1 response is also associated with pathologies such as autoimmune diseases, including multiple sclerosis, psoriasis and IBD. In those cases, the body reacts to a part of itself as if it is a threat, and the inflammation that results is part of the Th1 response. Therapies that interfere with Th1 signaling include glucocorticoids, inhibitors of TNF α and inhibitors of interleukin 12 and interleukin 23, or IL-12/IL-23. These therapies have been approved to treat multiple diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and IBD.

Th2 immune responses help the body attack extracellular pathogens and drive allergic reactions. Diseases caused by Th2 dysregulation include asthma, AD and allergies. The previously approved IL-4Ra antibody blocks the activity of Th2 cytokines by inhibiting IL-4 and IL-13 and has been approved to treat AD and asthma.

Previously approved modulators of the Th1 and Th2 immune responses have illustrated both the broad therapeutic potential and the sizeable commercial market associated with targeted T cell therapies. We believe, however, that there exist multiple opportunities to develop next-generation therapeutics directed against clinically validated as well as novel targets that regulate Th1 and Th2 immune responses.

Our Approach

Our differentiated approach is designed to specifically identify product candidates based on our deep understanding of the immune system, particularly T cell biology, and ability to develop sophisticated functional assays using T cells. In contrast to traditional drug discovery approaches, which often begin with high throughput screening based on biochemical properties, we directly screen our molecules with these functional assays. We believe our approach leads to more rapid identification of relevant molecules and avoids the elimination of attractive molecules that could fail to advance through traditional screening assays.

We apply our approach to develop product candidates against targets in T cell modulation related to inflammatory diseases with large unmet need. Our goal is to produce first-in-class or best-in-class product candidates to address these targets.

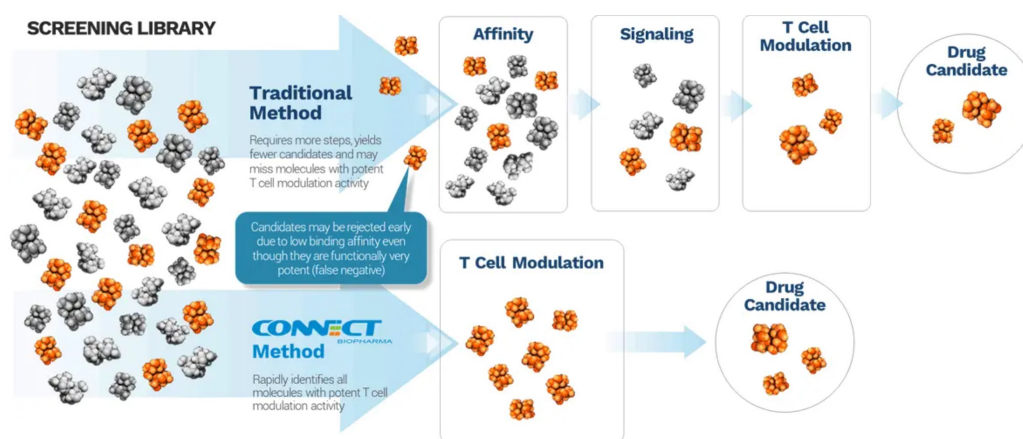


Figure 1. Our drug screening approach

Our Product Candidates

Rademikibart, an Anti-IL-4R α Antibody

We are advancing rademikibart, an investigational, an anti-IL-4R α antibody, for the treatment of inflammatory allergic diseases such as AD and asthma. Inhibition of IL-4R α blocks the action of two inflammatory cytokines: IL-4 and IL-13. The previously approved antibody that also targets IL-4R α has been demonstrated to lead to significant therapeutic benefit in patients with these diseases. Despite being on the market for only seven years, sales of such antibody were over €10.7 billion in 2023, representing +34% growth over 2022 and are expected to grow to over €13 billion in 2024 with compounded annual growth rates of low double-digits until 2030 according to estimates made by the maker of the previously approved IL-4R α antibody.

Atopic dermatitis disease overview

Atopic dermatitis, or AD, also referred to as eczema, is one of the most commonly diagnosed chronic inflammatory skin disease characterized by skin barrier disruption and immune dysregulation. Chronically inflamed skin lesions cause persistent itch, which is the primary symptom associated with the disease, as well as localized pain and sleep disturbances. According to the National Eczema Association, 26.1 million people in the United States have AD. Of these, 6.6 million adults have moderate-to-severe disease. Globally, prevalence of AD is increasing and, as of 2018, had an estimated lifetime prevalence of up to 20%. In the PRC, the prevalence of clinically diagnosed AD in children aged one to seven is estimated to be approximately 13% as of 2016. Although AD prevalence is stabilizing in high-income nations, it has historically increased two- to three-fold in industrialized nations since the 1970s. The estimated global market for AD was approximately \$8.5 billion in 2022 and is expected to grow to \$23.2 billion by 2028, a compound annual growth rate, or CAGR, of 18.2%.

Topical anti-inflammatory agents, such as corticosteroids and calcineurin inhibitors, are routinely used to manage skin health and to reduce skin inflammation in patients with mild-to-moderate AD. Patients whose disease flares despite topical treatments may be prescribed systemic agents such as oral corticosteroids or oral cyclosporine to rapidly relieve severe signs and symptoms of the disease. While these are effective as temporary treatments of flare-ups, extended use has been associated with many potential side effects or adverse events. Systemic steroids, such as prednisone, can lead to symptom relief but their use is not recommended to induce stable remission due to numerous side effects associated with steroids and the propensity of severe disease flares upon abrupt treatment cessation. Cyclosporine is also generally not recommended for use lasting longer than one to two years, as it has been associated with renal toxicity, hirsutism, nausea and lymphoma. Based on data from the 2014 Adelphi US AD Disease Specific Program over 58% of adults with moderate-to-severe AD have disease which physicians consider to be inadequately controlled by these therapeutic modalities.

To address the shortcomings of traditional therapies for AD, specific biologic targets implicated in the pathogenesis of AD have been explored, a key focus of which has been interleukin-4, or IL-4 and interleukin-13, or IL-13. IL-4 production leads to increased levels of immunoglobulin E, or IgE, and eosinophils in the peripheral blood and tissue. IL-13 is a Th2-related cytokine that affects B cells and monocytes thereby regulating inflammatory and immune responses. Both cytokines exert their effects via IL-4R α , which is expressed on the surface of T cells, B cells and macrophages amongst others and is involved in activation of the inflammatory immune response to allergens. IL-4R α can form a heterodimer with the IL-13 receptor, or IL-13Ra, and can thus be activated by binding of either IL-4 or IL-13. IL-4 and IL-13 have redundant activities and both serve as the main drivers of allergic inflammation in the body. Activation of IL-4R α leads to cytokine production, macrophage activation, IgE production by B cells, mucus production by airway epithelial cells, and dermal inflammation and remodeling.

The global market opportunity for asthma biologics is growing rapidly, with a total market size of approximately \$8.8 billion in 2022 and projected growth to \$12.0 billion by 2028, a CAGR of 6.0%.

Despite the impressive results of the previously approved IL-4Ra antibody, a significant number of patients treated with such antibody continue to have significant active uncontrolled disease. For instance, third-party clinical response data indicates that up to 60% of patients do not achieve sufficient control of disease. Further, even for patients that respond to treatment with such antibody, it can take 12 to 16 weeks to achieve adequate control. Lastly, such antibody is not approved for dosing less frequently than every two weeks for adults or adolescents.

Our solution, rademikibart

Rademikibart is an investigational, human monoclonal antibody targeting IL-4R α . As an inhibitor of IL-4R α , rademikibart blocks inflammatory signaling by both IL-4 and IL-13. Rademikibart binds to a region of IL-4R α that is associated with high binding affinity and potency for IL-4R α , which we believe may lead to improved clinical response. Our clinical development program is focused on the potential of rademikibart in the degree of clinical response and with less frequent dosing.

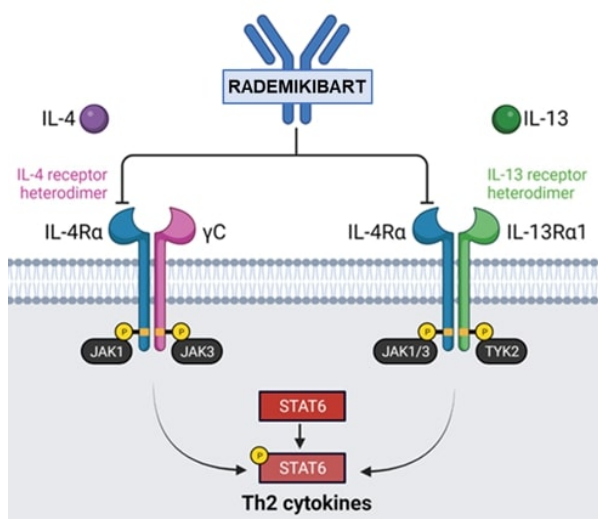


Figure 2. rademikibart is an anti-IL-1Ra antibody designed to block the signaling of both IL-4 and IL-13.

Completed clinical trials

We have completed a global Phase 2b trial of rademikibart in adult patients with moderate-to-severe AD, that was conducted in 59 trial sites across the United States, the PRC, Australia and New Zealand, and was designed to assess efficacy, safety, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics with longer term, alternate dosing schedules (rademikibart WW001). All primary and key secondary endpoints were met and rademikibart was observed to be generally well-tolerated.

Key inclusion criteria for the WW001 trial were moderate-to-severe AD adult patients that were inadequately controlled with topical corticosteroids and calcineurin inhibitors, AD duration of at least one year, an EASI score of at least 16, and IGA score of at least 3 and at least 10% BSA involvement. This trial enrolled a total of 226 patients across three cohorts of rademikibart and a placebo control. The first cohort received one loading dose of 600 mg of rademikibart followed by 150 mg every two weeks (Q2W). The second cohort received one loading dose of 600 mg, then 300 mg Q2W. The third rademikibart cohort received one loading dose of 600 mg followed by 300 mg every four weeks (Q4W). All patients were dosed for a total of 16 weeks followed by an 8 week safety follow-up period. The primary endpoint was the percentage change in EASI from baseline to week 16. Key secondary endpoints included the proportion of patients achieving IGA 0,1, EASI-75, EASI-90 and the change in PNRS from baseline to week 16.

The results from the WW001 trial detailing the primary and key secondary endpoints included the following:

- Rademikibart successfully met both primary and key secondary endpoints, demonstrating significant improvements in skin clearance, disease severity and itch, compared to placebo, and suggesting a potential dose response between rademikibart 300mg and rademikibart 150mg.
- Rademikibart was generally well tolerated, with a similar incidence of Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events, or TEAEs, Serious Adverse Events, or SAEs and TEAEs leading to study drug discontinuation between the active and placebo arms. For AEs of special interest, or AESIs, among patients receiving rademikibart, there were low reported incidences of injection site reactions (1.8%) and conjunctivitis (3.5%).
- The WW001 trial occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic and the patient population recruited had a markedly lower AD disease severity and higher patient discontinuation rate relative to previous third-party IL-4R α antibody Phase 3 trials. We believe these factors contributed to a higher placebo response rate and lower active group response rate in our trial than observed in third-party trials with a higher baseline disease severity and fewer patient discontinuations. As such, we conducted post-hoc analyses from the trial to evaluate the effects of these factors on the magnitude of the efficacy results observed with rademikibart. These analyses demonstrated that with an increasing baseline disease severity, rademikibart efficacy results improved across all doses, with placebo responses trending lower, supporting our plans for further development of rademikibart 300mg administered Q2W and also when administered Q4W.

Additionally, we reported that post-hoc data analysis from our Phase 2b rademikibart global trial in moderate-to-severe AD showed that rademikibart led to rapid and sustained improvement in AD signs and symptoms across all four body regions: head and neck, trunk, upper limbs and lower limbs, with both 2-week and 4-week dosing regimens, compared to placebo, as early as Week 2 and continuing through the 16-week study. Results of the post-hoc analysis expanded our original observation of the study.

Specifically, EASI subscores improved in all four body regions across 16 weeks of treatment. Furthermore, improvements between 300 mg Q2W and Q4W were comparable. At Week 2, EASI decreased by -26.3% (head/neck), -26.4% (trunk), -21.6% (upper limbs) and -23.2% (lower limbs) for patients on rademikibart 300 mg Q4W treatment vs -9.5% to -15.7% with placebo. At Week 16, EASI decreased further to -69.2% (head and neck), -72.1% (trunk), -64.2% (upper limbs) and -68.5% (lower limbs) vs -21.2% to -49.1% with placebo ($p < 0.01$ per region). In addition to overall AD improvement across all four body regions, improvement for each classification of AD symptoms (signs) was observed: erythema, induration/papulation, lichenification and excoriation, within each body region. Specifically in the head and neck region, patients dosed with 300 mg Q4W saw decreases of -61.2% (erythema), -72.3% (lichenification), -77.7% (excoriation), and -74.3% (induration) Q4W vs -24.7% to -40.2% with placebo. Other regions show similar patterns and responses on reductions in AD signs.

We have also completed in the second half of 2023, CN002, a PRC-specific pivotal trial to evaluate rademikibart in 330 adult patients with moderate-to-severe AD. The results from the 16-week Stage 1 portion of the trial detailing the primary and key secondary endpoints included the following:

- Rademikibart, administered with a 600 mg rademikibart loading dose, followed by 300 mg rademikibart every two weeks, successfully met both primary and key secondary endpoints, demonstrating significant improvements in skin clearance, disease severity and itch, compared to placebo. The primary endpoint was IGA 0,1 with at least two grades of reduction compared to baseline at Week 16, and key secondary endpoints included the proportion of patients achieving EASI-50, EASI-75, EASI-90 from baseline to week 16.
- Rademikibart was generally well-tolerated, with a similar incidence of TEAEs, SAEs and TEAEs leading to study drug discontinuation between the active and placebo arms. For AESIs among patients receiving rademikibart, there were low reported incidences of injection site reactions 6.5% and conjunctivitis 4.7%.

- Rademikibart, administered with a 600 mg rademikibart loading dose, followed by 300 mg rademikibart every two weeks showed rapid relief from symptoms, with a reduction in itch at Week 1 and significant improvement in all study endpoints by Week 4, which was sustained to Week 16. Specifically, the baseline median EASI was 29.3. 54.8% of patients were considered severe, with a baseline IGA score of 4. At 16 weeks, a greater proportion of patients treated with rademikibart achieved an IGA score of 0-1 (clear or almost clear skin) and a ≥ 2 point IGA reduction than those on placebo (29.0% vs. 5.9%), meeting the study's primary endpoint (see Figure 3). 58.6% percent of rademikibart patients achieved a 75% skin clearance (EASI-75), versus 22.6% in the placebo group (see Figure 4).

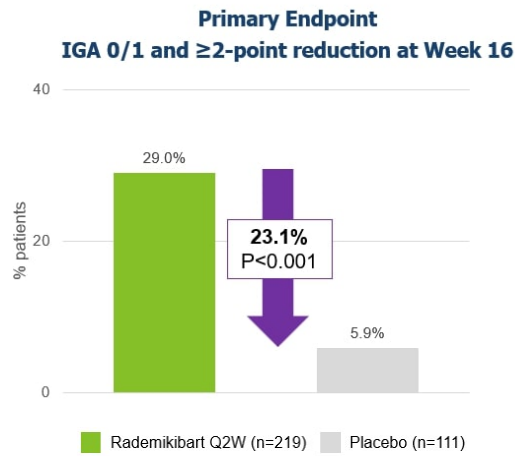


Figure 3. Primary Endpoint at Week 16

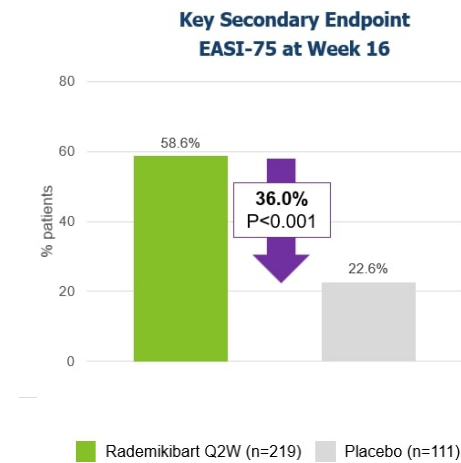


Figure 4. EASI-75 Endpoint at Week 16

The 36-week Stage 2 portion of the trial consisted of randomizing 225 EASI-50 responders with either a 300 mg dose administered every four weeks or a 300 mg dose administered every two weeks. The key results from the Stage 2 maintenance portion of the trial included the following:

- 52-week maintenance data with rademikibart were positive for both Q2W and Q4W dosing regimens.
- 87% of patients maintained their IGA 0/1 responses with Q4W dosing while 76% maintained their IGA 0/1 response with Q2W dosing (see Figure 5).
- Greater than 90% of patients maintained their EASI-75 response with Q4W and Q2W dosing (see Figure 6).
- Rademikibart treatment after Week 16 continued to improve upon Week 16 efficacy results:
 - ~30% more patients achieved IGA 0/1 after Week 16
 - ~16% more patients achieved EASI-75 after Week 16

- Rademikibart was generally well tolerated, with no new safety signals following long-term treatment out to 52 weeks

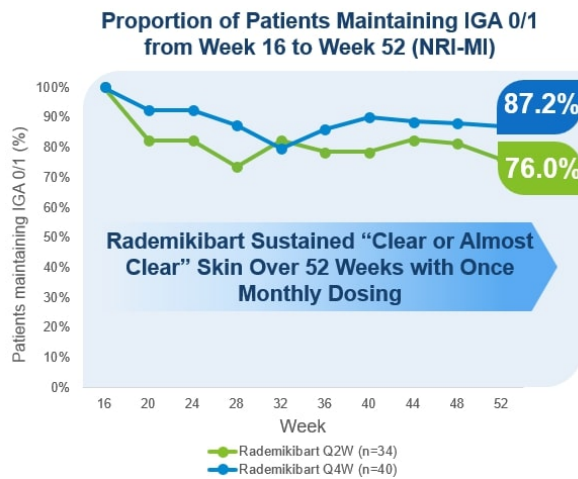


Figure 5. Long-term maintenance of IGA 0/1

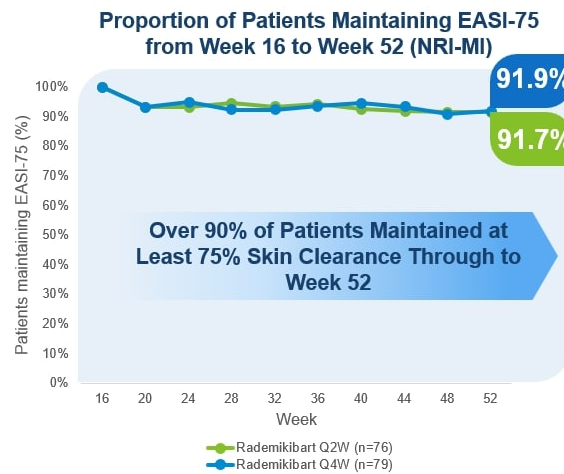


Figure 6. Long-term maintenance of EASI-75

The Company entered into a commercial partnership with Sincere Licensee in 2023. Under the terms of the partnership, Sincere Licensee is responsible for all regulatory filings for rademikibart in the Greater China territory, including submission of an NDA to the CDE of NMPA in China seeking an approval of rademikibart in the treatment of moderate-to-severe AD.

We also completed in the second half of 2023 a Phase 2b trial, rademikibart WW002, evaluating rademikibart in patients with moderate-to-severe asthma with Type 2 inflammation.

This Phase 2b trial was a global, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study conducted in 79 sites in the U.S., Poland, Hungary, China and South Korea with 322 patients randomized 1:1:1 to rademikibart 150 mg Q2W with a loading dose of 600 mg, rademikibart 300 mg Q2W with a loading dose of 600 mg and placebo. Rademikibart was administered as a subcutaneous (SC) injection. The study was divided into a treatment period of 24 weeks and a follow-up period of 8 weeks. The primary endpoint of the study was a change from baseline in forced expiratory volume at week 12. Secondary endpoints included: change from baseline in lung function at other timepoints, exacerbation of asthma, patient reported outcomes (ACQ-6, symptom diary), pharmacodynamic markers (fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FENO), eosinophils, eosinophil cationic protein (ECP), periostin, thymus and activation-regulated chemokine (TARC)) and use of rescue medication. The topline results of this trial included:

- The trial met its primary endpoint of absolute change from baseline in prebronchodilator forced expiratory volume over one second (FEV₁) showing that at Week 12, lung function was significantly improved over placebo change from baseline by 140 ml (p = 0.005) in the rademikibart 150 mg group and by 189 ml (p < 0.001) in the rademikibart 300 mg group (see Figure 7).
- The significant improvements seen compared to placebo with both 150 mg and 300 mg rademikibart started as early as Week 1 (p < 0.001) and were sustained through 24 weeks of treatment (p < 0.001). See Figure 8.
- Strong and significantly improvement in asthma control, a patient reported outcome, was also observed. The absolute placebo-adjusted changes from baseline in Asthma Control Questionnaire (ACQ-6) score at Week 24 were -0.33 (p < 0.01) in the rademikibart 300 mg group and -0.44 (p < 0.001) in the rademikibart 150 mg group.
- Although the study was not powered to detect statistically significant differences in exacerbations, treatment with rademikibart showed strong numerical results favoring reduced exacerbations and prolonged time to first exacerbation
- Treatment with 150 mg and 300 mg Q2W of rademikibart was well tolerated.

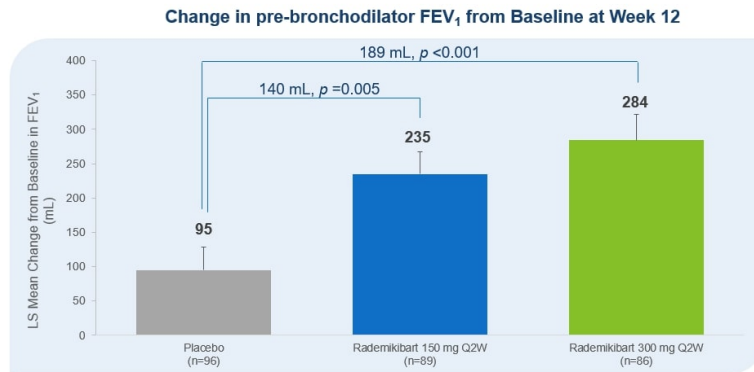


Figure 7. Primary endpoint (FEV₁) results at Week 12

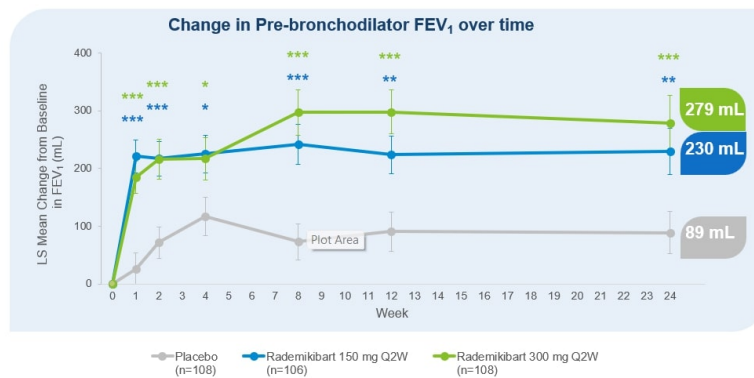


Figure 8. Change in FEV₁ over time indicating onset of relief at Week 1

Planned clinical trials

Based on the successful results from both the global Phase 2b trial in moderate-to-severe AD adult patients and global Phase 2b trial in moderate-to-severe asthma patients, we plan to meet with regulators in the first half of 2024 to discuss plans for potential Phase 3 trials in both the asthma and AD programs:

- End of Phase 2 meeting with the FDA and EMA to determine path forward on a global Phase 3 asthma trial.

- Type C meeting with FDA to determine regulatory path forward on a global Phase 3 AD trial, given positive results from earlier trials.

Icanbelimod, a Sphingosine 1-Phosphate Receptor 1 Modulator

Icanbelimod is an investigational, selective modulator of sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 1, or S1P1, which we are developing for the treatment of UC and CD. Modulation of S1P1 activity has been shown to suppress T cell migration and reduce inflammation and approved S1P1 modulators such as fingolimod, siponimod, and ozanimod are used to treat multiple sclerosis. We have observed in vitro potency, selectivity and pharmacokinetics for icanbelimod that we believe suggest advantages over other S1P1 modulators. Based on the accumulating clinical evidence seen with other S1P1 modulators, and the class mechanism of preventing T cells from entering circulation and therefore reducing the likelihood of their migration into inflamed gastrointestinal parenchymal tissue, we believe that icanbelimod has potential to address unmet needs in UC and CD. We have completed a Phase 1 trial in healthy volunteers in which icanbelimod was generally well-tolerated. Administration of icanbelimod led to reductions in circulating lymphocytes, which recovered within one week of treatment completion. We are conducting a global Phase 2 trial in UC and reported top-line results in 2022 for the induction phase of the study, in which icanbelimod significantly improved measures of disease severity and was generally well-tolerated. The Company is actively seeking to out-license icanbelimod for future trials in UC and CD to capitalize on its potential to address patients with both UC and CD.

Ulcerative colitis disease overview

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a term that describes disorders involving chronic inflammation of tissues in the digestive tract and are divided into two conditions: Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC). Both conditions affect the bowel in different ways. Crohn's disease causes inflammation of the full thickness of the bowel wall, in any part of the digestive tract from the mouth to the anus while UC involves inflammation of the inner lining of the large bowel (colon and rectum). Ulcerative colitis is associated with symptoms that may include, depending on severity and location, diarrhea, rectal bleeding, bowel urgency, fecal incontinence, abdominal pain, fatigue and unintended weight loss. The disease is associated with symptoms, that dependent upon the extent and severity of the disease, include abdominal pain, bloody diarrhea, rectal bleeding, urgency, fecal incontinence, and fatigue. UC is a disease that undergoes cycles of remissions and relapses.

Approximately 1.3% of adults in the United States, or approximately three million people, were estimated to be diagnosed with UC or CD in 2015. Worldwide in 2017, there were approximately 6.8 million people affected by IBD, and the majority of IBD patients had UC. The estimated global market for UC was approximately \$5.9 billion in 2021 and is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 9.3% to greater than \$11.0 billion in 2028.

Mesalamine is typically used for first-line treatment and maintenance of remission in mild-to-moderate active UC and CD and can be supplemented with oral corticosteroids for disease flares. Patients who have moderate-to-severe disease or are refractory to mesalamine and oral corticosteroids may be treated with intravenous steroids, or biologics, including anti-TNF α , anti-integrin $\alpha 4\beta 7$, anti-IL-12/23, or small molecule inhibitors of JAK.

Limitations of Existing Therapies

Despite the multiple therapeutic options available for IBD, significant unmet medical need remains due to the tolerability, inadequate clinical responses and remissions, speed of action and burden of administration associated with existing therapies. Prolonged exposure to intravenous steroids is associated with a side effect profile that may outweigh clinical benefit. Anti-TNF α agents have been associated with a risk of infection or malignancy, while the approved labeling for specific JAK inhibitors includes a "black box" warning for risks including serious infections, mortality, malignancy and thrombosis. Beyond the safety concerns associated with existing therapies, clinical management of UC and CD remains unsatisfactory, with one 2013 study reporting that less than half of patients achieved long-term remissions. Further, some advanced therapies have a delay in onset of up to three months, and maximal clinical remission may require up to one year of treatment. Some therapies also involve complicated administration regimens, with biologics requiring either regular subcutaneous injections or intravenous infusions. There is therefore an unmet medical need for novel oral agents with an enhanced risk-benefit profile and more convenient administration for the treatment of moderate-to-severe active IBD.

Role of S1P1 in inflammation

S1P1 is a clinically validated anti-inflammatory target with three marketed drugs directed against it: fingolimod, marketed as Gilenya® by Novartis, siponimod, marketed as Mayzent® by Novartis, and ozanimod, marketed as Zeposia®, by Bristol Myers Squibb. All three drugs are approved to treat multiple sclerosis. Sales of fingolimod were \$3.2 billion in 2019.

There are five sphingosine 1-phosphate receptors: S1P1-S1P5. S1P1, in particular, is expressed on lymphocytes that are associated with the underlying inflammation of autoimmune diseases. Importantly, modulation of the S1P1 receptor causes selective and reversible sequestration of circulating lymphocytes in the thymus and peripheral lymphoid tissues. This sequestration is achieved through changes in the trafficking of lymphocytes. These changes, in turn, prevent the migration of autoreactive lymphocytes to sites of inflammation, including the central nervous system in multiple sclerosis and the gastrointestinal tract in IBD. It is exactly this reduction in the migration of potentially damaging lymphocytes that is a desirable result of intervention in S1P1 signaling.

Other sphingosine 1-phosphate receptors have physiological roles that do not involve inflammation. Inhibition of S1P3, for example, with poorly selective S1P1 modulators, such as fingolimod, is associated with fibrosis in mice models. S1P2 and S1P3 are also expressed on myofibroblasts and their modulation leads to vasoconstriction and an increase in blood pressure. The clinical relevance of S1P4 and S1P5 is currently unknown. Fingolimod, which lacks high selectivity, has been associated with significant AEs and is contraindicated for patients with a history of cardiac disease.

We believe that this lack of selectivity can be overcome with a more targeted approach to drug discovery. Furthermore, we believe that S1P1 modulation of lymphocyte trafficking may have utility in other autoimmune diseases, including highly prevalent diseases with unmet need such as UC. S1P1 modulators with high specificity for S1P1 may lead to reductions in those cardiovascular effects that limit the potential of less selective modulators to be used in broad populations. Prior clinical trials of second generation S1P1 modulators, ozanimod and etrasimod, demonstrated results in IBD, but are not yet approved for any IBD indication. Further optimization of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of a highly selective S1P1 modulator has the potential to lead to a best-in-class agent for autoimmune diseases, particularly in UC.

Our solution, icanbelimod

Icanbelimod is an orally available, next generation, small molecule modulator of S1P1 that is designed to reduce inflammation without killing T cells or targeting a specific cytokine. By design, icanbelimod is highly selective for S1P1 without significant activity for S1P2 and S1P3 receptor subtypes allowing it to potentially have an optimized effect on circulating T lymphocytes, which we believe may result in significant anti-inflammatory activity. In preclinical studies, icanbelimod demonstrated strong pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, with rapid onset of action and rapid recovery of T lymphocytes. These enhanced characteristics were evidenced by icanbelimod's short half-life as well as ability to rapidly induce an absolute lymphocyte reduction to ~400 to ~750 cells per μL and >60-70% reduction in lymphocyte count from baseline, which compares favorably to targets achieved by approved S1P1 modulators. Further, its pharmacokinetics characteristics could allow icanbelimod to be dosed once daily orally. icanbelimod is not a pro-drug and does not require in vivo conversion to produce its effects. We believe these characteristics position icanbelimod to potentially address the unmet efficacy, safety and convenience needs of currently approved agents in UC.

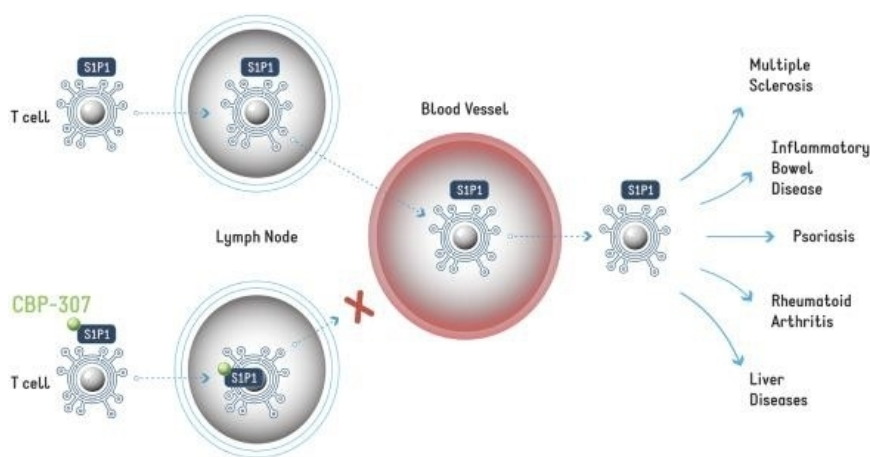


Figure 9. Mechanism of icanbelimod

We discovered icanbelimod by running a functional screen for the desired biological property, which in this case was the ability of a small molecule to cause internalization of S1P1 from its native location on the surface of T cells. It is because of this internalization that T cells are not able to leave the lymph node and enter circulation. By focusing our discovery efforts on this desired result, we were able to identify icanbelimod as a highly potent S1P1 modulator while avoiding false positive results for compounds that bound tightly to S1P1 but did not cause internalization and false negative results for compounds that failed to bind tightly to recombinant S1P1.

Icanbelimod is a highly potent and selective modulator of S1P1, which in preclinical studies has shown selectivity of over 80,000-fold in S1P1 versus S1P3. Furthermore, in preclinical studies, 10 μ M of icanbelimod did not show meaningful interactions in a broad receptor panel screen against other G-protein-coupled receptors and ion channels that have important physiologic functions in the body except for an inhibition effect of 57% on the histamine receptor H1. In preclinical studies, icanbelimod was only significantly inhibited by two of the seven major cytochrome P450 metabolizing enzymes that were profiled.

Name	EC ₅₀ (nM)				
	S1P1	S1P2	S1P3	S1P4	S1P5
icanbelimod	0.09⁽¹⁾	>10,000⁽²⁾	7,900⁽²⁾	19⁽²⁾	3.97⁽²⁾
Ozanimod (CC-1122273)	2.99	>10,000	>10,000	>10,000	29.32
Etrasimod⁽²⁾ (APD334)	6.10	>10,000	>10,000	147	24.4

- (i) cAMP Assay
- (ii) B-Arrestin Assay

Figure 10. Icanbelimod potently and selectively modulated S1P1 in vitro. Information provided in the table above is for illustrative purposes only and is not a head-to-head comparison. Differences exist between study or trial designs and subject characteristics, and caution should be exercised when comparing data across studies.

Completed clinical trials

We have completed a Phase 1 trial of icanbelimod in 44 healthy adults in Australia, which consisted of a 7-day single ascending dose regimen and a 28-day multiple ascending dose regimen, and another in 30 healthy adults in the PRC. The

single dose regimen in the trial in Australia included 0.1 mg, 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 2.5 mg and placebo cohorts. The multiple dose regimen in the trial in Australia included 0.15 mg, 0.25 mg and placebo cohorts. In the trial in the PRC, the single and multiple dose regimens included 0.1 mg, 0.2 mg and placebo cohorts, and the multiple dose regimen also included a 0.3 mg cohort. Once daily doses of up to 0.25 mg of icanbelimod were generally well-tolerated. The most frequent AEs observed across all regimens included low white blood cells and headache. Most AEs were mild or moderate. There were no clinically significant changes in lung function, a range of ophthalmological tests, blood pressure, or liver enzyme levels. Consistent with observations from clinical trials of other S1P1 modulators, a dose-dependent decrease in heart rate was observed early in all regimens. One healthy adult treated with a single dose of 2.5mg of icanbelimod experienced bradycardia associated with transient asystole, which was deemed to be a treatment-related serious adverse event. The healthy adult was treated with high-flow oxygen and fully recovered.

Sequestration of lymphocytes in the lymphoid tissues results in decreased lymphocyte count in peripheral circulation, which can be measured through blood sampling and thereby provide a robust mechanistic pharmacodynamic biomarker for preclinical and clinical studies. Although our trials were not powered to achieve statistical significance, in six healthy adults, icanbelimod at 0.25 mg led to a 75% decrease in number of circulating lymphocytes by day 14 of dosing and this level of lymphocyte suppression was maintained for the rest of the daily dosing period. Upon completion of dosing, the levels of lymphocytes returned to baseline within one week.

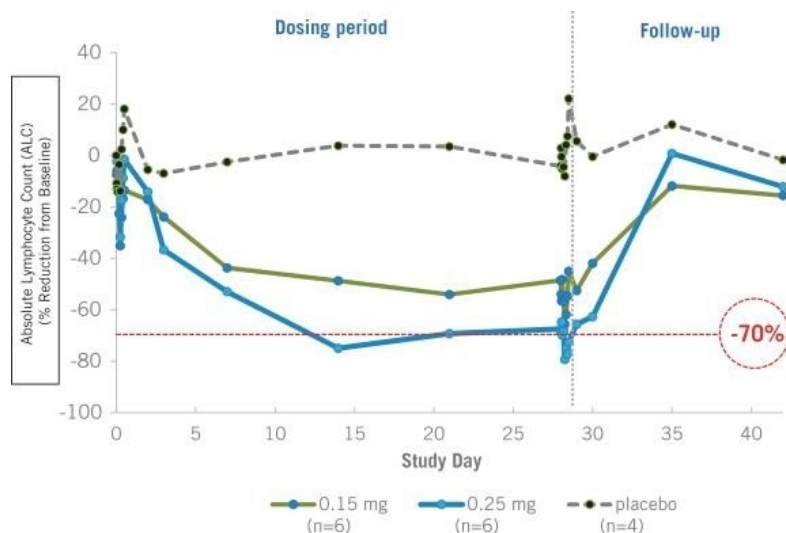


Figure 11. Icanbelimod led to a reduction in the level of circulating lymphocytes in healthy volunteers.

Data from a separately conducted Phase 1 clinical trial in healthy adults showed a median reduction of 65% with a 1 mg dose of ozanimod after 28 days, while a 2 mg dose of etrasimod in a Phase 1 trial was associated with a mean reduction of 69% at steady state from days seven to 21. We believe that the comparison of the reduction in circulating lymphocytes across our trials and these independent clinical trials is meaningful because all were conducted in healthy volunteers using a 21-day or 28-day multiple-dose regimen. Healthy individuals share the same normal range of absolute lymphocyte count, or ALC, and the percentage of lymphocytes as a proportion of total white blood cells. Like our trial, the Phase 1 clinical trial of ozanimod and Phase 1 clinical trial of etrasimod required the healthy volunteers to have normal hematology. Consequently, we believe these subjects have similar baseline levels of circulating lymphocytes. Based on their known and validated pharmacological mode of action, S1P1 modulators reduce circulating lymphocyte counts, and as such, the reduction of circulating lymphocytes seen across trials in these healthy subjects are believed to be due to the effect of the investigational drugs studied, including, in the case of our trial, icanbelimod.

In addition, we observed the restoration of lymphocyte levels upon completion of dosing with icanbelimod, which was faster than that reported for other S1P1 modulators. We attribute these results to the shorter half-life of icanbelimod of approximately 25 hours observed in healthy subjects. This is in contrast to fingolimod, which reported a half-life of six to nine days and a lymphocyte recovery time of 30 days to 60 days. We believe the ability to rapidly restore lymphocyte levels is important as it could minimize the length of time that a patient treated with icanbelimod may have compromised

immunity, which may lower the risk of patients developing infections. Patients treated with fingolimod may be at risk of developing infections for up to two months beyond completion of dosing.

Drug Name	T1/2 h (days)	Lymphocyte Recovery Time
Fingolimod (0.5 mg, QD)	~216h(6-9d)	30-60d
MT-1303 (0.4 mg, QD)	451h (19d)	>48d
Ozanimod (1 mg, QD) (CC1122373)	~264h (11d)	>7d (no report beyond this time)
Etrasimod (2 mg, QD)	35h (1.5d)	<7d
icanbelimod (0.25 mg, QD)	25h (1d)	<7d

Figure 12. The shorter half-life of icanbelimod compared to other S1P1 modulators correlates with a shorter lymphocyte recovery time. Information provided in the table above is for illustrative purposes only and is not a head-to-head comparison. Differences exist between study or trial designs and subject characteristics, and caution should be exercised when comparing data across studies.

We also completed a double-blind, placebo-controlled global Phase 2 trial of icanbelimod in 145 adult patients with moderate-to-severe UC in the first half of 2022. The primary endpoint of this trial was the clinical response at week 12 in the 0.2 mg icanbelimod group versus the placebo group, as measured by the modified Mayo score. The top-line data we reported in the first half of 2022 showed icanbelimod numerically reduced disease severity as measured based on adapted Mayo Score after 12 weeks but the response was not statistically significant. However, icanbelimod achieved statistical significance with respect to the number of patients who experienced clinical remission, defined as a rectal bleeding subscore = 0 and stool frequency subscore ≤ 1, with an Endoscopy subscore ≤ 1.

In the first half of 2023, we also announced results from the 36-week treatment period that followed the 12-week induction period of this Phase 2 trial. Maintenance results showed that:

- Icanbelimod demonstrated sustained clinical remission through Week 48 in 80% of patients who achieved clinical remission at Week 12 of the induction period.
- Icanbelimod continued to be well-tolerated, consistent with observed induction period safety data.

The Phase 2 trial results indicated icanbelimod was generally well-tolerated and the safety profile was consistent with our earlier icanbelimod phase 1 studies. The most frequent AEs observed across all regimens included low white blood cells and headache. Most AEs were mild or moderate. There were no clinically significant changes in lung function, a range of ophthalmological tests, blood pressure, or liver enzyme levels. Consistent with observations from clinical trials of other S1P1 modulators, a dose-dependent decrease in heart rate was observed early in all regimens.

Planned clinical trials

S1P1 modulators have demonstrated clinical efficacy in a number of Th1-related immune diseases including multiple sclerosis, psoriasis and IBD. We are actively seeking a global commercial partner for advancing icanbelimod into a global Phase 3 for icanbelimod in the treatment of UC and CD. We chose to focus our initial development resources on IBD, where we believe icanbelimod has the highest potential to demonstrate superior clinical response and safety as compared to existing products. If we observe clinical activity in IBD, we will consider investigating the potential of icanbelimod in other immune diseases.

Commercialization

Given the stage of development of our product candidates, we have not invested in a commercial infrastructure or distribution capabilities. We have entered into a commercial partnership with Simcere Licensee in 2023 with respect to rademikibart in Greater China and we plan to enter into more collaborative partnerships with pharmaceutical or other company to establish the necessary commercial and distribution infrastructure to commercialize our product candidates, if approved, on a global and/or regional basis.

Competition

The biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries are characterized by rapid technological advancement, significant competition and an emphasis on intellectual property. We face potential competition from many different sources, including major and specialty pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical, therapeutics and biotechnology companies, academic research institutions, governmental agencies and public and private research institutions. Any product candidates that we successfully develop and commercialize will compete with current therapies and new therapies that may become available in the future. Our commercial opportunity could be reduced or eliminated if our competitors develop and commercialize products that are safer, more effective or more convenient or have fewer or less severe side effects than any products that we may develop. Our competitors also may obtain FDA, NMPA or other regulatory approval for their products more rapidly than we do. We believe that the key competitive factors affecting the success of any of our product candidates will include efficacy, safety profile, convenience, cost, market access and reimbursement by payors, level of promotional activity devoted to them and intellectual property protection.

We expect to face competition from existing products and products in development for each of our product candidates. In addition to those described below, there may be other earlier stage clinical programs that, if approved, would compete with our product candidates. Many of our competitors have substantially greater financial, technical, manufacturing, marketing, sales and supply resources or experience than we do. Additional mergers and acquisitions in the pharmaceutical industry may result in even more resources being concentrated in our competitors. Competition may increase further as a result of advances made in the commercial applicability of technologies and greater availability of capital for investment in these fields. Our success will be based in part on our ability to build and actively manage a portfolio of drugs that addresses unmet medical needs and creates value in patient therapy.

We expect rademikibart, if approved, to primarily compete across several targeted indications with dupilumab, marketed as Dupixent® by Sanofi and Regeneron, and another IL-4R α antibody currently in development for moderate-to-severe AD by Sunshine Guojian Pharmaceutical, a subsidiary of 3SBio Inc.

If approved for the treatment of moderate-to-severe AD, rademikibart would also compete directly with a number of other approved systemically administered products, such as JAK inhibitors, baricitinib marketed as Olumiant® by Eli Lilly, upadacitinib marketed as RINVOQ® by AbbVie, abrocitinib marketed as CIBINQO® by Pfizer, and tralokinumab marketed as Adbry® / Adtralza®, an anti-IL-13 neutralizing monoclonal antibody, or mAb. Other systemic product candidates in clinical development with which rademikibart could compete in the treatment of moderate-to-severe AD include lebrikizumab (anti-IL-13 neutralizing mAb; Eli Lilly and Almirall S.A.), risankizumab (anti-IL-23 mAb; AbbVie), amlitelimab (anti-OX40 mAb; Sanofi), GBR 830 (anti-OX40 mAb; Glenmark Pharmaceuticals), KHK4083 (anti-OX40 mAb; Kyowa Kirin / Amgen), etrasimod (S1P1, S1P4 and S1P5 modulator; Arena), and RPT193 (C-C chemokine receptor type 4, or CCR4, antagonist; RAPT Therapeutics), nemolizumab (anti-IL-31 mAb; Galderma), CM310 (anti-IL-4 α mAb; Keymed Biosciences), AK120 (anti-IL-4 α mAb; Akesobio), MG-K10 (anti-IL-4R α mAb; Mabgeek), GR1802 (anti-IL-4 α mAb; Jiangxi Zhixiang Pharmaceutical), SHR-1819 (anti-IL-4 α mAb; Jiangsu Hengrui Pharmaceuticals), 611 (anti-IL-4 α mAb; Sunshine Guojian Pharmaceutical Shanghai), and QX005N (anti-IL-4 α mAb; Qyuns Therapeutics).

If approved for the treatment of moderate-to-severe asthma, rademikibart would compete directly with a number of approved antibodies, including dupilumab, as well as omalizumab marketed as Xolair® by Genentech/Roche and Novartis, an anti-IgE mAb, benralizumab marketed as Fasenra® by AstraZeneca, an anti-IL-5 mAb, mepolizumab marketed as Nucala® by GlaxoSmithKline, an anti-IL-5 mAb, and resalizumab, marketed as Cinqair® by Teva Pharmaceuticals, an anti-IL-5 mAb, and Tezepelumab marketed as Tezspire® by Amgen / AstraZeneca. rademikibart would also face competition from RPT193 in the treatment of asthma.

If approved for the treatment of UC, we would expect icanbelimod to compete with a number of systemically administered antibodies and oral immunotherapies approved for the treatment of UC, including infliximab marketed as Remicade® by Janssen Pharmaceuticals, an anti-TNF α neutralizing mAb, adalimumab marketed as Humira® by AbbVie, an anti-TNF α

neutralizing mAb, golimumab marketed as Simponi® by Janssen Pharmaceuticals, an anti-TNF α neutralizing mAb, vedolizumab marketed as Entyvio® by Takeda Pharmaceuticals, an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin mAb, and ustekinumab marketed as Stelara® by Janssen Pharmaceuticals, an anti-IL-12/23 mAb. We would also expect icanbelimod to compete with tofacitinib marketed as Xeljanz® by Pfizer, an oral reversible JAK1 and JAK3 inhibitor, currently marketed for the treatment of UC, and ozanimod marketed as Zeposia® for the treatment of UC (S1P1, S1P4 and S1P5 modulator; Bristol Myers Squibb).

Other product candidates in clinical development with which icanbelimod could compete in the treatment of UC include risankizumab (anti-IL-23 mAb; AbbVie), guselkumab (anti-IL-23 mAb; Janssen Pharmaceuticals), brazikumab (anti-IL-23 mAb; AstraZeneca), mirikizumab (anti-IL-23 mAb; Eli Lilly), filgotinib (reversible JAK1 inhibitor; Gilead Sciences), upadacitinib (reversible JAK1 inhibitor; AbbVie), etrasimod (S1P1, S1P4 and S1P5 modulator; Arena), and VTX002 (S1P1R modulator; Ventyx Biosciences).

Intellectual property, including patents, trade secrets, trademarks and copyrights, is important to our business. Our commercial success depends in part on our ability to obtain and maintain proprietary intellectual property protection for our current and future product candidates and novel discoveries, product development technologies, and know-how. In general, to protect our product candidates and related technologies, we seek patent protection by licensing relevant patent rights from third parties or by filing Patent Cooperation Treaty, or PCT, applications and national stage patent applications throughout the world, including in the United States, the PRC, Europe and other major markets, in each case on subject matter relating to our technology, inventions, and improvements that are important to the development and implementation of our business. We also rely on know-how, confidential methodologies and processes and continuing technological innovation to develop and maintain our proprietary positions, in addition to trademarks, copyrights and trade secret laws, and employee disclosure and invention assignment agreements. Our commercial success also depends in part on our ability to operate without infringing, misappropriating or otherwise violating the proprietary rights of others and to prevent others from infringing, misappropriating or otherwise violating our proprietary rights.

As of December 31, 2023, we own or exclusively license more than 70 issued U.S. or foreign patents and have more than 70 pending patent applications in multiple jurisdictions, including in the United States, the PRC, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Russia, Canada, Australia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Hong Kong.

These issued patents and patent applications include:

- With respect to the composition of matter of rademikibart, we have a patent family with an issued U.S. patent, issued foreign patents, including in the PRC and Japan, and pending patent applications in various jurisdictions, where the issued patents and the patent applications, if issued, are expected to expire between 2036 and 2037, without accounting for any available patent term adjustments or extensions. We also have two other patent families with an issued PRC patent that relate to our rademikibart program, which include pending patent applications in various jurisdictions, including in the United States, where the patent applications, if issued, are expected to expire between 2039 and 2041, without accounting for any available patent term adjustments or extensions.
- With respect to the composition of matter of icanbelimod, we have a patent family that includes issued U.S. and foreign patents, including in the PRC, Japan, and Europe, and pending patent applications in various jurisdictions, where the issued patents and the pending patent applications, if issued, are expected to expire between 2033 and 2034, without accounting for any available patent term adjustments or extensions. We also have two issued patents in the PRC related to synthesis methods and crystal forms, where the issued patents, are expected to expire between 2034 and 2035. We further have an issued U.S. patent, issued foreign patents, including in the PRC, and pending patent applications in various jurisdictions, related to additional salts and salt crystal forms of icanbelimod, where the issued patent and the patent applications, if issued, are expected to expire between 2037 and 2038, without accounting for any available patent term adjustments or extensions.

The term of individual patents depends upon the legal term of patents in the countries in which they are obtained. In most countries in which we file, including the United States, the patent term is 20 years from the earliest date of filing a non-provisional patent application. In the United States, the term of a patent may be eligible for patent term adjustment, which adds patent term as compensation for delays incurred at the USPTO during the patent prosecution process. In addition, for patents that cover an FDA-approved drug, the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984, or the Hatch-Waxman Act, permits a patent term extension of up to five years beyond the expiration of the patent. While the length of the patent term extension is related to the length of time the drug is under regulatory review, patent term extension cannot extend the remaining term of a patent beyond a total of 14 years from the date of product approval, and

only one patent per approved drug—and only those claims covering the approved drug, a method for using it, or a method for manufacturing it—may be extended under the Hatch-Waxman Act. Similar provisions are available in Europe and other foreign jurisdictions to extend the term of a patent that covers an approved drug. In the future, if and when our products receive FDA approval or applicable approval in other jurisdictions, we expect to apply for patent term extensions on issued patents covering those products in the United States and other jurisdictions where such extensions are available; however, there is no guarantee that the applicable authorities, including the FDA in the United States, will agree with our assessment of whether such extensions should be granted, and if granted, the length of such extensions. We also may not be granted an extension because of, for example, failing to exercise due diligence during the testing phase or regulatory review process, failing to apply within applicable deadlines, failing to apply prior to expiration of relevant patents, or otherwise failing to satisfy applicable requirements.

Our patent positions are generally uncertain and involve complex legal and factual questions. The relevant patent laws and their interpretation, both inside and outside of the United States, is also uncertain. Changes in either the patent laws or their interpretation in the United States and other jurisdictions may diminish our ability to protect our technology or product candidates and could affect the value of such intellectual property. In particular, our ability to stop third parties from making, using, selling, offering to sell or importing products that infringe, misappropriate or otherwise violate our intellectual property will depend in part on our success in obtaining and enforcing patent claims that cover our technology, product candidates, inventions and improvements. We cannot guarantee that patents will be granted with respect to any of our pending patent applications or with respect to any patent applications we may file or license in the future, nor can we be sure that any patents that may be granted to us or our licensors in the future will be commercially useful in protecting our products, the methods of use or manufacture of those products. Moreover, issued patents do not guarantee the right to practice our technology in relation to the commercialization of our products. Issued patents only allow us to block—in some cases—potential competitors from practicing the claimed inventions of the issued patents.

Further, patents and other intellectual property rights in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology space are evolving and involve many risks and uncertainties. For example, third parties may have blocking patents that could be used to prevent us from commercializing our product candidates and any future product candidates and practicing our proprietary technology, and any issued patents may be challenged, invalidated or circumvented, which could limit our ability to stop competitors from marketing related products or could limit the term of patent protection that otherwise may exist for our product candidate and any future product candidates. In addition, the scope of the rights granted under any issued patents may not provide us with protection or competitive advantages against competitors or other parties with similar technology. Furthermore, our competitors or other parties may independently develop similar technologies that are outside the scope of the rights granted under any issued patents. For these reasons, we may face competition with respect to our product candidates and any future product candidates. Moreover, because of the extensive time required for development, testing and regulatory review of a potential product, it is possible that, before any particular product candidate can be commercialized, any patent protection for such product candidate may expire or remain in force for only a short period following commercialization, thereby reducing the commercial advantage the patent provides.

We also rely on protections under trade secret laws, and seek to protect and maintain the confidentiality of proprietary information to protect aspects of our business that are not amenable to, or that we do not consider appropriate for, patent protection. Our trade secrets include, for example, some program specific synthesis, formulations, patient selection strategies and some aspects of our research. It is our policy to require our employees, consultants, outside scientific collaborators, sponsored researchers and other advisors to execute confidentiality agreements upon the commencement of employment or consulting relationships with us, and for employees and consultants to enter into invention assignment agreements with us. These agreements are intended to provide that all confidential information developed or made known to the individual during the course of the individual's relationship with us is to be kept confidential and not disclosed to third parties except in specific circumstances. Where applicable, the agreements also provide that all inventions to which the individual contributed as an inventor shall be assigned to us, and as such, will become our property. There can be no assurance, however, that these agreements and our policies will provide meaningful protection or adequate remedies for our trade secrets in the event of unauthorized use or disclosure of such information. We also may be unsuccessful in executing such agreements with each party who, in fact, conceives or develops intellectual property that we regard as our own or receives access to our confidential information. The assignment of intellectual property rights may not be self-executing, or the agreements may be breached, and we may be forced to bring claims against third parties, or defend claims that they may bring against us, to determine the ownership of what we regard as our intellectual property. In addition, we take other appropriate precautions, such as physical and technological security measures, to guard against misappropriation of our proprietary technology by third parties. Further, we have obtained and are pursuing trademark protection for “Connect Biopharmaceuticals” and “Connect Biopharma” in the United States, the PRC and various other jurisdictions.

In June 2012, we and Arena entered into an exclusive license agreement, or the Arena Agreement. Pursuant to the Arena Agreement, as subsequently amended, Arena granted us an exclusive (even as to Arena, except for internal research purposes), worldwide, royalty-bearing, sublicensable (subject to some conditions) license to identify, research, develop, make, have made, use, sell, offer for sale, have sold and import products under some patents and know-how relating to H3R antagonists and methods of making and using such H3R antagonists.

Pursuant to the Arena Agreement, we have the right to terminate the Arena Agreement without cause upon 60 days' prior written notice to Arena. As of March 2024, we have sent such notice to Arena to terminate the Arena Agreement without cause, and such termination will take effect 60 days after the date of the notice. Upon termination, we will be obligated to assign and deliver to Arena (i) our right, title and interest in the know-how and patents relating to licensed products, either licensed under the Arena Agreement or developed by us during the term of the Arena Agreement and one year thereafter, and (ii) regulatory filings, applications and approvals related to the licensed products.

Material Permissions, Approvals, Licenses and Permits in the PRC

We conduct a portion of our business through our subsidiaries in the PRC. The IND approvals from NMPA for our product candidates rademikibart and icanbelimod and business licenses of each of our PRC subsidiaries are the material permissions, approvals, licenses and permits that our PRC subsidiaries are required to obtain to conduct our operations in the PRC. Further, we have out-licensed the rights to develop and commercialize rademikibart in Greater China to the Simcere Licensee. As such, for the commercialization of rademikibart in Greater China, we will not be required to submit the NDA to NMPA.

Government Regulation and Product Approval

U.S. Regulations

As a biopharmaceutical company with operations in the United States, we are subject to extensive regulation. Among others, the FDA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS, and comparable regulatory authorities in state and local jurisdictions impose substantial and burdensome requirements upon companies involved in the clinical development, manufacture, marketing and distribution of drugs and biologics such as those we are developing. These agencies and other federal, state and local entities regulate, among other things, the research and development, testing, manufacture, quality control, safety, effectiveness, labeling, packaging, storage, record keeping, approval, advertising and promotion, distribution, post-approval monitoring and reporting, sampling and export and import of our product candidates.

U.S. Regulation of Drugs and Biologics

In the United States, the FDA regulates drugs under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or FDCA, and its implementing regulations, and biologics under the FDCA and the Public Health Service Act, or PHSA, and its implementing regulations. The process of obtaining regulatory approvals and the subsequent compliance with appropriate federal, state, local and foreign statutes and regulations require the expenditure of substantial time and financial resources. Failure to comply with the applicable U.S. requirements at any time during the product development process, approval process or after approval, may subject an applicant to administrative or judicial sanctions. FDA sanctions could include, among other actions, refusal to approve pending applications, withdrawal of an approval, a clinical hold, warning or other enforcement letters, product recalls or withdrawals from the market, product seizures, total or partial suspension of production or distribution injunctions, fines, refusals of government contracts, restitution, disgorgement or civil or criminal penalties. Any agency or judicial enforcement action could have a material adverse effect on us.

FDA approval is required before a drug or biological product may be marketed in the United States and they are also subject to other federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. The process required by the FDA before product candidates may be marketed in the United States generally involves the following:

- completion of extensive preclinical laboratory tests and preclinical animal studies, certain of which must be performed in accordance with Good Laboratory Practice, or GLP, regulations and other applicable requirements;
- submission to the FDA of an investigational new drug application, or IND, which must become effective before human clinical studies may begin;
- approval by an independent IRB or ethics committee at each clinical site before each clinical study may be initiated;

- performance of adequate and well-controlled human clinical studies in accordance with Good Clinical Practice, or GCP, requirements to establish the safety and efficacy, or with respect to biologics, the safety, purity and potency of the product candidate for each proposed indication;
- preparation of and submission to the FDA of a new drug application, or NDA, or biologics license application, or BLA, after completion of all pivotal clinical studies that include substantial evidence of safety, purity, and potency of the drug from analytical studies and from results of nonclinical testing and clinical trials;
- satisfactory completion of an FDA advisory committee review, where appropriate and if applicable;
- a determination by the FDA within 60 days of its receipt of an NDA or BLA to file the application for review;
- satisfactory completion of an FDA inspection of the manufacturing facility or facilities where the proposed product is produced to assess compliance with current Good Manufacturing Practices, or cGMP, and potential FDA inspection of nonclinical study and clinical trial sites that generated the data in support of the NDA or BLA to ensure compliance with GCP; and
- FDA review and approval of an NDA or BLA prior to any commercial marketing or sale of the drug in the United States.

An IND is a request for authorization from the FDA to administer an investigational new drug or biological product to humans. The central focus of an initial IND submission is on the general investigational plan and the protocol or protocols for clinical trials. The IND submission also includes results of animal and in vitro studies assessing the toxicology, pharmacokinetics, pharmacology and pharmacodynamic characteristics of the product, chemistry, manufacturing and controls, or CMC, information, and any available human data or literature to support the use of the investigational product. An IND must become effective before human clinical trials may begin. The IND automatically becomes effective 30 days after receipt by the FDA, unless the FDA, within the 30-day period, raises safety concerns or questions about the proposed clinical trial. In such a case, the IND may be placed on a clinical hold and the IND sponsor and the FDA must resolve any outstanding concerns or questions before the clinical trial can begin. Submission of an IND therefore may or may not result in FDA authorization to begin a clinical trial.

Clinical trials involve the administration of the investigational product to human subjects under the supervision of qualified investigators in accordance with GCP, which includes, among other things, the requirement that all research subjects provide their informed consent for their participation in any clinical study. Clinical trials are conducted under protocols detailing, among other things, the objectives of the study, dosing procedures, subject selection and exclusion criteria, and the parameters to be used in monitoring safety and the effectiveness criteria to be evaluated. A separate submission to the existing IND must be made for each successive clinical trial conducted during product development and for any subsequent protocol amendments. While the IND is active, progress reports summarizing the results of the clinical trials and nonclinical studies performed since the last progress report, among other information, must be submitted at least annually to the FDA, and written IND safety reports must be submitted to the FDA and investigators for serious and unexpected suspected adverse events, findings from other studies suggesting a significant risk to humans exposed to the same or similar drugs, findings from animal or in vitro testing suggesting a significant risk to humans, and any clinically important increased incidence of a serious suspected adverse reaction compared to that listed in the protocol or investigator brochure.

Furthermore, an independent IRB for each site proposing to conduct the clinical trial must review and approve the plan for any clinical trial and its informed consent form before the clinical trial begins at that site, and must monitor the study until completed. Regulatory authorities, such as the FDA may impose a partial or full clinical hold, or the IRB or the sponsor may suspend a clinical trial at any time on various grounds, including a finding that the subjects are being exposed to an unacceptable health risk or that the trial is unlikely to meet its stated objectives. Some studies also include oversight by an independent group of qualified experts organized by the clinical study sponsor, known as a data safety monitoring board, which provides authorization for whether or not a study may move forward at designated check points based on access to some data from the study and may halt the clinical trial if it determines that there is an unacceptable safety risk for subjects or other grounds, such as no demonstration of efficacy. There are also requirements governing the reporting of ongoing preclinical studies and clinical trials and clinical study results to public registries.

The clinical investigation of a drug is generally divided into three phases. Although the phases are usually conducted sequentially, they may overlap or be combined.

- Phase 1. The investigational product is initially introduced into healthy human subjects or patients with the target disease or condition. These studies are designed to test the safety, dosage tolerance, absorption, metabolism and distribution and excretion of the investigational product in humans, the side effects associated with increasing doses, and, if possible, to gain early evidence on effectiveness.

- Phase 2. The investigational product is administered to a limited patient population with a specified disease or condition to evaluate the preliminary efficacy, optimal dosages and dosing schedule and to identify possible adverse side effects and safety risks. Multiple Phase 2 clinical trials may be conducted to obtain information prior to beginning larger and more expensive Phase 3 clinical trials.
- Phase 3. The investigational product is administered to an expanded patient population to further evaluate dosage, to provide statistically significant evidence of clinical efficacy and to further test for safety, generally at multiple geographically dispersed clinical trial sites. These clinical trials are intended to establish the overall risk/benefit ratio of the investigational product and to provide an adequate basis for product labeling.

In some cases, the FDA may condition approval of an NDA or BLA for a product candidate on the sponsor's agreement to conduct additional clinical studies after approval. In other cases, a sponsor may voluntarily conduct additional clinical studies after approval to gain more information about the drug. Such post-approval studies are often referred to as Phase 4 clinical studies.

A sponsor may choose, but is not required, to conduct a foreign clinical study under an IND. When a foreign clinical study is conducted under an IND, all IND requirements must be met unless waived. When the foreign clinical study is not conducted under an IND, the sponsor must ensure that the study complies with certain FDA regulatory requirements in order to use the study as support for an IND or application for marketing approval in the US. Specifically, such studies must be conducted in accordance with GCP, and if the FDA must be able to validate the data from the study through an on-site inspection if the FDA deems such inspection necessary. If a marketing application is based solely on foreign clinical data, regardless of whether the studies were conducted under an IND, the FDA requires that the studies be conducted in accordance with GCP requirements, and that the data be applicable to the U.S. population and U.S. medical practice. The foreign studies must also have been performed by clinical investigators of recognized competence, and the FDA must be able to validate the data through an on-site inspection or other appropriate means, if the FDA deems such an inspection to be necessary.

Concurrent with clinical trials, companies may complete additional animal studies and develop additional information about the biological characteristics of the product candidate, and must finalize a process for manufacturing the product in commercial quantities in accordance with cGMP requirements. The manufacturing process must be capable of consistently producing quality batches of the product candidate and, among other things, must develop methods for testing the identity, strength, quality and purity of the final product, or for biologics, the safety, purity and potency. Additionally, appropriate packaging must be selected and tested, and stability studies must be conducted to demonstrate that the product candidate does not undergo unacceptable deterioration over its shelf life.

NDA and BLA Review Process

Assuming successful completion of all required testing in accordance with all applicable regulatory requirements, the results of product development, including from nonclinical studies and clinical trials, are submitted to the FDA as part of an NDA or BLA requesting approval to market the product for one or more indications. The NDA or BLA must include all relevant data available from pertinent preclinical studies and clinical trials, including negative or ambiguous results as well as positive findings, together with detailed information relating to the product's CMC and proposed labeling, among other things. Data can come from company-sponsored clinical studies intended to test the safety and effectiveness of the product, or from a number of alternative sources, including studies initiated and sponsored by investigators. The submission of an NDA or BLA requires payment of a substantial application user fee to the FDA, unless a waiver or exemption applies.

In addition, under the Pediatric Research Equity Act, or PREA, an NDA or BLA or supplement to an NDA or BLA must contain data to assess the safety and effectiveness of the biological product candidate for the claimed indications in all relevant pediatric subpopulations and to support dosing and administration for each pediatric subpopulation for which the product is deemed safe and effective. The FDA, requires that a sponsor who is planning to submit a marketing application for a drug or biological product that includes a new active ingredient, new indication, new dosage form, new dosing regimen or new route of administration submit an initial pediatric study plan within sixty days after an end-of-Phase 2 meeting or as may be agreed between the sponsor and FDA. Unless otherwise required by regulation, PREA does not apply to any drug or biological product for an indication for which orphan designation has been granted.

Within 60 days following submission of the application, the FDA reviews the submitted BLA or NDA to determine if the application is substantially complete before the FDA accepts it for filing. The FDA may refuse to file any NDA or BLA that it deems incomplete or not properly reviewable at the time of submission and may request additional information. In this event, the NDA or BLA must be resubmitted with the additional information. Once an NDA or BLA has been accepted

for filing, the FDA's goal is to review standard applications within ten months after the filing date, or, if the application qualifies for priority review, six months after the FDA accepts the application for filing. In both standard and priority reviews, the review process may also be extended for a three-month period by the FDA in response to new information designated as a major amendment to the application. The FDA reviews an NDA to determine, among other things, whether a product is safe and effective for its intended use and whether its manufacturing is sufficient to assure and preserve the product's identity, strength, quality and purity. The FDA reviews a BLA to determine, among other things, whether a product is safe, pure and potent and the facility in which it is manufactured, processed, packed or held meets standards designed to assure the product's continued safety, purity and potency. When reviewing an NDA or BLA, the FDA may convene an advisory committee to provide clinical insight on application review questions. The FDA is not bound by the recommendations of an advisory committee, but it considers such recommendations carefully when making decisions.

Before approving an NDA or BLA, the FDA will typically inspect the facility or facilities where the product is manufactured. The FDA will not approve an application unless it determines that the manufacturing processes and facilities are in compliance with cGMP requirements and adequate to assure consistent production of the product within required specifications. Additionally, before approving an NDA or BLA, the FDA will typically inspect one or more clinical sites to assure compliance with GCP.

After the FDA evaluates the NDA or BLA and conducts any required inspections of manufacturing facilities where the investigational product and/or its drug substance will be produced, the FDA may issue an approval letter or a Complete Response Letter, or CRL. An approval letter authorizes commercial marketing of the product with specific prescribing information for specific indications. A CRL will describe all of the deficiencies that the FDA has identified in the NDA or BLA. The deficiencies identified may be minor, for example, requiring labeling changes, or major, for example, requiring additional clinical trials. Additionally, the CRL may include recommended actions that the applicant take. If a CRL is issued, the applicant may either resubmit the NDA or BLA, addressing all of the deficiencies identified in the letter, withdraw the application, or request an opportunity for a hearing. Even if such data and information are submitted, the FDA may decide that the BLA or NDA does not satisfy the criteria for approval.

If regulatory approval of a product is granted, such approval will be granted for particular indications and may entail limitations on the indicated uses for which such product may be marketed. For example, the FDA may approve the NDA or BLA with a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy, or REMS, to ensure the benefits of the product outweigh its risks. A REMS is a safety strategy to manage a known or potential serious risk associated with a product and to enable patients to have continued access to such medicines by managing their safe use, and could include medication guides, physician communication plans, or elements to assure safe use, such as restricted distribution methods, patient registries and other risk minimization tools. The FDA also may condition approval on, among other things, changes to proposed labeling or the development of adequate controls and specifications. The FDA may also require one or more Phase 4 post-market studies or surveillance programs to further assess and monitor the product's safety and effectiveness after commercialization, and may limit further marketing of the product based on the results of these post-marketing studies.

Expedited Development and Review Programs

The FDA offers a number of expedited development and review programs for qualifying product candidates. For example, the fast track program is intended to expedite or facilitate the process for reviewing product candidates that meet specific criteria. Specifically, product candidates are eligible for fast track designation if they are intended to treat a serious or life-threatening disease or condition and demonstrate the potential to address unmet medical needs for the disease or condition. Fast track designation applies to the combination of the product candidate and the specific indication for which it is being studied. The sponsor of a fast track product candidate has opportunities for more frequent interactions with the review team during product development and, once an NDA or BLA is submitted, the application may be eligible for priority review. A fast track product candidate may also be eligible for rolling review, where the FDA may consider for review sections of the NDA or BLA on a rolling basis before the complete application is submitted, if the sponsor provides a schedule for the submission of the sections of the NDA or BLA, the FDA agrees to accept sections of the NDA or BLA and determines that the schedule is acceptable, and the sponsor pays any required user fees upon submission of the first section of the NDA or BLA.

A product candidate intended to treat a serious or life-threatening disease or condition may also be eligible for breakthrough therapy designation to expedite its development and review. A product candidate can receive breakthrough therapy designation if preliminary clinical evidence indicates that the product candidate, alone or in combination with one or more other drugs or biologics, may demonstrate substantial improvement over existing therapies on one or more clinically significant endpoints, such as substantial treatment effects observed early in clinical development. The designation includes all of the fast track program features, as well as more intensive FDA interaction and guidance

beginning as early as Phase 1 and an organizational commitment to expedite the development and review of the product candidate, including involvement of senior managers.

Any marketing application for a drug or biologic submitted to the FDA for approval, including a product candidate with a fast track designation and/or breakthrough therapy designation, may be eligible for other types of FDA programs intended to expedite the FDA review and approval process, such as priority review. A BLA or NDA is eligible for priority review if the product candidate has the potential to provide a significant improvement in the treatment, diagnosis or prevention of a serious disease or condition. For new-molecular-entity NDAs and original BLAs, priority review designation means the FDA's goal is to take action on the marketing application within six months of the 60-day filing date (as compared to ten months under standard review).

Additionally, depending on the design of the applicable clinical trials, product candidates studied for their safety and effectiveness in treating serious or life-threatening diseases or conditions may receive accelerated approval upon a determination that the product candidate has an effect on a surrogate endpoint that is reasonably likely to predict clinical benefit, or on a clinical endpoint that can be measured earlier than irreversible morbidity or mortality, that is reasonably likely to predict an effect on irreversible morbidity or mortality or other clinical benefit, taking into account the severity, rarity, or prevalence of the condition and the availability or lack of alternative treatments. As a condition of accelerated approval, the FDA will generally require the sponsor to perform adequate and well-controlled confirmatory clinical studies to verify and describe the anticipated effect on irreversible morbidity or mortality or other clinical benefit, and may require that these studies be underway at the time of approval. Products receiving accelerated approval may be subject to expedited withdrawal procedures if the sponsor fails to conduct the required confirmatory studies or if such studies fail to verify the predicted clinical benefit. In addition, the FDA currently requires as a condition for accelerated approval pre-approval of promotional materials, which could adversely impact the timing of the commercial launch of the product.

Fast track designation, breakthrough therapy designation, priority review, and accelerated approval do not change the standards for approval but may expedite the development or approval process. Even if a product qualifies for one or more of these programs, the FDA may later decide that the product no longer meets the conditions for qualification or decide that the time period for FDA review or approval will not be shortened. We may explore some of these opportunities for our product candidates as appropriate.

Orphan Drug Designation

Under the Orphan Drug Act, the FDA may grant orphan designation to a drug or biologic intended to treat a rare disease or condition, which is a disease or condition that affects fewer than 200,000 individuals in the United States, or more than 200,000 individuals in the United States for which there is no reasonable expectation that the cost of developing and making available in the United States a drug or biologic for this type of disease or condition will be recovered from sales in the United States for that drug or biologic. Orphan drug designation must be requested before submitting an NDA or BLA. After the FDA grants orphan drug designation, the generic identity of the therapeutic agent and its potential orphan use are disclosed publicly by the FDA. The orphan drug designation does not convey any advantage in, or shorten the duration of, the regulatory review or approval process.

If a product that has orphan drug designation subsequently receives the first FDA approval for the disease or condition for which it has such designation, the product is entitled to orphan drug exclusivity, which means that the FDA may not approve any other applications, including a full NDA or BLA, to market the same drug or biologic for the same disease or condition for seven years, except in limited circumstances, such as a showing of clinical superiority to the product with orphan drug exclusivity or if the FDA finds that the holder of the orphan drug exclusivity has not shown that it can assure the availability of sufficient quantities of the orphan drug to meet the needs of patients with the disease or condition for which the drug or biologic was designated. Orphan drug exclusivity does not prevent the FDA from approving a different drug or biologic for the same disease or condition, or the same drug or biologic for a different disease or condition. Among the other benefits of orphan drug designation are tax credits for some research and a waiver of the NDA or BLA application user fee.

A designated orphan drug may not receive orphan drug exclusivity if it is approved for a use that is broader than the indication for which it received orphan designation. In addition, exclusive marketing rights in the United States may be lost if the FDA later determines that the request for designation was materially defective or if the manufacturer is unable to assure sufficient quantities of the product to meet the needs of patients with the rare disease or condition.

Post-Approval Requirements

Any products manufactured or distributed pursuant to FDA approvals are subject to pervasive and continuing regulation by the FDA, including, among other things, requirements relating to record-keeping, reporting of adverse experiences, periodic reporting, product sampling and distribution, and advertising and promotion of the product. After approval, most changes to the approved product, such as adding new indications or other labeling claims, are subject to prior FDA review and approval. There also are continuing user fee requirements, under which the FDA assesses an annual program fee for each product identified in an approved NDA or BLA. Drug and biologic manufacturers and their subcontractors are required to register their establishments with the FDA and some state agencies, and are subject to periodic unannounced inspections by the FDA and some state agencies for compliance with cGMPs, which among other things, impose certain procedural and documentation requirements upon BLA or NDA holders and any third-party manufacturers. Changes to the manufacturing process are strictly regulated, and, depending on the significance of the change, may require prior FDA approval before being implemented. FDA regulations also require investigation and correction of any deviations from cGMPs and impose reporting requirements upon us and any third-party manufacturers that we may decide to use. Accordingly, manufacturers must continue to expend time, money and effort in the area of production and quality control to maintain compliance with cGMPs and other aspects of regulatory compliance.

The FDA may withdraw approval if compliance with regulatory requirements and standards is not maintained or if problems occur after the product reaches the market. Later discovery of previously unknown problems with a product, including adverse events of unanticipated severity or frequency, or with manufacturing processes, or failure to comply with regulatory requirements, may result in revisions to the approved labeling to add new safety information; imposition of post-market studies or clinical studies to assess new safety risks; or imposition of distribution restrictions or other restrictions under a REMS program. Other potential consequences include, among other things:

- restrictions on the marketing or manufacturing of a product, complete withdrawal of the product from the market or product recalls;
- fines, warning letters or holds on post-approval clinical studies;
- refusal of the FDA to approve pending applications or supplements to approved applications, or suspension or revocation of existing product approvals;
- product seizure or detention, or refusal of the FDA to permit the import or export of products;
- consent decrees, corporate integrity agreements, debarment or exclusion from federal healthcare programs;
- mandated modification of promotional materials and labeling and the issuance of corrective information;
- the issuance of safety alerts, Dear Healthcare Provider letters, press releases and other communications containing warnings or other safety information about the product; or
- injunctions or the imposition of civil or criminal penalties.

The FDA closely regulates the marketing, labeling, advertising and promotion of drug products and biologics. A company can make only those claims relating to safety and efficacy, purity and potency that are approved by the FDA and in accordance with the provisions of the approved label. The FDA and other agencies actively enforce the laws and regulations prohibiting the promotion of off-label uses. Failure to comply with these requirements can result in, among other things, adverse publicity, warning letters, corrective advertising and potential civil and criminal penalties. Physicians may prescribe legally available products for uses that are not described in the product's labeling and that differ from those tested by us and approved by the FDA. Such off-label uses are common across medical specialties. Physicians may believe that such off-label uses are the best treatment for many patients in varied circumstances. The FDA does not regulate the behavior of physicians in their choice of treatments. The FDA does, however, restrict manufacturer's communications on the subject of off-label use of their products.

Drug Product Marketing Exclusivity

Market exclusivity provisions authorized under the FDCA can delay the submission or the approval of some marketing applications. For example, the FDCA provides a five-year period of non-patent data exclusivity within the United States to the first applicant to obtain approval of an NDA for a new chemical entity. A drug is a new chemical entity if the FDA has not previously approved any other new drug containing the same active moiety, which is the molecule or ion, excluding those appended portions of the molecule that cause the drug to be an ester, salt, including a salt with hydrogen or coordination bonds, or other noncovalent derivative, such as a complex, chelate, or clathrate, responsible for the action of the drug substance. During the exclusivity period, the FDA may not approve or even accept for review an abbreviated new drug application, or ANDA, or an NDA submitted under Section 505(b)(2), or 505(b)(2) NDA, submitted by another

company for another drug based on the same active moiety, regardless of whether the drug is intended for the same indication as the original innovative drug or for another indication, where the applicant does not own or have a legal right of reference to all the data required for approval. However, an application may be submitted after four years if it contains a certification of patent invalidity or non-infringement to one of the patents listed with the FDA by the innovator NDA holder.

The FDCA alternatively provides three years of non-patent exclusivity for an NDA, or supplement to an existing NDA if new clinical investigations, other than bioavailability studies, that were conducted or sponsored by the applicant are deemed by the FDA to be essential to the approval of the application, for example, for new indications, dosages or strengths of an existing drug. This three-year exclusivity covers only the conditions of approval for which the drug received approval on the basis of the new clinical investigations and does not prohibit the FDA from approving ANDAs or 505(b) (2) NDAs for drugs containing the active agent for the original indication or condition of use. Five-year and three-year exclusivity will not delay the submission or approval of a full NDA. However, an applicant submitting a full NDA would be required to conduct or obtain a right of reference to any preclinical studies and adequate and well-controlled clinical trials necessary to demonstrate safety and effectiveness.

Pediatric exclusivity is another type of marketing exclusivity available in the United States. Pediatric exclusivity provides for an additional six months of exclusivity attached to another existing patent term or period of regulatory exclusivity if a sponsor conducts clinical trials in children in response to a written request from the FDA. The issuance of a "written request" does not require the sponsor to undertake the described clinical trials.

Biosimilars and Reference Product Exclusivity

The Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act of 2009, or BPCIA, created an abbreviated approval pathway for biological products that are highly similar, or "biosimilar," to or interchangeable with an FDA-approved reference biological product. The FDA has issued several guidance documents outlining an approach to review and approval of biosimilars. Biosimilarity, which requires that there be no clinically meaningful differences between the biological product and the reference product in terms of safety, purity, and potency, is generally shown through analytical studies, animal studies, and a clinical study or studies. Interchangeability requires that a product is biosimilar to the reference product and the product must demonstrate that it can be expected to produce the same clinical results as the reference product in any given patient and, for products that are administered multiple times to an individual, the biologic and the reference biologic may be alternated or switched after one has been previously administered without increasing safety risks or risks of diminished efficacy relative to exclusive use of the reference biologic. A product shown to be biosimilar or interchangeable with an FDA-approved reference biological product may rely in part on the FDA's previous determination of safety and effectiveness for the reference product for approval, which can potentially reduce the cost and time required to obtain approval to market the product.

Under the BPCIA, an application for a biosimilar product may not be submitted to the FDA until four years following the date that the reference product was first licensed by the FDA. In addition, the approval of a biosimilar product may not be made effective by the FDA until 12 years from the date on which the reference product was first licensed. During this 12-year period of exclusivity, another company may still market a competing version of the reference product if the FDA approves a full BLA for the competing product containing that applicant's own preclinical data and data from adequate and well-controlled clinical trials to demonstrate the safety, purity and potency of its product. The BPCIA also created some exclusivity periods for biosimilars approved as interchangeable products. At this juncture, it is unclear whether products deemed "interchangeable" by the FDA will, in fact, be readily substituted by pharmacies, which are governed by state pharmacy law.

A biological product can also obtain pediatric market exclusivity in the United States, as described above if the BLA sponsor voluntarily completes a pediatric study that fairly response to a "written request" from the FDA to conduct such study.

U.S. Healthcare Laws

Pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers are subject to additional healthcare regulation and enforcement by the federal government and by authorities in the states and foreign jurisdictions in which they conduct their business. Such laws include, without limitation, federal and state anti-kickback, fraud and abuse, false claims, price reporting, and transparency laws and regulations, as well as similar foreign laws in the jurisdictions outside the United States, including but not limited to those discussed below.

The federal Anti-Kickback Statute prohibits, among other things, persons and entities from knowingly and willfully soliciting, offering, paying, receiving or providing any remuneration, directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash or in kind, to induce or reward, or in return for, either the referral of an individual for, or the purchase, order or recommendation of, any good or service, for which payment may be made, in whole or in part, under a federal healthcare program. A person or entity need not have actual knowledge of the federal Anti-Kickback Statute or specific intent to violate it in order to have committed a violation. A conviction for violation of the federal Anti-Kickback Statute can result in criminal fines and/or imprisonment and requires mandatory exclusion from participation in federal health care programs. Exclusion from the federal healthcare programs may also be imposed if the government determines that an entity has committed acts that are prohibited by the federal Anti-Kickback Statute.

The federal civil monetary penalties and false claims laws, including the civil False Claims Act, or FCA, prohibit individuals or entities from, among other things: knowingly presenting, or causing to be presented, to the federal government, claims for payment or approval that are false, fictitious or fraudulent; knowingly making, using, or causing to be made or used, a false statement or record material to a false or fraudulent claim or obligation to pay or transmit money or property to the federal government; or knowingly concealing or knowingly and improperly avoiding or decreasing an obligation to pay money to the federal government. Manufacturers can be held liable under the FCA even when they do not submit claims directly to government payors if they are deemed to “cause” the submission of false or fraudulent claims. The FCA also permits a private individual acting as a “whistleblower” to bring actions on behalf of the federal government alleging violations of the FCA and to share in any monetary recovery. In addition, the government may assert that a claim that includes items or services resulting from a violation of the federal Anti-Kickback Statute constitutes a false or fraudulent claim for purposes of the FCA. FCA liability is potentially significant in the healthcare industry because the statute provides for treble damages and significant mandatory penalties per false or fraudulent claim or statement for violations. Penalties for FCA violations may include up to three times the actual damages sustained by the government, plus mandatory civil penalties for each separate false claim or statement. Other penalties include the potential for exclusion from participation in federal healthcare programs. Additionally, although the FCA is a civil statute, FCA violations may also implicate various federal criminal statutes. There is also the U.S. federal criminal False Claims Act, which is similar to the FCA and imposes criminal liability on those that make or present a false, fictitious or fraudulent claim to the federal government.

The federal civil monetary penalties laws authorize the imposition of substantial civil fines for monetary penalties against an entity that engages in activities including, among other things, (1) knowingly presenting, or causing to be presented, a claim for services not provided as claimed or is otherwise false or fraudulent in any way; (2) arranging for or contracting with an individual or entity that is excluded from participation in federal healthcare programs to provide items or services reimbursable by Medicare or a federal healthcare program; (3) violations of the federal Anti-Kickback Statute; or (4) failing to report and return a known overpayment.

The HIPAA, as amended by HITECH and their respective implementing regulations, imposes criminal and civil liability for knowingly and willfully executing a scheme, or attempting to execute a scheme, to defraud any healthcare benefit program, including private payors, knowingly and willfully embezzling or stealing from a healthcare benefit program, willfully obstructing a criminal investigation of a healthcare offense, or falsifying, concealing or covering up a material fact or making any materially false statements in connection with the delivery of or payment for healthcare benefits, items or services. Similar to the federal Anti-Kickback Statute, a person or entity need not have actual knowledge of the statute or specific intent to violate it in order to have committed a violation.

The Physician Payments Sunshine Act imposes annual reporting requirements for some manufacturers of drugs, devices, biologics, and medical supplies for which payment is available under Medicare, Medicaid, or the Children’s Health Insurance Program, for some payments and “transfers of value” provided to physicians (currently defined to include doctors, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists and chiropractors), specific non-physician providers including physician assistants and nurse practitioners, and teaching hospitals, as well as ownership and investment interests held by such physicians and their immediate family members.

Moreover, analogous state and foreign laws and regulations may be broader in scope than the provisions described above and may apply regardless of payor. Some state laws require pharmaceutical companies to comply with the pharmaceutical industry’s voluntary compliance guidelines and relevant federal government compliance guidance; require drug manufacturers to report information related to payments and other transfers of value to physicians and other healthcare providers, many of which differ from each other in significant ways, thus further complicating compliance efforts; and restrict marketing practices or require disclosure of marketing expenditures and pricing information, including notice of price increases.

Violation of any of such laws or any other governmental regulations that apply may result in penalties, including, without limitation, significant administrative, civil and criminal penalties, damages, fines, additional reporting obligations and oversight if a manufacturer becomes subject to a corporate integrity agreement or other agreement to resolve allegations of non-compliance with these laws, the curtailment or restructuring of operations, exclusion from participation in governmental healthcare programs and imprisonment.

PRC Regulations

We are subject to a variety of PRC laws, rules and regulations affecting many aspects of our business. This section sets out a summary of the major relevant laws, regulations, rules and policies which may have material impact on our business and operations.

Regulations on Company Establishment and Foreign Investment

The establishment, operation and management of corporate entities in the PRC are governed by the Company Law of the PRC, or the PRC Company Law, which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, or the NPC, in December 1993 and further amended in December 1999, August 2004, October 2005, December 2013 and October 2018, respectively. Recently it was amended in December 2023 and will come into effect in July 2024. According to the PRC Company Law, companies are generally classified into two categories: limited liability companies and companies limited by shares. The PRC Company Law also applies to non-PRC-invested limited liability companies.

Investment activities in the PRC by non-PRC investors are governed by the Guiding Foreign Investment Direction, which was promulgated by the State Council in February 2002 and came into effect in April 2002, and the Special Administrative Measures for the Access of Foreign Investment (Negative List), or the Negative List, which was recently updated by MOFCOM and the National Development and Reform Commission in December 2021 and came into effect in January 2022. The Negative List sets out the restrictive measures in a unified manner, such as the requirements on shareholding percentages and management, for the access of non-PRC investments, and the industries that are prohibited from receiving non-PRC investment. The Negative List covers 12 industries, and any field not falling under the Negative List shall be administered under the principle of equal treatment to PRC and non-PRC investment.

Foreign Investment Law of the PRC, or the Foreign Investment Law, was promulgated by the NPC in March 2019 and came into effect in January 2020. When the Foreign Investment Law came into effect, the Law on Wholly Foreign-owned Enterprises of the PRC, the Law on Sino-foreign Equity Joint Ventures of the PRC and the Law on Sino-foreign Cooperative Joint Ventures of the PRC were repealed simultaneously. The investment activities of non-PRC natural persons, enterprises or other organizations (collectively, the "non-PRC investors") directly or indirectly within the territory of the PRC shall comply with and be governed by the Foreign Investment Law. Such activities include: (1) establishing by non-PRC investors of non-PRC-invested enterprises in the PRC alone or jointly with other investors; (2) acquiring by non-PRC investors of shares, equity, property shares, or other similar interests of PRC enterprises; (3) investing by non-PRC investors in new projects in the PRC alone or jointly with other investors; and (4) other forms of investment prescribed by laws, administrative regulations or the State Council.

In December 2019, the State Council promulgated the Regulations on Implementing the Foreign Investment Law of the PRC, which came into effect in January 2020. When the Regulations on Implementing the Foreign Investment Law of the PRC came into effect, the Regulation on Implementing the Sino-Foreign Equity Joint Venture Enterprise Law of the PRC, Provisional Regulations on the Duration of Sino-Foreign Equity Joint Venture Enterprise, the Regulations on Implementing the Wholly Foreign-Invested Enterprise Law of the PRC and the Regulations on Implementing the Sino-Foreign Cooperative Joint Venture Enterprise Law of the PRC were repealed simultaneously.

In December 2019, the MOFCOM and the State Administration for Market Regulation, or the SAMR promulgated the Measures on Reporting of Foreign Investment Information, which came into effect in January 2020. When the Measures on Reporting of Foreign Investment Information came into effect, the Interim Measures for the Administration of Filing for Establishment and Changes in Foreign Investment Enterprises were repealed simultaneously. Since January 1, 2020, for non-PRC investors carrying out investment activities directly or indirectly in the PRC, the non-PRC investors or non-PRC-invested enterprises shall submit investment information to the relevant commerce administrative authorities according to the Measure on Reporting of Foreign Investment Information.

Cybersecurity Measures

In April 2020, the Chinese government promulgated the 2020 Cybersecurity Review Measures, which came into effect on June 1, 2020. On December 28, 2021, the PRC government promulgated the 2022 Cybersecurity Review Measures, which

came into effect and replaced the 2020 Cybersecurity Review Measures on February 15, 2022. According to the 2022 Cybersecurity Review Measures, (i) critical information infrastructure operators that purchase network products and services and internet platform operators that conduct data processing activities shall be subject to cybersecurity review in accordance with the 2022 Cybersecurity Review Measures if such activities affect or may affect national security; and (ii) internet platform operators holding personal information of more than one million users and seeking to have their securities list on a stock exchange in a country outside the PRC shall file for cybersecurity review with the Cybersecurity Review Office. Under the Regulation on Protecting the Security of Critical Information Infrastructure promulgated by the State Council on July 30, 2021, effective September 1, 2021, “critical information infrastructure” is defined as important network facilities and information systems in important industries and fields, such as public telecommunication and information services, energy, transportation, water conservancy, finance, public services, e-government and national defense, science, technology and industry, as well as other important network facilities and information systems that, in case of destruction, loss of function or leak of data, may severely damage national security, the national economy and the people's livelihood and public interests. Compared with the 2020 Cybersecurity Review Measures, the 2022 Cybersecurity Review Measures contain the following key changes: (i) internet platform operators who are engaged in data processing are also subject to the regulatory scope; (ii) the CSRC is included as one of the regulatory authorities for purposes of jointly establishing the state cybersecurity review mechanism; (iii) internet platform operators holding personal information of more than one million users and seeking to have their securities list on a stock exchange in a country outside of PRC shall file for cybersecurity review with the Cybersecurity Review Office; (iv) the risks of core data, material data or large amounts of personal information being stolen, leaked, destroyed, damaged, illegally used or illegally transmitted to non-PRC parties and the risks of critical information infrastructure, core data, material data or large amounts of personal information being influenced, controlled or used maliciously by non-PRC governments and any cybersecurity risk after a company's listing on a stock exchange shall be collectively taken into consideration during the cybersecurity review process; and (v) critical information infrastructure operators and internet platform operators covered by the 2022 Cybersecurity Review Measures shall take measures to prevent and mitigate cybersecurity risks in accordance with the requirements therein. On November 14, 2021, the CAC released the Draft Administrative Regulation, under which, (i) data processors, i.e., individuals and organizations who can decide on the purpose and method of their data processing activities at their own discretion, that process personal information of more than one million individuals shall apply for cybersecurity review before listing in a country outside the PRC; (ii) non-PRC listed data processors shall carry out annual data security evaluation and submit the evaluation report to the municipal cyberspace administration authority; and (iii) where the data processor undergoes merger, reorganization and subdivision that involves important data and personal information of more than one million individuals, the recipient of the data shall report the transaction to the in-charge authority at the municipal level. The Draft Administrative Regulation was released for public comment only, and the draft provisions and anticipated adoption or effective date are subject to changes and thus its interpretation and implementation remain substantially uncertain. We cannot predict the impact of the Draft Administrative Regulation, if any, on the operations of our Company at this stage, and we will closely monitor and assess any development in the rule-making process.

Currently, the 2022 Cybersecurity Review Measures and the Draft Administrative Regulation have not materially affected our business and operations, and as we do not maintain, nor do we intend to maintain in the future, personally identifiable health information of patients in the PRC, we do not believe our business activities affect or may be interpreted to affect national security. As of the date of this annual report, we have not been informed by any relevant PRC governmental authorities that we are identified as or considered a “critical information infrastructure operator” or “data processor that processes personal information of more than one million individuals”. We are also not aware of any requirement that we should file for a cybersecurity review or annual data security evaluation, nor have we received any inquiry, notice, warning, sanction in such respect. Therefore, based on our understanding of the current PRC laws and regulations, we are of the view that we are unlikely to be subject to such cybersecurity review arising from our continued listing on a U.S. stock exchange or offerings of our securities thereon. However, as PRC governmental authorities have significant discretion in interpreting and implementing statutory provisions and there remains significant uncertainty in the interpretation and enforcement of relevant PRC cybersecurity laws and regulations, in anticipation of the strengthened implementation of cybersecurity laws and regulations and if the PRC regulatory authorities take a position contrary to ours, there can be no assurance that we will not be deemed as a critical information infrastructure operator or data processor that processes personal information of more than one million individuals under the PRC cybersecurity laws and regulations in the future, or that the Draft Administrative Regulation will not be further amended or other laws or regulations will not be promulgated to subject us to the cybersecurity review or other compliance requirements. In such case, we may face challenges in addressing such enhanced regulatory requirements.

Regulation on Pharmaceutical Product Development, Approval and Registration

Drug Regulatory Regime

The Drug Administration Law of the PRC, or the Drug Administration Law, was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC, in September 1984. The two latest amendments to the Drug Administration Law were the amendment promulgated in April 2015 and in August 2019. The Regulations for the Implementation of the Drug Administration Law were promulgated by the State Council in August 2002, and were last amended in March 2019. The Drug Administration Law and the Regulations for the Implementation of the Drug Administration Law have jointly established the legal framework for the administration of pharmaceutical products in the PRC, including the research, development and manufacturing of new drugs. The Drug Administration Law applies to entities and individuals engaged in the development, production, trade, application, supervision and administration of pharmaceutical products. It regulates and provides for a framework for the administration of pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmaceutical trading companies and medicinal preparations of medical institutions, and the development, research, manufacturing, distribution, packaging, pricing and advertisements of pharmaceutical products. The Regulations for the Implementation of the Drug Administration Law, at the same time, provide the detailed implementation regulations for the Drug Administration Law.

In 2017, the drug regulatory system entered a new and significant period of reform. The General Office of the State Council and the General Committee of the China Communist Party jointly issued Opinions on Deepening the Reform of the Evaluation and Approval Systems and Encouraging Innovation on Drugs and Medical Devices, or the Innovation Opinions. The expedited programs, the record-filing system, the prioritized review mechanism, the acceptance of non-PRC clinical data under the Innovation Opinions and other recent reforms encourage drug manufacturers to seek marketing approval in the PRC first for the development of drugs in highly prioritized therapeutic areas, such as oncology or rare diseases.

To implement the regulatory reform introduced by the Innovation Opinions, the Standing Committee of the NPC, the National Medical Products Administration, or the NMPA, a newly formed government authority in 2018 as well as other authorities, are currently responsible for revising the laws, regulations and rules governing the pharmaceutical products and the industry.

In August 2019, the Standing Committee of the NPC promulgated the new Drug Administration Law, or the 2019 Amendment, which came into effect in December 2019. The 2019 Amendment contains many of the major reform initiatives implemented by the Chinese government since 2015, including but not limited to the Marketing Authorization Holder, or the MAH, system, conditional approvals of drugs, traceability system of drugs, and the cancellation of relevant certification according to Good Manufacturing Practice and Good Supply Practice.

In May 2022, the NMPA published the draft amendment of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Drug Administration Law, aiming to provide further implementing rules of the Drug Administration Law. The draft proposed to provide 6 years of data exclusivity of undisclosed trial data and other data of certain approved drugs, up to 7- years of market exclusivity for drugs treating rare diseases, and up to 12 months of market exclusivity for pediatric drugs under certain conditions. This draft regulation is not yet finalized.

Regulatory Authorities

Pharmaceutical products in the PRC are monitored and supervised on a national scale by the NMPA. The local provincial medical products administrative authorities are responsible for supervision and administration of drugs within their respective administrative regions. The NMPA was newly formed under the SAMR. The NMPA's predecessor, the State Drug Administration was replaced by the State Food and Drug Administration, or the SFDA, which was later reorganized into the China Food and Drug Administration, or the CFDA, which was later replaced by SAMR, as part of the institutional reforms implemented by the State Council in 2018.

The primary responsibilities of the NMPA include:

- monitoring and supervising the administration of pharmaceutical products, medical appliances and equipment as well as cosmetics in the PRC;
- formulating administrative rules and policies concerning the supervision and administration of pharmaceutical, medical devices, and cosmetics industry;
- evaluating, registering and approving new drugs, generic drugs, imported drugs and traditional Chinese medicine;

- approving and issuing permits for the manufacture, distribution and export/import of pharmaceutical products, medical devices;
- approving the establishment of enterprises to be engaged in the manufacture and distribution of pharmaceutical products;
- examining and evaluating the safety of pharmaceutical products, medical devices, and cosmetics; and
- managing significant accidents involving pharmaceutical products, medical devices and cosmetics.

In 2013, the Ministry of Health, or the MOH, and the National Population and Family Planning Commission were integrated into the National Health and Family Planning Commission of the PRC, or the NHFPC. In March 2018, the First Session of the Thirteenth NPC approved the State Council Institutional Reform Proposal, according to which, NHFPC and some other governmental authorities were consolidated into the National Health Commission, or the NHC. The responsibilities of the NHC include, among others, coordinating the formulation of national drug policies, the national essential medicine system and the National Essential Medicines List and drafting the administrative rules for the procurement, distribution and use of national essential medicines.

According to the Decision of the CFDA on Adjusting the Approval Procedures under the Administrative Approval Items for Certain Drugs, which was promulgated by the CFDA in March 2017 and came into effect in May 2017, an IND approval should be issued by the Center for Drug Evaluation, or the CDE, on behalf of the CFDA.

Regulations on Clinical Trials and Registration of Drugs

Administrative Measures for Drug Registration

In July 2007, the SFDA promulgated the amended version of the Administrative Measures for Drug Registration, or the Registration Measures, which became effective in October 2007. The Registration Measures mainly cover: (1) definitions of drug registration applications and regulatory responsibilities of drug administration; (2) general requirements for drug registration, including application for registration of new drugs, generic drugs, imported drugs and supplemental application, as well as application for re-registration; (3) clinical trials; (4) application, examination and approval of new drugs, generic drugs and imported drugs; (5) supplemental applications and re-registrations of drugs; (6) inspections; (7) registration standards and specifications; (8) time limit; (9) re-examination; and (10) liabilities and other supplementary provisions.

According to the Registration Measures, drug registration applications are divided into three different types, namely Domestic New Drug Application, Domestic Generic Drug Application and Imported Drug Application. Drugs which fall into one of three general types are divided according to the drug's working mechanism, namely whether the drug is classified as a chemical medicine, a biological product, a traditional Chinese medicine or a natural medicine. A Domestic New Drug Application, or Domestic NDA, refers to an application for registration of a drug that has not yet been marketed for sale in the PRC. In addition, the registration of drugs that change the dosage form of the marketed drugs, change the route of administration and increase the new indications shall be reported in accordance with the application procedures for new drugs. Under the Registration Measures, a Category 1 drug refers to a new drug that has never been marketed in any country, and such drug is eligible for special review or fast track approval by the NMPA.

In January 2020, the SAMR released the amended Administrative Measures for Drug Registration, or the Amended Registration Measures, which came into effect in July 2020 and replaced the Registration Measures. The Amended Registration Measures provide detailed procedural and substantive requirements for the key regulatory concepts established by the Drug Administration Law, and confirms a number of reform actions that have been taken in the past years, including but not limited to: (i) the full implementation of the MAH system and implied approval of the commencement of clinical trial; (ii) the implementation of associated review of drugs, excipients and packaging materials; and (iii) the introduction of four procedures for expedited registration of drugs, which are procedures for ground-breaking therapeutic drugs, procedures for conditional approval, procedures for prioritized reviews and approval, and procedures for special examination and approval. Detailed implementation rules for drug classification and requirements for corresponding application materials were promulgated by the NMPA on June 29, 2020.

In March 2016, the CFDA issued the Reform Plan for Registration Category of Chemical Medicine, which outlined the reclassifications of drug applications under the Registration Measures. According to the Reform Plan for Registration Category of Chemical Medicine, Category 1 drugs refer to innovative new drugs that have not been marketed anywhere in the world. Improved new drugs that are not marketed anywhere in the world fall into Category 2 drugs. Generic drugs, that

have equivalent quality and efficacy to the originator's drugs and have been marketed outside of the PRC but not yet in the PRC, can be classified as Category 3 drugs. Generic drugs, that have equivalent quality and efficacy to the originator's drugs and have been marketed in the PRC, fall into Category 4 drugs. Category 5 drugs are drugs which have already been marketed outside of the PRC, but are not yet approved in the PRC. Category 1 drugs and Category 5 drugs can be registered through the Domestic New Drug Application and the Imported Drug Application Procedures under the Registration Measures, respectively. The NMPA confirmed this classification and provided more detailed requirements on products in each of these categories and supporting documents required for registration of products in each category in its Circular for Publishing the Registration Category and Documentation for Registration Submission for Chemical Medicine on June 29, 2020.

The SFDA promulgated the Administrative Provisions on Special Examination and Approval of Registration of New Drugs in January 2009, according to which, the SFDA conducts special examination and approval for new drug registration applications when: (1) the effective constituent of drug extracted from plants, animals, minerals, etc., as well as the preparations thereof have never been marketed in the PRC, and the material medicines and the preparations thereof are newly discovered; (2) the chemical raw material medicines as well as the preparations thereof and the biological product have not been approved for marketing at home and outside of the PRC; (3) the new drugs have obvious clinical treatment advantages for such diseases as AIDS, malignant tumors and orphan diseases, etc. or (4) the new drugs treat diseases currently with no effective methods of treatment.

The Special Examination and Approval of Registration of New Drugs provides that the applicant may file for special examination and approval at the clinical trial application stage if the product candidate falls within items (1) or (2). The provisions provide that for product candidates that fall within items (3) or (4), the application for special examination and approval cannot be made until filing for production.

Accelerated Approval for Clinical Trial and Registration

The Innovation Opinions established a framework for reforming the evaluation and approval system for drugs, medical devices and equipment. The Innovation Opinions enhanced the standard of approval for drug registration and accelerated the evaluation and approval process for innovative drugs as well as drug clinical trials.

The CFDA released the Circular Concerning Several Policies on Drug Registration Review and Approval in November 2015, which further clarified the measures and policies for simplifying and accelerating the approval process of clinical trials, including:

- a one-time umbrella approval procedure allowing the overall approval of all phases of a new drug's clinical trials, replacing the current phase-by-phase application and approval procedure; and
- a fast track drug registration or clinical trial approval pathway for the following applications: (1) registration of innovative new drugs for treating HIV, cancer, serious infectious diseases and orphan diseases, etc.; (2) registration of pediatric drugs; (3) registration of geriatric drugs and drugs treating PRC-prevalent diseases in elders; (4) registration of drugs listed in national major science and technology projects or national key research and development plan; (5) registration of clinical urgently needed drugs using advanced technology, using innovative treatment methods, or having distinctive clinical benefits; (6) registration of non-PRC innovative drugs to be manufactured locally in the PRC; (7) concurrent applications for new drug clinical trials which are already approved in the United States or EU or concurrent drug registration applications for drugs which have applied to the competent drug approval authorities for marketing authorization and passed such authorities' onsite inspections in the United States or EU and are manufactured using the same production line in the PRC; and (8) clinical trial applications for drugs with urgent clinical need and patent expiry within three years, and manufacturing authorization applications for drugs with urgent clinical need and patent expiry within one year.

The NMPA released the Circular on Adjusting Evaluation and Approval procedures for Clinical Trials for Drugs in July 2018, according to which, within sixty (60) working days after the acceptance of and the fees paid for the IND application, the applicant may conduct the clinical trials for the drug in accordance with the clinical trial protocol submitted, if the applicant has not received any negative or questioning opinion from the CDE. Such approval process has been further enacted into the 2019 Amendment.

Trial Exemptions and Acceptance of Foreign Data

The NMPA issued the Technical Guidance Principles on Accepting Foreign Drug Clinical Trial Data in July 2018, as one of the implementing rules for the Innovation Opinions, which provides that clinical data outside of the PRC can be

submitted for the drug registration applications in the PRC. Such applications can be in the form of waivers to PRC-based clinical trials, bridging trials and direct Domestic NDAs. According to the Technical Guidance Principles on Accepting Foreign Drug Clinical Trial Data, sponsors may use the data of non-PRC clinical trials to support drug registration in the PRC, provided that the sponsors must ensure the authenticity, completeness, accuracy and traceability of non-PRC clinical trial data and such data must be obtained consistent with the relevant requirements under the Good Clinical Trial Practice of the International Conference on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use, or the ICH. Sponsors must also comply with other relevant sections of the Registration Measures when applying for drug registrations in the PRC using non-PRC clinical trial data.

The NMPA now officially permits, and its predecessor agencies have permitted on a case-by-case basis in the past, drugs approved outside of the PRC to be approved in the PRC on a conditional basis without pre-approval clinical trials being conducted in the PRC. Specifically, the NMPA and the NHC released the Procedures for Reviewing and Approval of Clinical Urgently Needed Overseas New Drugs in October 2018, permitting drugs that have been approved within the last ten years in the United States, the EU or Japan and that prevent or treat orphan diseases, or prevent or treat serious life-threatening illnesses for which there is either no effective therapy in the PRC, or for which the non-PRC-approved drug would have clear clinical advantages. Applicants will be required to establish a risk mitigation plan and may be required to complete trials in the PRC after the drug has been marketed. The CDE has developed a list of qualifying drugs that meet the foregoing criteria.

Clinical Trial Process and Good Clinical Practices

According to the Registration Measures, a clinical trial consists of Phases I, II, III and IV. Phase I refers to the initial clinical pharmacology and safety evaluation studies in humans. Phase II refers to the preliminary evaluation of a product candidate's therapeutic effectiveness and safety for particular indications in patients, to provide evidence and support for the design of Phase III clinical trials and to settle the administrative dose regimen. Phase III refers clinical trials undertaken to confirm the therapeutic effectiveness and safety on patients with target indications, to evaluate the overall benefit-risk relationships of the drug, and ultimately to provide sufficient evidence for the review of drug registration application. Phase IV refers to a new drug's post-marketing study to assess therapeutic effectiveness and adverse reactions when the drug is widely used, to evaluate the overall benefit-risk relationships of the drug when used among the general population or specific groups and to adjust the administration dose.

To improve the quality of clinical trials, the SFDA promulgated the Good Clinical Trial Practice for Drugs in August 2003, or the GCP Rules, which was replaced by the revised Good Clinical Trial Practice for Drugs, or the Revised GCP Rules, promulgated by the NMPA and the NHC in April 2020 and coming into effect in July 2020. According to the Revised GCP Rules, clinical trial means systematic investigation of drugs conducted on human subjects (patients or healthy volunteers) to prove or reveal the function, adverse reactions and/or absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion of the drug being investigated. The purpose of a clinical trial is to determine the therapeutic efficacy and safety of the drug. The Revised GCP Rules provide comprehensive and substantive requirements on the design and conduct of clinical trials in the PRC. In particular, the Revised GCP Rules enhance the protection for study subjects and tighten the control over bio-samples collected under clinical trials.

The Revised GCP Rules also set out the qualifications and requirements for the investigators and centers participating in clinical trial, who must: (i) have professional certification at a clinical trial center, professional knowledge, training experience and capability of clinical trial, and be able to provide the latest resume and relevant qualification documents per request; (ii) be familiar with the trial protocol, investigator's brochure and relevant information of the trial drug provided by the applicant; (iii) be familiar with and comply with the Revised GCP Rules and relevant laws and regulations relating to clinical trials; (iv) keep a copy of the authorization form on work allocation signed by investigators; (v) accept supervision and inspection organized by the applicant and inspection by the drug regulatory authorities; and (vi) in the case of investigators and clinical trial centers authorizing other individuals or institutions to undertake some responsibilities and functions relating to clinical trial, they shall ensure such individuals or institutions are qualified and establish complete procedures to ensure the responsibilities and functions are fully performed and generate reliable data.

Communication with the CDE

According to the Circular on Adjusting Evaluation and Approval Procedures for Clinical Trials for Drugs, where the application for clinical trial of a new investigational drug has been approved, upon the completion of Phases I and II clinical trials and prior to Phase III clinical trial, the applicant shall submit the application for Communication Session to the CDE to discuss the key technical questions including the design of Phase III clinical trial protocol. Within sixty (60)

days after the acceptance of and the fees paid for the IND application, the applicant may conduct the clinical trials for the drug in accordance with the clinical trial protocol submitted, if the applicant has not received any negative or questioning opinion from the CDE.

The NMPA promulgated the Administrative Measures for Communication on the Research, Development and Technical Evaluation of Drugs in September 2018, which was amended and replaced in December 2020, and according to such amended regulations, during the research and development periods and in the registration applications of, among others, chemical drugs, the applicants may propose to conduct communication meetings with the CDE. The communication meetings can be classified into three types. Type I meetings are convened to address key safety issues in clinical trials of drugs and key technical issues in the research and development of breakthrough therapeutic drugs, or other certain prescribed circumstances. Type II meetings are held during the key research and development periods of drugs, mainly including meetings before the IND application, meetings upon the completion of Phase II trials and before the commencement of Phase III trials, meetings before submitting a marketing application for a new drug, and meetings for risk evaluation and control. Type III meetings refer to meetings not classified as Type I or Type II.

Drug Clinical Trial Registration

According to the Registration Measures, upon obtaining the approval of its IND applications and before conducting a clinical trial, an applicant shall file a registration form with the SFDA containing various details, including the clinical trial protocol, the name of the principal researcher of the leading institution, the names of participating institutions and researchers, an approval letter from the ethics committee, and a sample of the informed consent form, with a copy sent to the competent provincial administration departments where the trial institutions will be located. The CFDA released the Announcement on Drug Clinical Trial Information Platform in September 2013, according to which, instead of the aforementioned registration filed with the CFDA, all clinical trials approved by the CFDA and conducted in the PRC shall complete a clinical trial registration and publish trial information through the Drug Clinical Trial Information Platform. The applicant shall complete the trial pre-registration within one month after obtaining the approval of the clinical trial approval in order to obtain the trial's unique registration number and complete registration of some follow-up information before the first subject's enrollment in the trial. If the registration is not completed within one year after the approval of the IND applications, the applicant shall submit an explanation, and if the first submission is not completed within three years, the approval of the IND applications shall automatically expire.

New Drug Application

According to the Registration Measures, drug registration applications include Domestic NDAs, domestic generic drug application and imported drug application. Drugs are classified into chemical drugs, biological products and traditional Chinese medicine or natural drugs. When Phases I, II and III clinical trials have been completed, the applicant may apply to the SFDA for approval of a Domestic NDA. The SFDA then determines whether to approve the application according to the comprehensive evaluation opinion provided by the CDE. This two-step procedure continues to be implemented under the Amended Registration Measures for products under the new registration category. According to the Amended Registration Measures, after (i) completing relevant pharmaceutical, pharmacological and toxicological research, clinical drug trials, and other research supporting the marketing registration of a medicine, (ii) determining medicine quality standards, (iii) completing the verification of commercial scale manufacturing process, and (iv) making preparations for drug registration inspections, the applicant shall file the application for drug marketing authorization with the CDE. The CDE will organize pharmaceutical, medical and other professionals to review accepted drug marketing authorization applications in accordance with relevant requirements.

Pilot Plan for the MAH System

The Innovation Opinions provide a pilot plan for the MAH system.

Under the authorization of the Standing Committee of the NPC, the General Office of the State Council issued the Pilot Plan for the Drug Marketing Authorization Holder Mechanism in May 2016, which provides a detailed pilot plan for the MAH system in ten Chinese provinces. Under the MAH system, PRC domestic drug research and development institutions and individuals in the pilot regions are eligible to be holders of drug registrations without having to become drug manufacturers. The marketing authorization holders may engage contract manufacturers for manufacturing, provided that the contract manufacturers are licensed and located within the pilot regions. Drugs that qualify for the MAH system are: (1) new drugs (including but not limited to drugs under category I to category IV of chemical drugs, and targeted preparation, sustained release preparation, controlled release preparation under category V of chemical drugs, biological products

approved as category I and VII drugs and biosimilars under the Registration Measures) approved after the implementation of the aforesaid pilot plan for the MAH system; (2) generic drugs approved as category III or IV drugs under the Reform Plan for Registration Category of Chemical Medicine; (3) previously approved generics that have passed equivalence assessments against original drugs; and (4) previously approved drugs whose licenses were held by drug manufacturers originally located within the pilot regions, but which have moved out of the pilot regions due to corporate mergers or other reasons.

The CFDA promulgated the Circular on the Matters Relating to Promotion of the Pilot Program for the Drug Marketing Authorization Holder System in August 2017. It clarified the legal liability of the MAH, who is responsible for managing the whole manufacturing and marketing chain and the whole life cycle of drugs and legally liable for preclinical drug study, clinical trials, manufacturing, marketing, distribution and adverse drug reaction monitoring. According to the Circular on the Matters Relating to Promotion of the Pilot Program for the Drug Marketing Authorization Holder System, the MAH shall submit a report of drug manufacturing, marketing, prescription, techniques, pharmacovigilance, quality control measures and other situations to the CFDA within 20 working days after the end of each year.

According to the Pilot Plan for the Drug Marketing Authorization Holder Mechanism, the pilot plan was originally set for a three-year period and was scheduled to expire in November 2018. The Standing Committee of the NPC promulgated the Decision of Extending the Pilot Period of Authorizing the State Council to Carry Out the Pilot Plan for the Drug Marketing Authorization Holder Mechanism in Certain Places in October 2018, which extended the term of the MAH system to November 4, 2019.

According to the 2019 Amendment, which came into effect on December 1, 2019, the MAH system will be applicable throughout the country and the legal representative and the key person-in-charge of a drug MAH shall be fully responsible for the quality of drugs. Further, pursuant to the 2019 Amendment, a foreign MAH is required to appoint a local agent in the PRC to perform the MAH responsibilities and be jointly liable with the foreign MAH. The detailed implementing regulations on such local agent are under development.

International Multi-Center Clinical Trials

The International Multi-Center Clinical Trial Guidelines (Trial), or the Multi-Center Clinical Trial Guidelines, which was promulgated by the CFDA in January 2015 and came into effect in March 2015, provided guidance on the implementation of Multi-Regional Clinical Trials, or the MRCT, in the PRC. According to the Multi-Center Clinical Trial Guidelines, international multi-center clinical trial applicants may simultaneously perform clinical trials in different centers using the same clinical trial protocol. Where the applicants plan to implement the international multi-center clinical trials in the PRC, the applicants shall comply with relevant laws and regulations, such as the Drug Administration Law, the Implementing Regulations of the Drug Administration Law and the Registration Measures, execute the GCP Rules, make reference to universal international principles such as the ICH-GCP and comply with the laws and regulations of the countries involved in the international multi-center clinical trials. Where the applicants plan to use the data derived from the international multi-center clinical trials for approval of a drug registration in the PRC, it shall involve at least two countries, including the PRC, and shall satisfy the requirements for clinical trials set forth in the Multi-Center Clinical Trial Guidelines, Registration Measures and other related laws and regulations.

In April 2020, the NMPA and the NHC promulgated the Revised GCP Rules, which came into effect in July 2020. The Revised GCP Rules summarize the requirements for initiating an MRCT, that is, before initiating an MRCT: (i) the applicant shall ensure that all the centers participating in the clinical trial comply with the trial protocol; (ii) the applicant shall provide each center with the same trial protocol, and each center shall comply with the same unified evaluation criterion for clinical trial and laboratory data and the same guidance for case report form; (iii) each center shall use the same case report form to record the data of each human subject obtained during the trial; (iv) before initiating a clinical trial, a written document is required to specify the responsibilities of the investigators of each center; and (v) the applicant shall ensure the communication among the investigators of each center.

Data derived from international multi-center clinical trials can be used for the new drug applications with the NMPA. When using international multi-center clinical trial data to support new drug applications in the PRC, applicants shall submit the completed global clinical trial report, statistical analysis report and database, along with relevant supporting data in accordance with the content and format requirements under the International Conference on Harmonization-Common Technical Document; subgroup research results summary and comparative analysis shall also be conducted concurrently. Leveraging the clinical trial data derived from international multi-center clinical trials conducted by our partners, we may avoid unnecessarily repetitive clinical trials and thus further accelerate the Domestic NDA process.

The CFDA released the Decision on Adjusting Items concerning the Administration of Imported Drug Registration in October 2017, which includes the following key points:

- If the International Multicenter Clinical Trial, or the IMCCT, of a drug is conducted in the PRC, Phase I clinical trial of the drug is allowed simultaneously. The IMCCT drug does not need to be approved or to enter into either a Phase II or III clinical trial in a country outside of the PRC, except for preventive biological products;
- If the IMCCT is conducted in the PRC, the application for drug marketing authorization can be submitted directly after the completion of the IMCCT. The Registration Measures and relevant laws and regulations shall be complied with for registration application;
- With respect to applications for clinical trial and marketing of the imported innovative chemical drugs and therapeutic biological products, the marketing authorization in the country or region where the non-PRC drug manufacturer is located will not be required; and
- With respect to drug applications that have been accepted before the release of the Decision on Adjusting Items concerning the Administration of Imported Drug Registration, if relevant requirements are met, importation permission can be granted if such applications request exemption of clinical trials for the imported drugs based on the data generated from the IMCCT.

Approval of Human Genetic Resources

The Interim Administrative Measures on Human Genetic Resources, promulgated by the Ministry of Science and Technology, or the MOST, and the MOH in June 1998, aimed at protecting and fairly utilizing human genetic resources in the PRC. The Ministry of Science and Technology promulgated the Service Guide for Administrative Licensing Items concerning Examination and Approval of Sampling, Collecting, Trading or Exporting Human Genetic Resources, or Taking Such Resources out of the PRC in August 2015, according to which, the sampling, collection or research activities of human genetic resources by a non-PRC-invested sponsor fall within the scope of international cooperation, and the cooperating Chinese organization shall apply for approval of the China Human Genetic Resources Management Office through an online system. The MOST further promulgated the Circular on Optimizing the Administrative Examination and Approval of Human Genetic Resources in October 2017, which became effective in December 2017 and simplified the approval of sampling and collecting human genetic resources for listing a drug in the PRC.

The Regulations of the PRC on the Administration of Human Genetic Resources, which was promulgated by the State Council in May 2019 and came into effect in July 2019, further stipulates that, in order to obtain marketing authorization for relevant drugs and medical devices in the PRC, no approval is required for international clinical trial cooperation using the PRC's human genetic resources at clinical institutions without export of human genetic resource materials. However, the type, quantity and usage of the human genetic resource to be used shall be filed with the MOST before clinical trials. Further, the parties of an international collaboration are required to jointly own patents arising from the international cooperation. In practice, the MOST does not mandate this joint ownership requirement on clinical trials conducted by non-PRC parties in China for product registration purposes, but it does impose this requirement on exploratory trials. In March 2024, the Regulations of the PRC on the Administration of Human Genetic Resources was amended, effective from May 2024, under which the HGR regulatory authorities will be transferred from MOST to the NHC. Following this, the NHC will undertake review and approval processes for HGR.

The regulatory framework laid out by the above regulations is confirmed by the Law of Biosecurity of the PRC, which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC in October 2020 and came into effect in April 2021.

In March 2022, the MOST published the draft Implementing Rules for the Regulations of the PRC on the Administration of Human Genetic Resources, which offered certain clarification on the definition of non-PRC parties, the scope of international collaboration, HGR Information and HGR Materials, as well as criteria for security review. This draft is not yet promulgated.

In March 2023, the 14th National People's Congress announced a restructuring of the State Council. As a result of the restructuring, the HGR approval authorities remain with the MOST, while the department actually conducting the HGR review and approval work is transferred to the NHC.

In May 2023, the MOST finalized the Implementing Rules for the Regulations of the PRC on the Administration of Human Genetic Resources, coming into effect in July 1, 2023. These Implementing Rules, while confirming the approval and filing requirements under the existing regulations, provide certain clarifications that are relevant to clinical trials conducted by non-PRC parties in China, for instance -

- The definition of non-PRC parties is clarified to include foreign companies and individuals as well as Chinese entities that are under “actual control” by foreign companies and individuals, and the actual control can be exercised by holding more than 50% equity interests or through contractual arrangements, etc.;
- HGR Materials means genetic materials that contain human genomes and genes, such as organs, tissues and cells, etc..
- HGR Information means data on human genes and genomes, and other information and materials generated from the utilization of HGR Materials, but excluding clinical data, imaging data, protein data and metabolic data.
- A filing with the MOST is required before the HGR Information is provided to non-PRC parties other than collaborating parties in the approved international collaboration projects. Further, a security review is needed in case the HGR Information to be provided to non-PRC parties is (i) HGR Information of important genetic pedigrees; (ii) HGR Information from specific regions, or (iii) exome sequencing and genome sequencing information of more than 500 people.

Regulations on Drug Manufacturing and Distribution

Drug Manufacturing

According to the Drug Administration Law and the Implementing Regulations of the Drug Administration Law, a drug manufacturing enterprise is required to obtain a drug manufacturing license from the relevant provincial drug administration authority of the PRC. The grant of such license is subject to an inspection of the manufacturing facilities, and an inspection to determine whether the sanitary condition, quality assurance systems, management structure and equipment meet the required standards. According to the Implementing Regulations of the Drug Administration Law and the Measures on the Supervision and Administration of the Manufacture of Drugs, which was promulgated in August 2004, amended in November 2017 and January 2020 and came into effect in July 2020, the drug manufacturing license is valid for five years and shall be renewed at least six months prior to its expiration date upon a re-examination by the relevant authority. In addition, the name, legal representative, registered address and type of the enterprise specified in the drug manufacturing certificate shall be identical to that set forth in the business license as approved and issued by the industrial and commercial administrative department. To the extent the MAH does not manufacture the drug internally but through a contract manufacturing organization, the MAH shall apply for the drug manufacturing license with the provincial counterpart of the NMPA, subject itself to inspections and other regulatory oversight by the agency.

In October 2023, the NMPA published a No. 132 Circular for Strengthening Supervision and Administration for the MAH’s Contract Manufacturing Activities, setting forth more specific requirements the NMPA has on those MAHs who need to manufacture its products through contract manufacturing organizations.

The Good Manufacturing Practice for Drugs was promulgated in March 1988 and was amended in December 1992 and June 1999 and January 2011. The Good Manufacturing Practice for Drugs comprises a set of detailed standard guidelines governing the manufacture of drugs, which include institution and staff qualifications, production premises and facilities, equipment, hygiene conditions, production management, quality controls, product operation, raw material management, maintenance of sales records, management of customer complaints and adverse event reports.

Drug Distribution

According to the Drug Administration Law, its implementing regulations and the Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Circulation of Pharmaceuticals, which was promulgated by the SFDA in January 2007 and came into effect in May 2007, pharmaceutical enterprises shall be responsible for the quality of the pharmaceuticals that they manufacture, distribute, use, purchase, sell, transport, or store.

According to the Measures for the Administration of Drug Distribution License, which was promulgated in February 2004 and amended in November 2017 by the CFDA, a Drug Distribution License is valid for five years. Each holder of the Drug Distribution License must apply for an extension of its permit six months prior to expiration. The establishment of a wholesale pharmaceutical distribution company requires the approval of provincial medicine administrative authorities. Upon approval, the authority will grant a Drug Distribution License in respect of the wholesale pharmaceutical product distribution company. The establishment of a retail pharmacy store requires the approval of the local medicine administrative authorities at or above the county level. Upon approval, the authority will grant a Drug Distribution License in respect of the retail pharmacy store.

On September 27, 2023, the NMPA published the Quality Administration and Supervision Measures for Drug Distribution and Use, coming into effect on January 1, 2024 and replacing the Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Circulation of Pharmaceuticals and the Measures for the Administration of Drug Distribution License. Adhering to the general requirements in the previous regulations for drug wholesalers and retailers in China, who continue to be subject to the Drug Distribution License issued by the provincial or local authorities, this new NMPA regulation is to implement the 2019 Amendment and sets forth more specific and updated requirements on drug wholesalers and retailers with regard to their quality management systems, personnel, warehousing facilities, product storage and transportation, record keeping, and sales practices to end-users, etc.. Satisfying these requirements would enable the drug wholesalers and retailers to obtain and maintain the Drug Distribution License for their business operations.

Other PRC Government Regulations

Regulations on Intellectual Property Rights

In terms of international conventions, the PRC has entered into (including but not limited to) the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

Patents

According to the Patent Law of the PRC, which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC in March 1984, amended in September 1992, August 2000, December 2008 and October 2020, and came into effect in June 2021, and the Implementation Rules of the Patent Law of the PRC, which was promulgated by the State Council in June 2001 and amended in December 2002, January 2010 and December 2023, there are three types of patents in the PRC: invention patents, utility model patents and design patents. The protection period is 20 years for an invention patent and 10 years for a utility model patent and a design patent, commencing from their respective application dates. Any individual or entity that utilizes a patent or conducts any other activities that infringe a patent without prior authorization of the patent holder shall pay compensation to the patent holder and is subject to a fine imposed by relevant administrative authorities and, if constituting a crime, shall be held criminally liable in accordance with the law. According to the Patent Law of the PRC, any organization or individual that applies for a patent in a country outside the PRC for an invention or utility model patent established in the PRC is required to report to the NIPA for confidentiality examination.

The Patent Law of the PRC amended in October 2020 creates a patent dispute early resolution mechanism that may be comparable to the patent linkage system in the United States. This mechanism is further defined by an implementing rule jointly published by the NMPA and the China National Intellectual Property Administration, or the CNIPA, and a judicial interpretation published by the People's Supreme Court of the PRC, both of which became effective from July 2021. Under this mechanism, generic drug applicants are required to, at the time of their drug applications, make one of four types of announcements on the patent information registration platform established by the NMPA with regard to their generic drugs and the relevant patents, for instance, whether the generic drug could infringe any patent registered on the platform. The patent right holders may, within 45 days upon the NMPA's publication of its acceptance of the generic drug applications, bring a judicial action before the competent court or an administrative proceeding with the CNIPA for determination whether the generic drugs fall into the scope of their patents. The NMPA will provide a 9-month waiting period not to approve the generic drug applications once it is duly notified of such action or proceeding, but the NMPA will not stop its technical review on these generic applications within this waiting period.

Trade Secrets

According to the PRC Anti-Unfair Competition Law, which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC in September 1993 and amended in November 2017 and April 2019, respectively, the term "trade secrets" refers to technical and business information that is unknown to the public, has utility, may create business interests or profits for its legal owners or holders, and is maintained as a secret by its legal owners or holders. Under the PRC Anti-Unfair Competition Law, business persons are prohibited from infringing others' trade secrets by: (1) obtaining the trade secrets from the legal owners or holders by any unfair methods such as theft, bribery, fraud, coercion, electronic intrusion, or any other illicit means; (2) disclosing, using or permitting others to use the trade secrets obtained illegally under item (1) above; (3) disclosing, using or permitting others to use the trade secrets, in violation of any contractual agreements or any requirements of the legal owners or holders to keep such trade secrets in confidence; or (4) instigating, inducing or assisting others to violate a confidentiality obligation or to violate a rights holder's requirements on keeping confidentiality of trade secrets, disclosing, using or permitting others to use the trade secrets of the rights holder. If a third party knows or should have known of the above-mentioned illegal conduct but nevertheless obtains, uses or discloses trade secrets of

others, the third party may be deemed to have committed a misappropriation of the others' trade secrets. The parties whose trade secrets are being misappropriated may petition for administrative corrections, and regulatory authorities may stop any illegal activities and fine infringing parties.

Trademarks

According to the Trademark Law of the PRC promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC in August 1982, and amended in February 1993, October 2001, August 2013 and April 2019, respectively, the period of validity for a registered trademark is ten years, commencing on the date of registration. The registrant shall go through the formalities for renewal within twelve months prior to the expiry date of the trademark if continued use is intended. Where the registrant fails to do so, a grace period of six months may be granted. The validity period for each renewal of registration is ten years, commencing on the day immediately after the expiry of the preceding period of validity for the trademark. In the absence of a renewal upon expiry, the registered trademark shall be cancelled. Industrial and commercial administrative authorities have the authority to investigate any behavior that infringes the exclusive right under a registered trademark in accordance with the law. In case of a suspected criminal offense, the case shall be timely referred to a judicial authority and decided according to the law.

Domain Names

Domain names are protected under the Administrative Measures on the Internet Domain Names, which was promulgated by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology in August 2017, and the Implementing Rules on Registration of National Top-level Domain Names, which was promulgated by China Internet Network Information Center in and came into effect in June 2019. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology is the main regulatory body responsible for the administration of PRC internet domain names. Domain name registrations are handled through domain name service agencies established under the relevant regulations, and the applicants become domain name holders upon successful registration.

Regulations on Product Liability

In addition to the strict new drug approval process, PRC laws have been promulgated to protect the rights of consumers and to strengthen the control of medical products in the PRC. Under current PRC laws, manufacturers and vendors of defective products in the PRC may incur liability for loss and injury caused by such products. According to the General Principles of the Civil Law of the PRC promulgated in April 1986 and amended in August 2009, General Rules of the Civil Law of the PRC promulgated in March 2017 and became effective in October 2017, and the Civil Code of the PRC promulgated in May 2020, collectively, PRC Civil Law, the manufacturer or vendor of a defective product which causes property damage or physical injury to any person may be subject to civil liability for such damage or injury.

In February 1993, the Product Quality Law of the PRC, or the Product Quality Law, was promulgated to supplement the PRC Civil Law, aiming to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the end-users and consumers and to strengthen the supervision and control of the quality of products. The Product Quality Law was last revised in December 2018. According to the revised Product Quality Law, manufacturers who produce defective products may be subject to civil or criminal liability and have their business licenses revoked.

The Law of the PRC on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Consumers was promulgated in October 1993 and amended in October 2013 to protect consumer rights when they purchase or use goods and services. According to which, all business operators must comply with this law when they manufacture or sell goods and/or provide services to customers. Under the latest amendment, all business operators shall protect the customers' privacy and keep any consumer information they obtain during the business operation strictly confidential. In addition, in extreme situations, pharmaceutical product manufacturers and operators may be subject to criminal liability if their goods or services lead to the death or injuries of customers or other third parties.

Regulations on Tort

According to the Civil Code of the PRC published by the NPC in May 2020, if damages to other persons are caused by defective products due to the fault of third parties, such as the parties providing transportation or warehousing, the producers and the sellers of the products have the right to recover their respective losses from such third parties. If defective products are identified after they have been put into circulation, the producers or the sellers shall take remedial measures such as issuance of a warning, recall of products, etc., in a timely manner. The producers or the sellers shall be

liable under tort if they fail to take remedial measures in a timely manner or have not made efforts to take remedial measures, thus causing damages. If the products are produced or sold with known defects, causing deaths or severe adverse health issues, the infringed party has the right to claim punitive damages in addition to compensatory damages.

Regulations on Environmental Protection

Pursuant to the Environmental Protection Law of the PRC promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC, in December 1989, amended in April 2014 and effective in January 2015, any entity which discharges or will discharge pollutants during its course of operations or other activities must implement effective environmental protection safeguards and procedures to control and properly treat waste gas, waste water, waste residue, dust, malodorous gases, radioactive substances, noise vibrations, electromagnetic radiation and other hazards produced during such activities. According to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Law, in addition to other relevant laws and regulations of the PRC, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and its local counterparts take charge of administering and supervising said environmental protection matters.

Pursuant to the Environmental Protection Law, the environmental impact statement on any construction project must assess the pollution that the project is likely to produce and its impact on the environment, and stipulate preventive and curative measures; the statement shall be submitted to the competent administrative department of environmental protection for approval. Installations for the prevention and control of pollution in construction projects must be designed, built and commissioned together with the principal part of the project.

Pursuant to the Law of the PRC on Environment Impact Assessment, which was promulgated in October 2002 and most recently amended in December 2018, the government of the PRC implements a classification-based management on the environmental impact assessment of construction projects according to the impact of the construction projects on the environment. Construction units shall prepare an Environmental Impact Report or an Environmental Impact Statement, or fill out the Environmental Impact Registration Form.

Pursuant to the Regulations on Urban Drainage and Sewage Disposal, which was promulgated in October 2013 and came into effect in January 2014, and the Measures for the Administration of Permits for the Discharge of Urban Sewage into the Drainage Network, which was promulgated in January 2015 and came into effect in March 2015, and amended in December 2022, drainage entities covered by urban drainage facilities shall discharge sewage into urban drainage facilities in accordance with the relevant government regulations. Where a drainage entity needs to discharge sewage into urban drainage facilities, it shall apply for a drainage license in accordance with the provisions of these measures. The drainage entity that has not obtained the drainage license shall not discharge sewage into urban drainage facilities.

Regulations on Fire Protection

The Fire Prevention Law of the PRC, or the Fire Prevention Law, was adopted in April 1998 and last amended in April 2021. The Fire Prevention Law provides that fire control design and construction of a construction project shall comply with PRC's fire control technical standards. Developers, designers, builders and project supervisors shall be responsible for the quality of the fire control design and construction of the construction project pursuant to the law. Development project fire safety design examinations and acceptance systems shall be implemented for development projects which are required to have fire safety design in accordance with the national fire protection technical standards. The Interim Provisions on the Administration of Fire Protection Design Examination and Acceptance of Construction Projects, which was promulgated in April 2020 and recently amended in August 2023, provides that the fire safety design examination and acceptance systems shall be implemented for special construction projects subject to the standards and restrictions of the specific building area and use. Other construction projects shall be subject to the filing and selective examination systems.

According to the Eight Measures for the Public Security Fire Department to Deepen Reform and Serve Economic and Social Development promulgated by the Ministry of Public Security of the PRC in August 2015, the fire protection design and completion acceptance fire protection record of construction projects with an investment of less than RMB300,000 or a building area of less than 300 square meters (or below the limit set by the housing and urban construction department of the provincial people's government) was no longer required.

Regulations on Foreign Exchange and Dividend Distribution

Foreign Exchange Control

According to the PRC Regulation for the Foreign Exchange promulgated by the State Council in January 1996, which was amended in January 1997 and August 2008, and the Regulation on the Administration of the Foreign Exchange Settlement,

Sales and Payment promulgated by the People's Bank of China in June 1996, foreign exchanges required for distribution of profits and payment of dividends may be purchased from designated foreign exchange banks in the PRC upon presentation of a board resolution authorizing distribution of profits or payment of dividends.

According to the Circular of the SAFE, on Further Improving and Adjusting the Foreign Exchange Policies on Direct Investment and its appendix promulgated in November 2012 and amended in May 2015, October 2018 and December 2019 by the SAFE, (1) the opening of and payment into foreign exchange accounts under direct investment accounts are no longer subject to approval by the SAFE; (2) reinvestment with legal income of non-PRC investors in the PRC is no longer subject to approval by SAFE; (3) the procedures for capital verification and confirmation that non-PRC-funded enterprises need to go through are simplified; (4) purchase and external payment of foreign exchange under direct investment accounts are no longer subject to approval by SAFE; (5) PRC domestic transfer of foreign exchange under direct investment account is no longer subject to approval by SAFE; and (6) the administration over the conversion of foreign exchange capital of non-PRC-invested enterprises is improved. Later, the SAFE promulgated the Notice on Further Simplifying and Improving Policies for the Foreign Exchange Administration of Direct Investment in February 2015, which was further amended in December 2019 and prescribed that the bank instead of the SAFE can directly handle the foreign exchange registration and approval under foreign direct investment while the SAFE and its branches indirectly supervise the foreign exchange registration and approval under foreign direct investment through the bank.

The Provisions on the Administration of Foreign Exchange in Foreign Direct Investments by Foreign Investors, which were promulgated by the SAFE in May 2013 and amended in October 2018 and December 2019, regulate and clarify the administration over foreign exchange administration in foreign direct investments.

According to the Circular 19 promulgated in March 2015 and amended in December 2019, and the Circular 16 promulgated in June 2016, the settlement of foreign exchange by non-PRC invested enterprises shall be governed by the policy of foreign exchange settlement on a discretionary basis. However, the settlement of foreign exchange shall only be used for their own operational purposes within the business scope of the non-PRC invested enterprises and follow the principles of authenticity.

Dividend Distribution

The SAFE promulgated the Notice on Improving the Check of Authenticity and Compliance to Further Promote Foreign Exchange Control in January 2017, which stipulates several capital control measures with respect to outbound remittance of profits from PRC entities to offshore entities, including the following: (1) under the principle of genuine transaction, banks shall check board resolutions regarding profit distribution, the original version of tax filing records and audited financial statements when handling outward remittance of profits equivalent to more than USD 50,000 for a PRC institution; and (2) PRC entities shall hold income to account for previous years' losses before remitting the profits. Moreover, PRC shall make detailed explanations of sources of capital and utilization arrangements, and provide board resolutions, contracts and other proof when completing the registration procedures in connection with an outbound investment. Restrictions on our PRC subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends to an offshore entity primarily include: (i) the PRC subsidiaries may pay dividends only out of their accumulated after-tax profits upon satisfaction of relevant statutory conditions and procedures, if any, determined in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations; (ii) each of the PRC subsidiaries is required to set aside at least 10% of its after-tax profits each year, if any, to fund reserve funds until the total amount set aside reaches 50% of its registered capital; (iii) the PRC subsidiaries are required to complete procedural requirements related to foreign exchange control in order to make dividend payments in non-PRC currency; and (iv) a withholding tax, at the rate of 10% or lower, is payable by the PRC subsidiary upon dividend remittance. Such restrictions could have a material and adverse effect on our ability to distribute profits to our investors.

Foreign Exchange Registration of Offshore Investment by PRC Residents

The SAFE promulgated the SAFE Circular 37 in July 2014. The SAFE Circular 37 requires PRC residents (including PRC institutions and individuals) to register with local branches of SAFE in connection with their direct or indirect offshore investment in a special purpose vehicle, or the SPV, outside of the PRC directly established or indirectly controlled by PRC residents for offshore investment and financing with their legally owned assets or interests in PRC domestic enterprises, or their legally owned offshore assets or interests. Such PRC residents are also required to amend their registrations with the SAFE when there is a change to the basic information of the SPV, such as changes of a PRC resident individual shareholder, the name or operating period of the SPV, or when there is a significant change to the SPV, such as changes of the PRC individual resident's increase or decrease of its capital contribution in the SPV, or any share transfer or exchange, merger, division of the SPV.

The Notice on Further Simplifying and Improving Policies for the Foreign Exchange Administration of Direct Investment, which was promulgated in February 2015 and effective in June 2015 and further amended in December 2019, provides that PRC residents may register with qualified banks instead of the SAFE in connection with their establishment or control of an offshore entity established for the purpose of direct investment outside of the PRC. The SAFE and its branches shall implement indirect supervision over foreign exchange registration of direct investment via the banks.

Failure to comply with the registration procedures set forth in the SAFE Circular 37 may result in restrictions on the foreign exchange activities of the relevant onshore company, including the payment of dividends and other distributions to its parent or affiliate outside of the PRC, the capital inflow from the entities outside of the PRC and settlement of foreign exchange capital, and may also subject a relevant PRC company or PRC residents to penalties under PRC foreign exchange administration regulations.

Regulations on Labor

Labor Law and Labor Contract Law

According to the PRC Labor Law, which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC in July 1994 and amended in August 2009 and December 2018, respectively, the PRC Labor Contract Law, which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC in June 2007 and amended in December 2012 and came into effect July 2013, and the Implementing Regulations of the Labor Contract Law of the PRC, which was promulgated by the State Council in September 2008, labor contracts in written form shall be executed to establish labor relationships between employers and employees. In addition, wages cannot be lower than the local minimum wage. The employers must establish a system for labor safety and sanitation, strictly abide by PRC rules and standards, provide education regarding labor safety and sanitation to its employees, provide employees with labor safety and sanitation conditions and necessary protection materials in compliance with PRC rules, and carry out regular health examinations for employees engaged in work involving occupational hazards.

Social Insurance and Housing Provident Funds

According to the Social Insurance Law of PRC, which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC in October 2010 and came into effect in July 2011, and further amended in December 2018, and the Interim Regulations on the Collection and Payment of Social Security Funds, which was promulgated by the State Council in January 1999 and amended in March 2019, and the Regulations on the Administration of Housing Provident Funds, which was promulgated by the State Council in April 1999 and amended in March 2002 and March 2019, employers are required to contribute, on behalf of their employees, to a number of social security funds, including funds for basic pension insurance, unemployment insurance, basic medical insurance, occupational injury insurance, maternity insurance and to housing provident funds. Any employer who fails to contribute may be fined and ordered to make good the deficit within a stipulated time limit.

Regulations on Taxation and Withholding Tax

Enterprise Income Tax and Withholding Tax

According to the Enterprise Income Tax Law promulgated by the NPC in March 2007 and amended in February 2017 and December 2018, and the Implementation Regulations for the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC promulgated by the State Council in December 2007 and amended in April 2019, other than a few exceptions, the income tax rate for both PRC domestic enterprises and non-PRC-invested enterprises is 25%. Enterprises are classified as either “resident enterprises” or “non-resident enterprises”. Besides enterprises established within the PRC, enterprises established outside the PRC whose “de facto management bodies” are located in the PRC are considered “resident enterprises” and subject to the uniform 25% enterprise income tax rate for their global income. A non-resident enterprise refers to an entity established under non-PRC law whose “de facto management bodies” are not within the PRC but which have an establishment or place of business in the PRC, or which do not have an establishment or place of business in the PRC but have income sourced within the PRC. An income tax rate of 10% will normally be applicable to dividends declared to non-PRC resident enterprise investors that do not have an establishment or place of business in the PRC, or that have such establishment or place of business but the relevant income is not effectively connected with the establishment or place of business, to the extent such dividends are derived from sources within the PRC.

According to the Notice on Promoting the Implementation of Corporate Income Tax Policies for Advanced Technology Service Enterprises Nationwide, or the Notice, effective in January 2017, an enterprise which is recognized as an “Advanced Technology Service Enterprises” under the Notice enjoys a reduced enterprise income tax rate of 15%.

According to the Arrangement Between the Mainland of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, or the Double Tax Avoidance Arrangement, which was promulgated and came into effect in August 2006, and other applicable PRC laws, if a Hong Kong resident enterprise is determined by the competent PRC tax authority to have satisfied the relevant conditions and requirements under such Double Tax Avoidance Arrangement and other applicable laws, the 10% withholding tax on the dividends the Hong Kong resident enterprise receives from a PRC resident enterprise may be reduced to 5%. However, based on the Circular on Certain Issues with Respect to the Enforcement of Dividend Provisions in Tax Treaties which was promulgated by the State Administration of Taxation, or the SAT, in February 2009, if the relevant PRC tax authorities determine, in their discretion, that a company benefits from such reduced income tax rate due to a structure or arrangement that is primarily tax-driven, such PRC tax authorities may adjust the preferential tax treatment. Based on the Announcement on Certain Issues with Respect to the “Beneficial Owner” in Tax Treaties, which was promulgated by the SAT in February 2018 and came into effect in April 2018, if an applicant’s business activities do not constitute substantive business activities, it could result in the negative determination of the applicant’s status as a “beneficial owner”, and consequently, the applicant could be precluded from enjoying the above-mentioned reduced income tax rate of 5% under the Double Tax Avoidance Arrangement.

Value Added Tax

According to the Provisional Regulations of the PRC on Value-Added Tax, effective in January 1994 and further amended in November 2008, February 2016, and November 2017, and its implementation rules effected in January 1994 and amended in December 2008 and October 2011, except stipulated otherwise, taxpayers who sell goods, labor services or tangible personal property leasing services or import goods shall be subject to a 17% tax rate; taxpayers who sell transport services, postal services, basic telecommunications services, construction services, or real property leasing services, sell real property, transfer the land use right shall be subject to an 11% tax rate, and taxpayers who sell services or intangible assets shall be subject to a 6% tax rate.

According to the Circular of the Ministry of Finance and the SAT on Adjusting Value-added Tax Rates adopted in April 2018, as of May 2018, where a taxpayer engages in a taxable sales activity for the value-added tax purpose or imports goods, the previous applicable 17% and 11% rates are adjusted to 16% and 10%.

According to the Announcement on Relevant Policies for Deepening Value-Added Tax Reform, effective in April 2019, the 16% VAT tax rate, which applies to the sales or imported goods of a VAT general taxpayer, will be lowered to 13%; and the 10% VAT tax rate will be lowered to 9%.

According to the Measures for the Exemption of Value-Added Tax from Cross-Border Taxable Activities in the Collection of Value-Added Tax in Lieu of Business Tax (for Trial Implementation) revised in June 2018, if PRC domestic enterprises provide cross-border taxable activities such as professional technical services, technology transfer, and software services, which are consumed exclusively outside of the PRC, the above-mentioned cross-border taxable activities are exempt from VAT.

Tax on Indirect transfer

On February 3, 2015, the SAT issued Bulletin 7, which was amended on October 17, 2017 and December 29, 2017. Pursuant to Bulletin 7, an “indirect transfer” of assets, including equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise, by non-PRC resident enterprises, may be recharacterized and treated as a direct transfer of PRC taxable assets, if such arrangement does not have a reasonable commercial purpose and was established for the purpose of avoiding payment of PRC enterprise income tax. As a result, gains derived from such indirect transfer may be subject to PRC enterprise income tax. When determining whether there is a “reasonable commercial purpose” of the transaction arrangement, features to be taken into consideration include, inter alia, whether the main value of the equity interest of the relevant offshore enterprise derives directly or indirectly from PRC taxable assets; whether the assets of the relevant offshore enterprise mainly consists of direct or indirect investment in the PRC or if its income is mainly derived from the PRC; and whether the offshore enterprise and its subsidiaries directly or indirectly holding PRC taxable assets have a real commercial nature which is evidenced by their actual function and risk exposure. According to Bulletin 7, where the payer fails to withhold any or sufficient tax, the transferor shall declare and pay such tax to the tax authority by itself within the statutory time limit. Late

payment of applicable tax will subject the transferor to default interest. Bulletin 7 does not apply to transactions of sale of shares by investors through a public stock exchange where such shares were acquired on a public stock exchange.

On October 17, 2017, the SAT issued SAT Circular 37, which was amended by the Announcement of the SAT on Revising Certain Taxation Normative Documents issued on June 15, 2018 by the SAT. The SAT Circular 37 further elaborates the relevant implemental rules regarding the calculation, reporting and payment obligations of the withholding tax by the non-resident enterprises. Nonetheless, there remain uncertainties as to the interpretation and application of Bulletin 7. Bulletin 7 may be determined by the tax authorities to be applicable to our offshore transactions or sale of our shares or those of our offshore subsidiaries where non-resident enterprises, being the transferors, were involved.

European Regulations

Our product candidates will be subject to similar laws and regulations imposed by jurisdictions outside of the United States, in particular in EU, which may include, for instance, applicable post-marketing requirements, including safety surveillance, anti-fraud and abuse laws and implementation of corporate compliance programs and reporting of payments or other transfers of value to healthcare professionals.

Whether or not we obtain FDA approval for a product, we must obtain approval of a product by the comparable regulatory authorities of foreign countries before we can commence clinical trials or marketing of the product in those countries. Approval by one regulatory authority does not ensure approval by regulatory authorities in other jurisdictions. The approval process varies from country to country, can involve additional testing beyond that required by FDA, and may be longer or shorter than that required for FDA approval. The requirements governing the conduct of clinical trials, product licensing, pricing, promotion, and reimbursement vary greatly from country to country.

Non-clinical Studies and Clinical Trials

Similarly to the United States, the various phases of non-clinical and clinical research in the EU are subject to significant regulatory controls.

Non-clinical studies are performed to demonstrate the health or environmental safety of new chemical or biological substances. Non-clinical (pharmacotoxicological) studies must be conducted in compliance with the principles of good laboratory practice, or GLP, as set forth in EU Directive 2004/10/EC (unless otherwise justified for certain particular medicinal products, e.g., radio-pharmaceutical precursors for radio-labeling purposes). In particular, non-clinical studies, both in vitro and in vivo, must be planned, performed, monitored, recorded, reported and archived in accordance with the GLP principles, which define a set of rules and criteria for a quality system for the organizational process and the conditions for non-clinical studies. These GLP standards reflect the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development requirements.

Clinical trials of medicinal products in the EU must be conducted in accordance with EU and EU member state regulations and the International Council for on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use, or ICH, guidelines on GCP, as well as the applicable regulatory requirements and the ethical principles that have their origin in the Declaration of Helsinki. Additional GCP guidelines from the European Commission, focusing in particular on traceability, apply to clinical trials of advanced therapy medicinal products, or ATMPs. If the sponsor of the clinical trial is not established within the EU, it must appoint an EU entity to act as its legal representative. The sponsor must take out a clinical trial insurance policy, and in most EU member states, the sponsor is liable to provide ‘no fault’ compensation to any study subject injured in the clinical trial.

The regulatory landscape related to clinical trials in the EU has been subject to recent changes. The Clinical Trials Regulation ((EU) No 536/2014), or CTR, became applicable on January 31, 2022, replacing and repealing the Clinical Trials Directive (2001/20/EC), or CTD. Unlike directives, the CTR is directly applicable in all EU member states without the need for member states to further implement it into national law. The CTR notably harmonizes the assessment and supervision processes for clinical trials throughout the EU via a Clinical Trials Information System, which contains a centralized EU portal and database.

While the CTD required a separate clinical trial application, or CTA, to be submitted in each member state in which the clinical trial takes place, to both the competent national health authority and an independent ethics committee, much like the FDA and IRB respectively, the CTR introduces a centralized process and only requires the submission of a single application for multi-center trials. The CTR allows sponsors to make a single submission to both the competent authority and an ethics committee in each member state, leading to a single decision per member state. The CTA must include,

among other things, a copy of the trial protocol and an investigational medicinal product dossier containing information about the manufacture and quality of the medicinal product under investigation. The assessment procedure of the CTA has been harmonized as well, including a joint assessment by all member states concerned, and a separate assessment by each member state with respect to specific requirements related to its own territory, including ethics rules. Each member state's decision is communicated to the sponsor via the centralized EU portal. Once the CTA is approved, clinical trial development may proceed. If the sponsor of the clinical trial is not established within the EU, it must appoint an entity within the EU to act as its legal representative. The sponsor must take out a clinical trial insurance policy, and in most EU Member States, the sponsor is liable to provide 'no fault' compensation to any study subject injured in the clinical trial.

The CTR foresees a three-year transition period. The extent to which ongoing and new clinical trials will be governed by the CTR varies. Clinical trials for which an application was submitted (i) prior to January 31, 2022 under the CTD, or (ii) between January 31, 2022 and January 31, 2023 and for which the sponsor has opted for the application of the CTD remain governed by said Directive until January 31, 2025. After this date, all clinical trials (including those which are ongoing) will become subject to the provisions of the CTR.

Any substantial changes to the trial protocol or other information submitted with the CTA must be notified to or approved by the relevant competent authorities and ethics committees. Medicines used in clinical trials must be manufactured in accordance with GMP. Other national and EU-wide regulatory requirements may also apply.

During the development of a medicinal product, the EMA and EU member states' competent authorities may provide for the opportunity for dialogue and guidance on the development program. At the EMA level, this is usually done in the form of scientific advice, which is given by the CHMP. A fee is incurred with each scientific advice procedure. Advice from the EMA is typically provided based on questions concerning, for example, quality (chemistry, manufacturing and controls testing), nonclinical testing and clinical trials, and pharmacovigilance plans and risk-management programs. Advice is not legally binding with regard to any future Marketing Authorization Application, or MAA, of the product concerned.

Marketing authorization

In order to market our future product candidates in the EU, we must obtain separate regulatory approvals. More concretely, in the EU, medicinal product candidates can only be commercialized after obtaining a Marketing Authorization, or MA. To obtain regulatory approval of a product candidate under EU regulatory systems, we must submit a MAA. The process for doing this depends, among other things, on the nature of the medicinal product. There are two types of MAs:

- the "Centralized MAs" are issued by the European Commission through the centralized procedure, based on the opinion of the Committee for Medicinal Product candidates for Human Use, or CHMP, of the EMA and which is valid throughout the EU. The centralized procedure is mandatory for certain types of product candidates, such as (i) medicinal products derived from biotechnology processes, (ii) designated orphan medicinal products, (iii) ATMPs (such as gene therapy, somatic cell therapy and tissue engineered products), and (iv) medicinal products containing a new active substance indicated for the treatment of certain diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, neurodegenerative disorders, diabetes, auto-immune and viral diseases. The centralized procedure is optional for other products that represent a significant therapeutic, scientific, or technical innovation, or whose authorization would be in the interest of public health, or which contain a new active substance for indications other than those specified to be compulsory;
- "National MAs" are issued by the competent authorities of the EU member states only cover their respective territory, and are available for product candidates not falling within the mandatory scope of the centralized procedure. Where a product has already been authorized for marketing in an EU member state, this national MA can be recognized in another member state through the mutual recognition procedure. If the product has not received a National MA in any member state at the time of application, it can be approved simultaneously in various member states through the decentralized procedure. Under the decentralized procedure an identical dossier is submitted to the competent authorities of each of the member states in which the MA is sought, one of which is selected by the applicant as the reference member state.

Under the above described procedures, before granting the MA, the EMA or the competent authorities of the EU member states make an assessment of the risk-benefit balance of the product on the basis of scientific criteria concerning its quality, safety and efficacy.

PRIME scheme

In July 2016, the EMA launched the PRiority Medicines, or PRIME, scheme. PRIME is a voluntary scheme aimed at enhancing the EMA's support for the development of medicines that target unmet medical needs. It is based on increased interaction and early dialogue with companies developing promising medicines, to optimize their product development plans and speed up their evaluation to help them reach patients earlier. Product developers that benefit from PRIME

designation can expect to be eligible for accelerated assessment but this is however not guaranteed. The benefit of a PRIME designation include the appointment of a rapporteur from the CHMP before submission of a MA Application, early dialogue and scientific advice at key development milestones, and the potential to qualify product candidates for accelerated review earlier in the application process.

The proposals to revise the EU legislation on pharmaceuticals includes amendments to bolster the PRIME scheme. New provisions are expected to be adopted not before 2026.

Adaptive pathways

The EMA has an adaptive pathways program which allows for early and progressive patient access to a medicine. The adaptive pathways concept is an approach to medicines approval that aims to improve patients' access to medicines in cases of high unmet medical need. To achieve this goal, several approaches are envisaged: identifying small populations with severe disease where a medicine's benefit-risk balance could be favorable; making more use of real-world data where appropriate to support clinical trial data; and involving health technology assessment bodies early in development to increase the chance that medicines will be recommended for payment and ultimately covered by national healthcare systems. The adaptive pathways concept applies primarily to treatments in areas of high medical need where it is difficult to collect data via traditional routes and where large clinical trials would unnecessarily expose patients who are unlikely to benefit from the medicine. The approach builds on regulatory processes already in place within the existing EU legal framework. These include: scientific advice; compassionate use; the conditional approval mechanism (for medicines addressing life-threatening conditions); patient registries and other pharmacovigilance tools that allow collection of real-life data and development of a risk-management plan for each medicine.

The adaptive pathways program does not change the standards for the evaluation of benefits and risks or the requirement to demonstrate a positive benefit-risk balance to obtain a MA.

Data and marketing exclusivity.

In the EU, new product candidates authorized for marketing, or reference products, generally receive eight years of data exclusivity and an additional two years of market exclusivity upon MA. The data exclusivity period prevents generic or biosimilar applicants from relying on the pre-clinical and clinical trial data contained in the dossier of the reference product when applying for a generic or biosimilar MA in the EU during a period of eight years from the date on which the reference product was first authorized in the EU. The market exclusivity period prevents a successful generic or biosimilar applicant from commercializing its product in the EU until 10 years have elapsed from the initial authorization of the reference product in the EU. The 10-year market exclusivity period can be extended by one more year (for a maximum of 11 years) in the event of authorization of new therapeutic indications provided that (i) the new application represents a significant clinical benefit in comparison with existing therapies and (ii) the new indication is granted during the first eight years since the initial MA.

There is a special regime for biosimilars, or biological medicinal products that are similar to a reference medicinal product but that do not meet the definition of a generic medicinal product, for example, because of differences in raw materials or manufacturing processes. For such products, the results of appropriate preclinical or clinical trials must be provided, and guidelines from the EMA detail the type of quantity of supplementary data to be provided for different types of biological product. There are no such guidelines for complex biological products, such as gene or cell therapy medicinal products, and so it is unlikely that biosimilars of those products will currently be approved in the EU. However, guidance from the EMA states that they will be considered in the future in light of the scientific knowledge and regulatory experience gained at the time.

Orphan medicinal products

In the EU, a medicinal product can be designated as an "orphan medicinal product" if its sponsor can establish that: (1) the product is intended for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of a life-threatening or chronically-debilitating condition, (2) either (a) such condition affect not more than five in 10,000 persons in the EU when the application is made, or (b) the product, without the benefits derived from the orphan status, would not generate sufficient return in the EU to justify the necessary investment, and (3) there exists no satisfactory method of diagnosis, prevention or treatment of the condition in question that has been authorized in the EU or, if such method exists, the drug will be of significant benefit to those affected by that condition.

In the EU, an application for designation as an orphan product can be made any time prior to submitting an MAA. An EU orphan designation entitles a party to incentives such as reduction of fees or fee waivers, protocol assistance, and access to

the centralized procedure. Upon grant of a MA, orphan medicinal products are entitled to ten years of market exclusivity for the approved indication, which means that during this period, competent authorities cannot accept another MAA, or grant a MA, or accept an application to extend a MA for a similar medicinal product for the same indication for a period of ten years. The period of market exclusivity is extended by two years for orphan medicinal products that have also complied with an agreed Pediatric Investigation Plan, or PIP. No extension to any supplementary protection certificate can be granted on the basis of pediatric studies for orphan indications. Orphan designation does not convey any advantage in, or shorten the duration of, the regulatory review and approval process.

This period of orphan market exclusivity may, however, be reduced to six years if, at the end of the fifth year, it is established that the product no longer meets the criteria for which it received orphan drug destination, i.e., the prevalence of the condition has increased above the threshold or it is judged that the product is sufficiently profitable not to justify maintenance of market exclusivity. Additionally, a MA may be granted to a similar orphan medicinal product for the same indication at any time if (i) the second applicant can establish that its product, although similar, is safer, more effective or otherwise clinically superior; (ii) the applicant consents to a second orphan medicinal product application; or (iii) the applicant cannot supply enough orphan medicinal product. A company may voluntarily remove a product from the orphan register.

Pediatric investigation plan

In the EEA, MAAs for new medicinal product candidates have to include the results of studies conducted in the pediatric population, in compliance with all measures included in an EMA approved PIP covering all subsets of the pediatric population, unless the EMA's Pediatric Committee, or the PDCO, has granted (1) a product specific waiver, (2) a class waiver, or (3) a deferral for one or more of the measures included in the PIP. The PIP sets out the timing and measures proposed to generate data to support a pediatric indication of the drug for which MA is being sought. The PDCO can grant a deferral of the obligation to implement some or all of the measures of the PIP until there are sufficient data to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of the product in adults. Further, the obligation to provide pediatric clinical trial data can be waived by the PDCO when these data are not needed or appropriate because the product is likely to be ineffective or unsafe in children, the disease or condition for which the product is intended occurs only in adult populations, or when the product does not represent a significant therapeutic benefit over existing treatments for pediatric patients. Once the MA is obtained in all the EU member states and study results are included in the product information, even when negative, the product is eligible for a six-month supplementary protection certificate extension (if any is in effect at the time of approval) or, in the case of orphan medicinal products, a two-year extension of orphan market exclusivity.

The aforementioned EU rules are generally applicable in the European Economic Area, or EEA, which consists of the 27 EU member states plus Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland.

Failure to comply with EU and member state laws that apply to the conduct of clinical trials, manufacturing approval, MA of medicinal products and marketing of such products, both before and after grant of the MA, manufacturing of pharmaceutical products, statutory health insurance, bribery and anti-corruption or with other applicable regulatory requirements may result in administrative, civil or criminal penalties. These penalties could include delays or refusal to authorize the conduct of clinical trials, or to grant MA, product withdrawals and recalls, product seizures, suspension, withdrawal or variation of the MA, total or partial suspension of production, distribution, manufacturing or clinical trials, operating restrictions, injunctions, suspension of licenses, fines and criminal penalties.

EU Pharmaceutical Legislation Review

On April 26, 2023, the European Commission published the proposals to revise the existing EU legislation on pharmaceuticals, or EU Pharma Law Review. The revision consists of two proposals, a new directive and a new regulation, or EU Pharma Law Proposal, that would repeal and replace the relevant legislation concerning medicinal products for human use, including legislation concerning orphan medicinal products and medicinal products for pediatric use. The EU Pharma Law Review could have a significant impact on the regulatory data protection, or RDP, available for to innovative medicinal products in the EU.

If adopted in current form, the EU Pharma Law Proposal would reduce the current baseline for data exclusivity. Such RDP reduction could lead to a faster access to the EU market for generics and biosimilars. In addition, the EU Pharma Law Review could have a significant impact on the designation of and incentives offered to orphan medicinal products in the EU and on pediatric medicinal products. The proposed revisions remain to be agreed upon and adopted by the European Parliament and European Council and the EU Pharma Law Proposal may therefore be substantially revised before adoption, which is not anticipated before early 2026.

U.S. Healthcare Coverage and Reimbursement

Sales of any pharmaceutical product depend, in part, on the extent to which such product will be covered by third-party payors, such as federal, state and foreign government healthcare programs, commercial insurance and managed healthcare organizations, and the level of reimbursement for such product by third-party payors. Decisions regarding the extent of coverage and amount of reimbursement to be provided are made on a plan-by-plan basis. One third-party payor's decision to cover a particular product does not ensure that other payors will also provide coverage for the product. As a result, the coverage processes of a payor may require manufactures to provide scientific and clinical support for the use of a product to each payor separately and can be a time-consuming process, with no assurance that coverage and adequate reimbursement will be applied consistently or obtained in the first instance. In addition, companion diagnostic tests require coverage and reimbursement separate and apart from the coverage and reimbursement for their companion pharmaceutical or biological products. Similar challenges to obtaining coverage and reimbursement, applicable to pharmaceutical or biological products, will apply to companion diagnostics.

Third-party payors are also increasingly reducing reimbursements for pharmaceutical products and services. The U.S. government and state legislatures have continued implementing cost-containment programs, including price controls, restrictions on coverage and reimbursement and requirements for substitution of generic products. Third-party payors are more and more challenging the prices charged, examining the medical necessity and reviewing the cost effectiveness of pharmaceutical products, in addition to questioning their safety and efficacy. Adoption of price controls and cost-containment measures, and adoption of more restrictive policies in jurisdictions with existing controls and measures, could further limit sales of any product. Decreases in third-party reimbursement for any product or a decision by a third-party payor not to cover a product could reduce physician usage and patient demand for the product.

In international markets, reimbursement and healthcare payment systems vary significantly by country, and many countries have instituted price ceilings on specific products and therapies. For example, the EU provides options for its member states to restrict the range of medicinal products for which their national health insurance systems provide reimbursement and to control the prices of medicinal products for human use. A member state may approve a specific price for the medicinal product or it may instead adopt a system of direct or indirect controls on the profitability of the company placing the medicinal product on the market. Pharmaceutical products may face competition from lower-priced products in foreign countries that have placed price controls on pharmaceutical products and may also compete with imported foreign products. Furthermore, there is no assurance that a product will be considered medically reasonable and necessary for a specific indication, will be considered cost-effective by third-party payors, that an adequate level of reimbursement will be established even if coverage is available or that the third-party payors' reimbursement policies will not adversely affect the ability for manufacturers to sell products profitably.

EU Pricing and Reimbursement.

Different pricing and reimbursement schemes exist in other countries. In the EU, governments influence the price of pharmaceutical products through their pricing and reimbursement rules and control of national health care systems that fund a large part of the cost of those products to consumers. Some jurisdictions operate positive and negative list systems under which products can only be effectively marketed once a reimbursement price has been agreed. To obtain reimbursement or pricing approval, some of these countries may require the completion of clinical trials in order to compare the cost effectiveness of a particular product candidate to currently available therapies. Other member states may allow companies to fix their own prices for medicines but monitor and control company profits. The downward pressure on health care costs has become intense. As a result, increasingly high barriers are being erected to the entry of new products. In addition, in some countries, cross-border imports from low-priced markets exert a commercial pressure on pricing within a country.

In December 2021, Regulation ((EU) 2021/2282) on HTA, or HTA Regulation, was adopted. While the HTA Regulation entered into force in January 2022, it will only begin to apply as from January 12, 2025 for oncology and advanced therapy medicinal product therapies, January 13, 2028 for orphan medicinal products and January 13, 2030 for other medicinal products. It particularly replaces the current system based on the voluntary network of national authorities, and the new framework covers joint clinical assessments, joint scientific consultations, the identification of emerging health technologies, and voluntary cooperation for the national authorities. The HTA Regulation aims to provide a transparent and inclusive framework for health technology assessments in the EU, and it will help EU member states determine the effectiveness and value of new technologies and decide on pricing and reimbursement by health insurers or health systems.

U.S. Healthcare Reform

In the United States and some foreign jurisdictions, there have been a number of legislative and regulatory changes to the healthcare system. In March 2010, the ACA was signed into law, which substantially changed the way healthcare is financed by both governmental and private insurers in the United States. By way of example, the ACA increased the minimum level of Medicaid rebates payable by manufacturers of brand name drugs from 15.1% to 23.1%; required collection of rebates for drugs paid by Medicaid managed care organizations; imposed a non-deductible annual fee on pharmaceutical manufacturers or importers who sell some “branded prescription drugs” to specified federal government programs, implemented a new methodology by which rebates owed by manufacturers under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program are calculated for covered outpatient drugs that are inhaled, infused, instilled, implanted, or injected; expanded eligibility criteria for Medicaid programs; created a new Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to oversee, identify priorities in, and conduct comparative clinical effectiveness research, along with funding for such research; and established a Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation at CMS to test innovative payment and service delivery models to lower Medicare and Medicaid spending, potentially including prescription drug spending.

Since its enactment, there have been judicial and Congressional challenges to some aspects of the ACA.

On June 17, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed the most recent judicial challenge to the ACA brought by several states without specifically ruling on the constitutionality of the ACA. It is unclear how other healthcare reform measures enacted by Congress or implemented by the Biden administration, if any, will impact our business.

Other legislative changes have been proposed and adopted since the ACA was enacted, including aggregate reductions of Medicare payments to providers, which went into effect in 2013 and will remain in effect through 2032 absent additional congressional action, with the exception of a temporary suspension from May 1, 2020 through March 31, 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, there has recently been heightened governmental scrutiny over the manner in which manufacturers set prices for their marketed products, which has resulted in several Congressional inquiries and proposed and enacted legislation designed, among other things, to bring more transparency to product pricing, review the relationship between pricing and manufacturer patient programs and reform government program reimbursement methodologies for pharmaceutical products. In addition, individual states in the United States have also become increasingly active in implementing regulations designed to address pharmaceutical product pricing, such as transparency measures that require the disclosure of prices, including price or patient reimbursement constraints, discounts, restrictions on specific product access and changes, marketing cost disclosure and transparency measures and, in some cases, mechanisms to encourage importation from other countries and bulk purchasing costs, and research costs, among others. Furthermore, there has been increased interest by third party payors and governmental authorities as to pricing systems and publication of discounts and list prices for drug spending.

In August 2022, President Biden signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act, or IRA, which implements substantial changes to the Medicare program, including drug pricing reforms and changes to the Medicare Part D benefit design. Among other reforms, the IRA imposes inflation rebates on drug and biological product manufacturers for products reimbursed under Medicare Parts B and D if the prices of those products increase faster than inflation which began in 2023; implements changes to the Medicare Part D benefit that, beginning in 2025, will cap benefit annual out-of-pocket spending at \$2,000, with new discount obligations for pharmaceutical manufacturers; and, beginning in 2026, establishes a “maximum fair price” for a fixed number of pharmaceutical and biological products covered under Medicare Parts B and D following a price negotiation process with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The IRA permits the Secretary of the HHS to implement many of these provisions through guidance, as opposed to regulation, for the initial years. On August 29, 2023, HHS announced the list of the first ten drugs that will be subject to price negotiations, although the drug price negotiation program is currently subject to legal challenges. For that and other reasons, it is currently unclear how the IRA will be effectuated.

We expect that the healthcare reform measures that have been adopted and may be adopted in the future, may, among other things, result in more rigorous coverage criteria and in additional downward pressure on the price that we receive for any approved product. Any reduction in reimbursement from Medicare or other government programs may result in a similar reduction in payments from private payors.

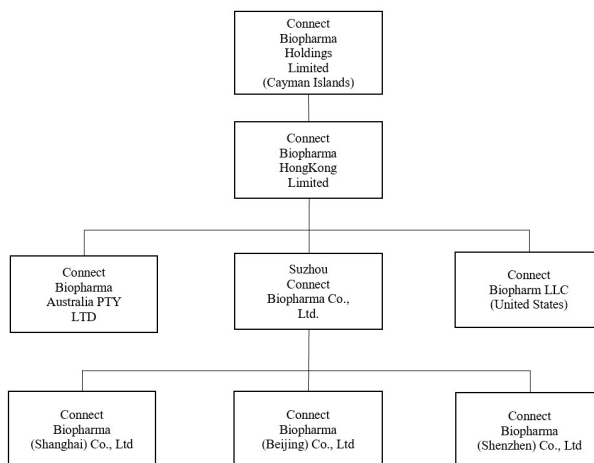
Data Privacy and Security Laws

Numerous state, federal and foreign laws govern the collection, dissemination, use, access to, confidentiality and security of health-related information and other personal information, and could apply now or in the future to our operations or the operations of our partners. In the United States, numerous laws and regulations, including state data breach notification laws, state health information privacy laws, and federal and state consumer protection laws and regulations govern the collection, use, disclosure, and protection of health-related and other personal information. In addition, some foreign laws

govern the privacy and security of personal data, including health-related data. Privacy and security laws, regulations, and other obligations are constantly evolving, may conflict with each other to complicate compliance efforts, and can result in investigations, proceedings, or actions that lead to significant civil and/or criminal penalties and restrictions on data processing.

C. Organizational Structure.

The following diagram illustrates our corporate structure as of the date of this annual report:



The following table illustrates the principal activities and percentage equity interest as of December 31, 2022 and 2023 for each of our subsidiaries:

Name	Principal activities	Jurisdiction of incorporation	As of December 31,	
			2022	2023
Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited	Investment holding	Hong Kong	100 %	100 %
Connect Biopharm LLC	Pharmaceutical R&D	U.S.	100 %	100 %
Connect Biopharma Australia PTY LTD	Pharmaceutical R&D	Australia	100 %	100 %
Suzhou Connect Biopharma Co., Ltd.	Pharmaceutical R&D	PRC	100 %	100 %
Connect Biopharma (Shanghai) Co., Ltd	Pharmaceutical R&D	PRC	100 %	100 %
Connect Biopharma (Beijing) Co., Ltd	Pharmaceutical R&D	PRC	100 %	100 %
Connect Biopharma (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd	Pharmaceutical R&D	PRC	100 %	100 %

The Company was formed to acquire Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited. As the sole holder of equity in Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited, the Company operates the business and controls the strategic decisions and day-to-day operations of Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited. We have six (6) wholly owned subsidiaries.

D. Property, Plant and Equipment.

We have a research, development and administration facility in Taicang, Jiangsu Province, The People’s Republic of China, where we lease approximately 25,476 square feet of office and laboratory space under leases that expire on April 30, 2026, and an executive and administration office in San Diego, California, where we lease approximately 3,600 square feet of office space under a lease that expires in April 2025. We believe that our facilities are sufficient to meet our current needs and that suitable additional space will be available as and when needed.

In May 2021, we entered into the Land Use Agreement. Pursuant to this agreement, we obtained the right to use approximately 70,400 square meters of state-owned land located in the Taicang High-Tech Industrial Development Zone for a period of fifty years. We acquired the land use rights to build a research and development laboratory, manufacturing

facility and office. We terminated the plan to build such facilities and wrote off related construction costs in the amount of USD 4.7 million to Net impairment losses in our Consolidated Statements of Net Loss during the year ended December 31, 2022. As of December 31, 2022, we have paid an aggregate of approximately RMB 22.3 million (USD 3.5 million) for the land use rights and have recorded them as right-of-use assets in our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

In connection with the Land Use Agreement described above, we entered into an Investment Agreement with the Jiangsu Taicang HIDC, a local government authority in Taicang. Pursuant to this agreement, the Jiangsu Taicang HIDC agreed to provide specific financial support and incentives in connection with the development of our facilities that were previously contemplated by the Land Use Agreement. As of December 31, 2022, we provided pursuant to this agreement approximately RMB 525.5 million (USD 75.4 million) of cash into our Connect Suzhou research and development operations to fund research, development, and administration expenses at our Taicang facility.

In April 2023, the Jiangsu Taicang HIDC, and Connect SZ entered into an agreement for the Jiangsu Taicang HIDC to repurchase from Connect SZ the land use rights at the original purchase price and to terminate the Land Use Agreement and the relevant provisions of the Investment Agreement. The cancellation registration of the land use rights was completed in April 2023 and the Company received the purchase price in September 2023.

ITEM 4A. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS.

Not applicable.

ITEM 5. OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS.

You should read the following discussion and analysis in conjunction with our audited financial statements, in each case, together with the accompanying notes included elsewhere in this Annual Report. Our audited financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRS, as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. The following discussion includes forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Our actual results may differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of many factors, including but not limited to those described under “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors” and elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Our consolidated financial statements are presented in U.S. dollars, or USD. The Company elected to change its presentation currency from RMB to USD with effect from January 1, 2023. Figures have been re-presented from January 1, 2021 to reflect the change in presentation currency from RMB to USD.

Upon approval of shareholders of the Company on March 12, 2021, every 1.74 ordinary shares were consolidated into one ordinary share (the “Share Consolidation”) (Note 20).

A. Operating Results

Overview

We are a global clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing therapies for the treatment of T cell-driven inflammatory diseases. Our core expertise is in the use of functional cellular assays with T cells to screen and discover potent product candidates against immune targets. Our two most advanced clinical-stage programs include highly differentiated product candidates against validated targets. Our lead product candidate, rademikibart, is an antibody designed to target IL-4R α , which is a validated target for the treatment of inflammatory diseases such as AD and asthma. The estimated global market for AD was approximately \$8.5 billion in 2022 and is expected to grow to \$23.2 billion by 2028, with a compound annual growth rate, or CAGR, of 18.2%. The estimated global market for asthma was approximately \$8.8 billion in 2022 and is expected to exceed \$12.0 billion by 2028, a CAGR of 6.0%. We recently completed a pivotal trial in moderate-to-severe AD patients in the PRC, in which primary and key secondary endpoints were met in Stage 1 of the trial, followed by strong efficacy demonstrated during the Stage 2 maintenance portion of the trial. We also recently completed a global Phase 2b trial evaluating rademikibart in Type 2 inflammatory asthma, in which primary and key secondary endpoints were met. We are evaluating the initiation of a global Phase 3 program in adult patients with moderate-to-severe AD or moderate-to-severe asthma. Furthermore, we are developing icanelimod, a modulator of a T cell receptor known as sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 1, or S1P1, for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, or IBD. Specifically, we are developing icanelimod for ulcerative colitis, or UC, in the context of seeking out-licensing partnerships.

Since our inception, we have devoted our resources to developing a differentiated drug discovery approach based on our deep understanding of the immune system and conducting preclinical studies and clinical trials, as well as protecting our intellectual property estate comprising multiple patent families. Additionally, we have applied resources to business planning and capital raising to develop a pipeline of product candidates. We have funded our operations primarily through equity and preferred shares financing. On March 23, 2021, we completed our initial public offering, or the IPO, for a total cash consideration of USD 219.9 million, before netting underwriting discounts and commissions of USD 15.4 million. As of December 31, 2023, we had USD 106.0 million in cash and cash equivalents and USD 12.6 million in short-term investments.

As a research intensive, innovation-focused entity, we have incurred losses and experienced negative operating cash flows since inception. Our net losses were USD 118.1 million and USD 59.5 million for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023, respectively. As of December 31, 2023, we had an accumulated loss of USD 539.7 million. We expect to continue to incur significant expenses and operating losses for the foreseeable future as we conduct our ongoing and planned preclinical studies and clinical trials, continue our research and development activities, and seek regulatory approvals for our product candidates, as well as hire additional personnel, obtain and protect our intellectual property and expand our pipeline of product candidates.

As our product candidates move further into clinical development stages, we may receive milestone and other payments from third parties with whom we may choose to collaborate. In addition, we may also receive revenues from product commercialization if we obtain regulatory approval for any of our product candidates. However, even with these sources of revenue and income, we may continue to experience losses and negative operating cash flows and may not be able to fund our late-stage programs without additional fundraisings, licensing or partnership proceeds. We believe that our existing cash and cash equivalents along with the short-term investments noted above will be sufficient to meet our anticipated daily operation needs for at least the next 12 months.

Key Factors and Trends Affecting Our Business

The future success of our business is predicated on the continuation of our research and development programs, initially by advancing rademikibart and icanbelimod through Phase 2 and Phase 3 clinical trials and then seeking regulatory approval in the United States, the PRC, Europe, Australia and other jurisdictions. We do not currently have sufficient capital resources to complete late-stage clinical trials of all our product candidates or in all planned indications.

Key Components of Our Results of Operations

Revenue

We have executed an exclusive license and collaboration agreement and expect to recognize license revenue once the company substantially completes the transfer of the IP and know-how to the licensee. We do not currently have any approved products and do not expect to generate product revenue unless we obtain regulatory approval and commercialize our product candidates in the future.

Operating Expenses

Research and Development Expenses

Research and development expenses are primarily related to third-party clinical trial costs, drug manufacturing costs, and other preclinical research for our product candidates and discovery efforts, along with payroll and related expenses and share-based compensation costs.

Elements of research and development expenses primarily include (1) clinical trial expenses such as payments to CROs, investigators and clinical trial sites that conduct the clinical studies; (2) manufacturing costs for drug substance and drug product used in clinical trials; (3) expenses related to preclinical testing of our technologies; (4) consultant service related to the design of clinical trials and data analysis, (5) payroll and other related expenses of personnel engaged in research and development activities, (6) expenses to develop the product candidates, including raw materials and supplies, product testing, depreciation, and facility-related expenses, and (7) other research and development expenses. Research and development expenses are charged to expense as incurred when these expenditures relate to our research and development services and have no alternative future uses.

The majority of our third-party expenses have been related to the development of rademikibart and icanbelimod. During the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023, we spent USD 54.1 million and USD 36.6 million, respectively, in clinical trial related expenses relating to rademikibart, and USD 26.3 million and USD 3.6 million, respectively, in clinical trial related expenses relating to icanbelimod. We deploy our personnel and facility-related resources across all of our research and development activities. We have substantially increased our research and development expenditures as we continue the development of our product candidates and conduct discovery and research activities for our preclinical programs. Product candidates in a later stage of clinical development generally have higher development costs than those in earlier stages of clinical development, primarily due to the increased size and duration of later stage clinical trials. We expect that our research and development costs will continue to increase as we conduct ongoing, and plan and conduct new, preclinical studies and clinical trials and manufacture our product candidates.

We cannot determine with certainty the timing of initiation, the duration, or the completion costs of current or future preclinical studies and clinical trials of our product candidates due to the inherently unpredictable nature of preclinical and clinical development. Preclinical and clinical development timelines, the probability of success and development costs can differ materially from expectations. We anticipate that we will make determinations as to which product candidates to pursue and how much funding to direct to each product candidate on an ongoing basis in response to the results of ongoing and future preclinical studies and clinical trials, regulatory developments and our ongoing assessments as to each product candidate's commercial potential. It is likely that we will need to raise additional capital in the future for commercialization of our products, assuming that we obtain regulatory approval.

Our clinical development costs are highly uncertain and may vary significantly based on factors such as:

- per patient trial costs;
- the number of trials required for approval;
- the number of sites included in the trials;
- the countries in which the trials are conducted;
- the length of time required to enroll eligible patients;
- the number of patients that participate in the trials;
- the drop-out or discontinuation rates of patients;
- potential additional safety monitoring requested by regulatory agencies;
- the duration of patient participation in the trials and follow-up;
- the cost and timing of manufacturing our product candidates;
- the phase of development of our product candidates; and
- the efficacy and safety profile of our product candidates.

Any of these variables with respect to the development of our product candidates or any other future candidate that we may develop could result in a significant change in the costs and timing associated with their development. For example, if the FDA, the NMPA, or another regulatory authority were to require us to conduct preclinical studies and clinical trials beyond those we currently anticipate will be required for the completion of clinical development or if we experience significant delays in enrollment in any clinical trials, we could be required to expend significant additional financial resources and time on the completion of our clinical development programs. We may never succeed in obtaining regulatory approval for any of our product candidates.

Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses primarily include payroll and related expenses for employees involved in general corporate functions including finance, legal, information technology, business development, investor relations, and human resources, share-based compensation costs, insurance costs, third-party audit and accounting fees, legal fees, rental and depreciation expenses related to facilities and equipment used by these functions, professional service expenses and other general corporate related expenses.

We expect our administrative expenses to increase in the future to support our public company infrastructure and, if any of our product candidates receive marketing approval, commercialization activities. We also anticipated increased expenses related to professional fees, including audit, legal, regulatory and tax-related services, associated with maintaining compliance with Nasdaq listing and SEC requirements, director and officer insurance premiums, and investor relations costs associated with operating as a public company.

Net impairment losses

Impairment losses relate to the write-off of assets including construction in process assets when we determine that there is a loss in the future economic value of the asset due to either a decline in the asset's value or the termination of a project for which the asset was purchased.

Other Income

Other income consists of government grants received by us. Grants from the government are recognized at their fair value where there is a reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and we will comply with all attached conditions. Government grants received in advance of costs being incurred are deferred until the associated costs are recognized. Grants that compensate us for the cost of an asset initially are presented as deferred income and are recognized as income in consolidated statements of loss on a straight-line basis over the useful life of the associated asset.

Other (Losses)/Gains—Net

Other gains or losses consist of the foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of foreign exchange transactions, most of which were denominated in U.S. dollars for the subsidiaries that have functional currency in RMB, investment income from investments recorded at fair value through profit and loss, interest income from cash equivalents, and investment income from short-term investments in wealth management products with various maturities which bear floating interest rates. The fair value of short-term investments in wealth management products is based on discounted cash flows using their expected returns. Changes in fair value of these financial assets are recorded in other income (losses)/gains—net.

Finance Income

Finance income is comprised primarily of interest income earned from short-term and long-term investments, bank and term deposits.

Finance Cost

Finance cost is mainly comprised of issuance costs for our financial instruments with preferred rights and interests for lease liabilities.

Fair Value Loss of Financial Instruments with Preferred Rights

The fair value of financial instruments with preferred rights that are not traded in an active market is determined using valuation techniques. We first determine the equity value and then allocated the equity value to each element of our capital structure using either an option pricing back-solve method, or OPM, or a hybrid method, which employs the concepts of the OPM and the probability-weighted expected return method, or PWERM, that merged into a single framework. The fair value difference is accounted for as fair value loss of financial instruments with preferred rights within the consolidated statements of loss.

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense is recognized based on the income tax rates in the following main tax jurisdictions where we operate. We are incorporated in the Cayman Islands with subsidiaries in Hong Kong, China (PRC), Australia and the United States and is exempt from income tax in the Cayman Islands. Our United States entity is a service provider for the Hong Kong entity and as a result its cost-plus income is subject to taxation in the United States. There is no tax expense in Hong Kong, PRC or Australia as there was no estimated assessable profit that was subject to tax during the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023.

Results of Operations

Comparison of the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2023

The following table summarizes key components of our results of operations for the periods indicated:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2022	2023	Change
Research and development expenses	\$ (96,630)	\$ (51,913)	\$ 44,717
Administrative expenses	(20,806)	(14,515)	6,291
Net impairment losses	(4,698)	—	4,698
Other income	929	1,580	651
Other gains—net	1,889	2,774	885
Operating loss	(119,316)	(62,074)	57,242
Finance income	1,544	2,714	1,170
Finance cost	(21)	(23)	(2)
Finance (cost)/income—net	1,523	2,691	1,168
Net loss before income tax	(117,793)	(59,383)	58,410
Income tax expense	(298)	(120)	178
Net loss for the year	\$ (118,091)	\$ (59,503)	\$ 58,588

Research and Development Expenses

Research and development expenses decreased by USD 44.7 million from USD 96.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2022 to USD 51.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2023, primarily due to a decrease of USD 41.0 million in third-party clinical trial costs and associated drug substance and drug product manufacturing costs. During the year ended December 31, 2022 we had more drug substance and drug product manufacturing activity for both rademikibart and icanbelimod as well as three additional clinical trials, the global Phase 2 trial for icanbelimod in UC, a global Phase 2 trial for rademikibart in the CSwNP indication, and a Phase 1 trial of a histamine receptor antagonist for pruritus associated with atopic dermatitis, that all ended prior to 2023. In addition, our personnel costs decreased by USD 3.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2023 due to a reduction in research and development personnel.

Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses decreased by USD 6.3 million from USD 20.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2022 to USD 14.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2023. The decrease in administrative expenses was primarily due to a USD 3.6 million reduction in professional services including consulting costs, recruiting fees, legal fees, and insurance costs, and a USD 2.3 million reduction in payroll and related compensation and benefit expenses for slightly lower headcount and lower share-based compensation expense.

Other Income

Other income increased by USD 0.7 million from USD 0.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2022 to USD 1.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2023. This increase was primarily related USD 0.7 million in subsidies from the Chinese local government and a USD 0.9 million incentive from the Australian government for research and development activities.

Other Gains—Net

Other gains—net, increased by USD 0.9 million from USD 1.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2022 to USD 2.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2023. The increase was primarily attributable to a USD 2.3 million increase in investment income from investments recorded at fair value through profit and loss offset by a decrease in USD 1.1 million

in net foreign exchange gains. During 2023, the USD exchange rates against RMB increased slightly as compared to 2022, leading to less higher foreign exchange gains in 2023.

Finance Income

Finance income increased by USD 1.2 million from USD 1.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2022 to USD 2.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2023. The increase was primarily due to (i) a USD 0.5 million increase in interest from bank and term deposits and (ii) a USD 0.7 million increase in investment income from investments recorded at fair value through other comprehensive income/(loss).

Finance Costs

Finance costs remained the same at USD 0.02 million for each of the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense decreased by USD 0.2 million from USD 0.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2022 to USD 0.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2023. The decrease is mainly related to lower activity during the year ended December 31, 2022 in Connect US, which for income tax purposes is a service provider for Connect HK and as a result its cost-plus income is taxed for federal and state income tax purposes in the United States.

Comparison of the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2022

The following table summarizes key components of our results of operations for the periods indicated:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	Change
Research and development expenses	\$ (80,496)	\$ (96,630)	\$ (16,134)
Administrative expenses	(19,014)	(20,806)	(1,792)
Net impairment losses	—	(4,698)	(4,698)
Other income	2,950	929	(2,021)
Other (losses)/gains—net	(1,547)	1,889	3,436
Operating loss	(98,107)	(119,316)	(21,209)
Finance income	97	1,544	1,447
Finance cost	(7)	(21)	(14)
Finance income—net	90	1,523	1,433
Fair value loss of financial instruments with preferred rights	(103,983)	—	103,983
Net loss before income tax	(202,000)	(117,793)	84,207
Income tax expense	(266)	(298)	(32)
Net loss for the year	\$ (202,266)	\$ (118,091)	\$ 84,175

Research and Development Expenses

Research and development expenses increased by USD 16.1 million from USD 80.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2021 to USD 96.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2022, primarily due to an increase of USD 15.6 million in third-party clinical trial costs for advancing our lead product candidates into later clinical trial phases. Specifically, in 2022, we completed a global Phase 2b clinical trial of rademikibart in the United States, the PRC, Australia and New Zealand and initiated a stand-alone pivotal clinical trial of rademikibart in the PRC for adult AD patients with moderate-to-severe AD, which significantly increased clinical trial and manufacturing expenses. In addition, we incurred additional drug supply and clinical expenses related to the global Phase 2 clinical trials of rademikibart for asthma and chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyposis, or CRSwNP, indications and the global Phase 2 trial for icanbelimod in UC and Crohn's disease, or CD, indications.

Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses increased by USD 1.8 million from USD 19.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2021 to USD 20.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. The increase in administrative expenses was primarily due to (i) a USD 1.5 million increase in payroll and related expenses for additional headcount, including share-based compensation expense, and resources needed in support of the growth of our business operations, (ii) a USD 0.2 million increase in office and software expenses, and (iii) a USD 0.3 million increase in depreciation and amortization expense.

Net impairment losses

Net impairment losses during 2022 of USD 4.7 million are attributable to the write-off of construction in process assets related to the termination of the construction project to build a research and development laboratory, manufacturing facility, and administrative offices on land purchased in 2021. In April 2023, the Jiangsu Taicang HIDC, and Connect SZ entered into an agreement for the Jiangsu Taicang HIDC to repurchase from Connect SZ the land use rights at the original purchase price and to terminate the Land Use Agreement and the relevant provisions of the Investment Agreement. The cancellation registration of the land use rights was completed in April 2023 and the Company received the purchase price in September 2023.

Other Income

Other income decreased by USD 2.1 million from USD 3.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2021 to USD 0.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. This decrease was primarily related to a one-time grant of USD 1.7 million received in 2021 from the PRC government for the Company's achievement of an IPO listing.

Other (Losses)/Gains—Net

Other (losses)/gains—net, increased by USD 3.4 million from USD 1.5 million of other losses for the year ended December 31, 2021 to USD 1.9 million of net gains for the year ended December 31, 2022. The increase was primarily attributable to (i) USD 2.0 million favorable fluctuations in foreign exchange rates in 2022 and (ii) a USD 0.2 million increase in investment income from investments recorded at fair value through profit and loss, and (iii) during 2021, the Company incurred a loss of USD 1.1 million due to a phishing incident which resulted in the Company remitting such amount to an account set up by the phishers rather than to one of the Company's vendors. No loss of company data nor any loss or compromise of third-party information has been discovered related to this phishing incident. During 2022, the USD exchange rates against RMB strengthened, leading to higher foreign exchange gains in 2022.

Finance Income

Finance income increased by USD 1.4 million from USD 0.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2021 to USD 1.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. The increase was primarily due to (i) a USD 0.1 million increase in interest from bank and term deposits and (ii) a USD 1.4 million increase in investment income from investments recorded at fair value through other comprehensive income/(loss).

Finance Costs

The change in finance costs over year was insignificant.

Fair Value Loss of Financial Instruments with Preferred Rights

Fair value loss of financial instruments with preferred rights decreased by USD 104.0 million from USD 104.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2021 to USD nil for the year ended December 31, 2022. All of the Company's financial instruments with preferred rights were converted into ordinary shares in 2021 in connection with the Company's IPO.

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense increased by USD 0.03 million from USD 0.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2021 to USD 0.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2022. The increase is mainly related to higher research and development activity during the year ended December 31, 2022 in Connect US, which for income tax purposes is a service provider for Connect HK and as a result its cost-plus income is taxed for federal and state income tax purposes in the United States.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Our consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards issued by the IASB. Our consolidated financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income, and financial instruments with preferred rights.

The Company elected to change its presentation currency from RMB to USD with effect from January 1, 2023. Figures have been re-presented from January 1, 2021 to reflect the change in presentation currency from RMB to USD. This change in presentation currency constitutes a change in accounting policy with retrospective application in accordance with International Accounting Standards ("IAS") 8, *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, and is affected in these consolidated financial statements in accordance with the requirements set out in IAS 21, *The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates*.

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of accounting estimates which, by definition, may not equal the actual results.

Management also needs to exercise judgment in applying the accounting policies.

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated. They are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. These estimates may not equal actual results.

(a) Research and development expenses

We incur costs and expenses on research and development activities. Research expenditures are charged to the profit or loss as an expense in the period the expenditure is incurred. Development costs are recognized as assets if they can be directly attributable to a newly developed service or product and all the following can be demonstrated:

- the technical feasibility to complete the development project so that it will be available for use or sale;
- the intention to complete the development project to use or sell the product;
- the ability to use or sell the product;
- the manner in which the development project will generate probable future economic benefits for us;
- the availability of adequate technical, financial and other resources to complete the development project and use or sell the product; and
- the expenditure attributable to the asset during its development can be reliably measured.

Elements of research and development expenses primarily include (1) expenses related to preclinical testing of our technologies under development and clinical trials such as payments to clinical trial related investigators and clinical trial sites that conduct the clinical studies; (2) consultant service related to the design of clinical trials and data analysis, (3) payroll and other related expenses of personnel engaged in research and development activities, (4) expenses to develop the product candidates, including raw materials and supplies, product testing, depreciation, and facility related expenses, and (5) other research and development expenses. Research and development expenses are charged to expense as incurred when these expenditures relate to our research and development services and have no alternative future uses.

(b) Revenue from contracts with customers

The Company may enter into collaboration and licensing arrangements for research and development, manufacturing, and commercialization activities with counterparties for the development and commercialization of its product candidates. These arrangements may contain multiple components, such as (i) licenses and (ii) research and development activities. Payments pursuant to these arrangements may include non-refundable and refundable payments, payments upon the achievement of significant regulatory, development and commercial milestones, sales of product at certain agreed-upon amounts, and royalties on product sales.

In determining the appropriate amount of revenue to be recognized as it fulfills its obligations under such an agreement, the Company performs the following steps: (i) identify the contract(s) with a customer; (ii) identify the performance obligations in the contract, including whether they are capable of being distinct; (iii) measurement of the transaction price,

including the constraint on variable consideration; (iv) allocation of the transaction price to the performance obligations; and (v) recognition of revenue as the Company satisfies each performance obligation.

(c) Recognition of share-based compensation expenses

In order to attract and retain the right talent, we offer share-based compensation incentives to our employees, directors and consultants. We used a Binomial Option Pricing model to determine the total fair value of the awarded options, which is to be expensed over the vesting period. Significant estimate on assumptions, such as the grant date share price, expected volatility, expected early exercise multiple, option life, risk-free interest rate and dividend yield, are required to derive such expense amounts. Separately, we used the Black-Scholes option-pricing model to determine the fair value of Employee Share Purchase Plan, or ESPP, compensation expense calculation as of the grant date. As we continue to grow and move into key stages of product development, we expect to continue offering share-based incentives to our employees, directors and consultants and the amount of expenses may increase in the future.

Key assumptions are set forth as follows:

	Stock Incentive Plan		ESPP	
	Year Ended December 31,		Year Ended December 31,	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Weighted average exercise price during the year	\$3.44	\$1.12	(i)	(ii)
Grant date share price	\$0.75~\$4.91	\$0.77~\$1.29	\$0.86~\$1.86	\$1.05
Risk-free interest rate	1.9%~3.4%	3.6%~4.4%	1.5%~4.8%	4.1%~5.1%
Expected volatility	61.4%~62.0%	59.3%~60.10%	51.1%~60.2%	46.96%~52.32%
Option life	10 years	10 years	0.5~2.0 years	0.5~2.0 years
Expected early exercise multiple	2.2~2.8	2.2~2.8	N/A	N/A
Dividend yield	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Forfeiture rate	3.0%-10.8%	*8.3%-12.3%	3.0%	3.0%-5.0%
Weighted average fair value of options granted during the year	\$1.98	\$0.64	\$0.71	\$0.40

* - During the year ended December 31, 2023, the forfeiture rates for executives ranged from 8.3% to 12.3% and for all other employees ranged from 9.5% to 11.7% for all other employees.

(i) - Discounted ESPP price for issued shares during the year ended December 31, 2022 was USD 0.74.

(ii) - Discounted ESPP prices for issued shares during the year ended December 31, 2023 were USD 0.73 and USD 0.89.

Description of key assumptions:

- *Grant date share price*—Based on our closing price on the date of grant.
- *Risk-free interest rate*—The risk-free rate is based on the U.S. Treasury yield for our risk-free interest rate that corresponds with the expected term.
- *Expected volatility*—We adopted the average volatility of the comparable companies as the proxy of the expected volatility of the underlying share. The volatility of each comparable company was based on the historical daily stock prices for a period with length commensurate to the remaining maturity life of the stock options.
- *Option life*—We adopted option life in accordance with the contractual terms of the options.
- *Expected early exercise multiple*—We estimated expected early exercise multiple for employee grantees and senior management grantees respectively by making reference to academic research.
- *Dividend yield*—We have no history of paying cash dividends on our ordinary shares and do not expect to pay dividends in the foreseeable future.

- *Forfeiture rate*—We estimated the probability of employee grantees exit based on the historical records.

Recently Issued and Adopted Accounting Pronouncement

For information on the standards applied for the first time as of January 1, 2023, please refer to our consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2023.

B. Liquidity and Capital Resources

Overview

We are a clinical development stage company that has generated no revenues and are exposed to a variety of financial risks including liquidity risks. We have incurred significant losses and negative cash flows from operations since our inception. As of December 31, 2023, we had an accumulated losses of USD 539.3 million, and we expect to continue to incur significant losses for the foreseeable future. As of December 31, 2023, we had cash and cash equivalents of USD 106.0 million and short-term investments of USD 12.6 million. Our principal sources of funding have historically been continuous cash contributions from common equity holders and preferred shareholders, including our IPO that we completed on March 23, 2021 for total cash consideration of USD 219.9 million before underwriting discounts and commissions. We currently have an effective shelf registration statement covering the offering of up to USD 300,000,000 in the aggregate of our ADSs, including up to USD 150,000,000 of our ADSs that may be issued and sold from time to time “at the market” under a sales agreement with Leerink Partners LLC (formerly SVB Securities LLC) and Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. There has been no take down from the shelf registration statement or sale of ADSs under such sales agreement, but any such financing if effected will be likely to cause substantial dilution to holders of our securities.

We believe, based on our current operating plan and expected expenditures, that our existing cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments will be sufficient to meet our anticipated operating cash expenditures for at least the next 12 months from the issuance date of our financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 and meet the requirements of a going concern. In the long-term, we will continue to seek additional fundraisings, licensing, or partnership proceeds to sufficiently fund our late-stage clinical trials for our product candidates.

We have funded our operations primarily through equity financing. Proceeds from those financings are initially held in the bank accounts of Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited and used to fund the operations of our subsidiaries. The credit risk of cash and cash equivalents, financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, and financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income, is limited because the counterparties are reputable commercial institutions located in the Cayman Islands, the U.S., PRC and Australia.

Additionally, there may be credit risk with deposit accounts at banking institutions in which balances exceeds each country’s insurance limits for such accounts.

In addition, we have received development incentives and subsidies from the PRC government. During the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, we received approximately USD 0.7 million and USD 0.9 million, respectively.

The following table summarizes the cash transferred from our holding company to our operating subsidiaries:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Cash Flow from Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited to:			
Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited	\$ 105,483	\$ 96,800	\$ 40,000
Total cash transferred to operating subsidiaries	<u>\$ 105,483</u>	<u>\$ 96,800</u>	<u>\$ 40,000</u>

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited to:			
Connect Biopharm LLC	\$ 48,510	\$ 62,000	\$ 33,000
Suzhou Connect Biopharma Co., Ltd.	55,871	25,000	6,000
Connect Biopharma Australia PTY LTD	—	6,800	1,000
Total cash transferred to operating subsidiaries	\$ 104,381	\$ 93,800	\$ 40,000

The amounts funded from Suzhou Connect Biopharma Co., Ltd to other the PRC subsidiaries were insignificant. There were no distributions, dividends or any other transfers out from any of the PRC entities to any of our entities outside of the PRC.

Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023

The following table summarizes our cash flows for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Cash Flow Data:			
Net cash used in operating activities	\$ (84,324)	\$ (101,520)	\$ (47,930)
Net cash (used in) / generated from investing activities	(5,207)	(86,243)	75,155
Net cash generated used in financing activities	202,220	(85)	(246)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$ 112,689	\$ (187,848)	\$ 26,979

Operating Activities

During the year ended December 31, 2023, net cash used in operating activities was USD 47.9 million, primarily due to net loss before tax of USD 59.4 million, offset by certain adjustments of USD 2.0 million and a positive working capital change in our operating assets and liabilities of USD 9.5 million. These adjustments consisted primarily of share-based compensation expense of USD 3.3 million, and depreciation and amortization expense of USD 1.0 million, offset by net foreign exchange differences of USD 0.4 million and interest income of USD 2.0 million. The positive working capital change in operating assets and liabilities was primarily due to an increase in contract liabilities for the Simcere license-out revenue contract of USD 13.3 million, a decrease in other receivables and prepayments of USD 1.0 million driven by clinical trial prepayments to CROs for rademikibart and icanelimod and a decrease in other non-current assets of USD 0.1 million due to collection of value-added tax, or VAT, balances which can offset against future VAT payables, offset by a decrease in deferred government grants of USD 0.2 million, a decrease in trade payables of USD 4.3 million due to timing of payments on outstanding payables, and an increase in other payables and accruals of USD 0.5 million due to timing of payments on outstanding payables.

During the year ended December 31, 2022, net cash used in operating activities was USD 101.5 million, primarily due to net loss before tax of USD 117.8 million, offset by certain adjustments of USD 9.8 million and a positive working capital change in our operating assets and liabilities of USD 6.5 million. These adjustments consisted primarily of share-based compensation expense of USD 6.9 million, net impairment losses recognized on the write-off of construction in process of USD 4.7 million, and depreciation and amortization expense of USD 1.0 million, offset by net foreign exchange differences of USD 1.5 million and interest income of USD 1.4 million. The positive working capital change in operating assets and liabilities was primarily due to decrease in trade payables of USD 0.8 million due to timing of payments on outstanding payables, combined with a decrease in other receivables and prepayments of USD 4.1 million driven by clinical trial prepayments to CROs for rademikibart and icanelimod and a decrease in other non-current assets of USD 2.7 million due to collection of value-added tax, or VAT, balances which can offset against future VAT payables, and an increase in other payables and accruals of USD 0.5 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2021, net cash used in operating activities was USD 84.3 million, primarily due to net loss before tax of USD 202.0 million, offset by certain adjustments of USD 114.1 million and a positive working capital

change in our operating assets and liabilities of USD 3.6 million. These adjustments consisted primarily of the fair value changes in financial instruments with preferred rights of USD 104.0 million, share-based compensation expense of USD 9.0 million, the net foreign exchange differences of USD 0.5 million, and depreciation and amortization expense of USD 0.6 million. The positive working capital change in operating assets and liabilities was primarily due to an increase in trade payables of USD 9.0 million due to timing of payments on outstanding payables, offset by an increase in other receivables and prepayments of USD 2.3 million driven by clinical trial prepayments to CROs for rademikibart and icabelimod and an increase in other non-current assets of USD 1.4 million due to higher deductible value-added tax, or VAT, balances which can offset against future VAT payables as well as a decrease in other payables and accruals of USD 1.7 million due to timing of payments on outstanding payables.

Investing Activities

During the year ended December 31, 2023, net cash generated from investing activities of USD 75.2 million was primarily related to maturities of financial assets recorded at fair value through other comprehensive income of USD 103.6 million, the purchase of financial assets recorded at fair value through other comprehensive income of USD 31.0 million, net sales of financial assets recorded at fair value of less than USD 0.1 million, and the disposal of purchase of property, plant and equipment of USD 2.9 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2022, net cash used in investing activities of USD 86.2 million was primarily related to maturities of financial assets recorded at fair value through other comprehensive income of USD 27.7 million, the purchase of financial assets recorded at fair value through other comprehensive income of USD 109.6 million, net sales of financial assets recorded at fair value of less than USD 0.1 million, and the purchase of property, plant and equipment of USD 4.4 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2021, net cash used in investing activities of USD 5.2 million was primarily related to the proceeds from sale of financial assets of USD 20.1 million, offset by the purchase of financial assets of USD 18.0 million, the purchase of property, plant and equipment of USD 3.8 million, the lease payments of USD 3.4 million.

Financing Activities

During the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the net cash used in financing activities of USD 0.2 million and USD 0.1 million, respectively, are primarily resulting from the payment for lease liabilities.

During the year ended December 31, 2021, net cash generated from financing activities was USD 202.2 million, primarily resulting from the receipt of USD 220.0 million)of gross proceeds from the sales of ordinary shares, partially offset by the payments made to repurchase treasury shares of USD 0.6 million, the payments in relation to listing expenses of USD 17.1 million and the payments of lease liabilities of USD 0.1 million.

Material Cash Requirements

As discussed below, our material cash requirements as of December 31, 2023 and any subsequent interim period primarily include our capital expenditures and operating lease obligations. We intend to fund our existing and future material cash requirements with our existing cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments balance. We will continue to make cash commitments, including capital expenditures, to support the growth of our business.

As of December 31, 2023, we have no material commitments.

Disclosure of Contractual Obligations

Our contractual obligations are shown as financial liabilities according to their classifications in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. Lease liabilities are classified according to the contractual term in the leasing agreements. In 2021, we entered into a three-year office lease agreement for approximately 3,600 square feet in San Diego, California, and the lease commenced in March 2022. In 2023, we renewed a three-year lease for a research, development and administration facility in Taicang, Jiangsu Province, The People's Republic of China, for approximately 25,476 square feet of office and laboratory space under leases that expire on April 30, 2026, The lease obligation over the remaining lease term is approximately USD 0.5 million. As of December 31, 2023, we had a contract liability for the upfront fee received under the Simcere Agreement of USD 13.3 million.

Holding Company Structure

We are a holding company that conducts its operations primarily through our various subsidiaries. As a result, our ability to pay dividends depends upon dividends paid to us by our subsidiaries. If our existing subsidiaries or any newly formed subsidiaries of our company incur debt on their own behalf in the future, the instruments governing their debt may restrict their ability to pay dividends to us. In addition, our PRC subsidiaries are permitted to pay dividends to us only out of their retained earnings, if any, as determined in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations. Under the PRC law, each of our PRC subsidiaries, and their subsidiaries are required to set aside at least 10% of its after-tax profits each year, if any, to fund specific statutory reserve funds until such reserve funds reach 50% of its registered capital. In addition, each of our PRC subsidiaries may allocate a portion of its after-tax profits based on PRC accounting standards to staff welfare and bonus funds, a discretionary surplus fund and an enterprise expansion fund at its discretion or in accordance with its articles of association. These reserve funds and staff welfare and bonus funds are not distributable as cash dividends. Remittance of dividends by a wholly foreign-owned company out of the PRC is subject to examination by the banks designated by SAFE. Our PRC subsidiaries have not paid dividends and will not be able to pay dividends until they generate accumulated profits and meet the requirements for statutory reserve funds. As of December 31, 2023, the amount restricted, including paid-in capital, as determined in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations, was 85.3 million RMB.

C. Research and Development, Patents and Licenses, etc.

See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview” and “Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects—A. Operating Results.”

D. Trend Information

See “Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects—A. Operating Results.”

E. Critical Accounting Estimates

Not Applicable

Safe Harbor

See “Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.”

ITEM 6. DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES.**A. Directors and Senior Management.**

Executive Officers and Directors

The following table presents information about our current executive officers and directors, including their ages as of the date of this annual report:

Name	Age	Position
Executive Officers		
Zheng Wei, Ph.D. ⁽³⁾	60	Chief Executive Officer and Director
Wubin Pan, Ph.D.	60	President and Chairperson of the Board of Directors
Steven Chan	52	Chief Financial Officer
Non-Executive Directors		
Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos, Ph.D. ⁽²⁾	66	Lead Independent Director
James Huang ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	58	Director
Kan Chen, Ph.D. ⁽³⁾	42	Director
Jean Liu ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾	55	Director
Karen J. Wilson ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	60	Director

⁽¹⁾ Audit committee member

⁽²⁾ Compensation committee member

⁽³⁾ Nominating and Corporate Governance committee member

The current business address for our executive officers and board of directors is c/o Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited, 12265 El Camino Real, Suite 350, San Diego, CA 92130, U.S.A.

The following are brief biographies of our executive officers and directors:

Executive Officers

Zheng Wei, Ph.D. Dr. Wei is a co-founder of the company and has served as our Chief Executive Officer and a member of our board of directors since our inception in 2012. Prior to that, Dr. Wei was Director of Immunology at Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc. from December 2007 to March 2011, where he oversaw its immunology discovery programs. Prior to this role, Dr. Wei was a scientist and program leader at ChemoCentryx, Inc. from April 1998 to September 2007. Prior to this role, Dr. Wei was a scientist at Glycomed, Inc. (acquired by Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated) from September 1992 to November 1995. Before joining Glycomed, Inc., Dr. Wei also conducted immunology research at Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Wei received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of California at Davis and his bachelor's degree in Biology from South China Normal University. We believe that Dr. Wei is qualified to serve as a member of our board of directors based on his deep knowledge of our business and his extensive development, commercial and executive management experience.

Wubin Pan, Ph.D. Dr. Pan is a co-founder of the company and has served as our President and Chairperson of our board of directors since May 2012. Previously, Dr. Pan co-founded and led Crown Bioscience Inc., a venture-backed contract research organization, from June 2006 to October 2011. During this tenure, he served in various executive leadership positions at the company, including PRC President, Chief Operation Officer and Executive Vice President. Prior to this role, Dr. Pan was the Vice President at TsingHuaYuanXing Biopharmaceutical Co. Ltd. from November 2000 to May 2006. Prior to that, Dr. Pan worked as a research scientist with TerraGen Discovery Inc. (acquired by Cubist Pharmaceuticals) from October 1996 to October 2000. Dr. Pan obtained his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from University of Sussex and completed postdoctoral training at the University of California at Berkeley. He holds an M.B.A. from Tsing-Hua University and an M.S. in Pharmacology and a B.S. in Zoology, both from Sun Yat-sen University. We believe that

Dr. Pan is qualified to serve as Chairperson of our board of directors based on his extensive knowledge of our business and his senior executive and board-level experience at biopharmaceutical companies.

Steven Chan. Mr. Chan has served as our Chief Financial Officer since November 2021. Previously, Mr. Chan served as Chief Financial Officer at Delphon Industries LLC, a global materials manufacturer, from April 2019 to November 2021. Prior to this role, from April 2017 to April 2019, Mr. Chan was Vice-President, Finance and Corporate Controller at Arcus Biosciences, Inc. Mr. Chan also served as Vice-President, Finance and Corporate Controller at MyoKardia, Inc. from November 2014 to March 2017 and as Vice-President, Corporate Controller at Solta Medical, Inc. from June 2010 to November 2014. Mr. Chan received a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of California at Berkeley, Haas School of Business and is a Certified Public Accountant in California (inactive status).

Non-Executive Directors

Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos, Ph.D. Dr. Xanthopoulos has served as a member of our board of directors since December 2020 and as our Lead Independent Director since January 2022. Dr. Xanthopoulos is currently the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Shoreline Biosciences Inc., and Chairman of Stork Capital Life Sciences which focuses on building and investing in innovative biotechnology companies. Dr. Xanthopoulos was Chief Executive Officer of IRRAS AB a publicly traded medical technology company from 2015 to 2021. He was a Managing General Partner at Cerus DMCC, from 2015 to 2020. Previously, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Regulus Therapeutics Inc. from the time of its formation in 2007 until June of 2015. Prior to that, he was a Managing Director of Enterprise Partners Venture Capital. Dr. Xanthopoulos co-founded and served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Anadys Pharmaceuticals, Inc. from its inception in 2000 to 2006 and remained a director until its acquisition by Roche in 2011. He was Vice President at Aurora Biosciences (acquired by Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.) from 1997 to 2000. Dr. Xanthopoulos also co-founded and served as the first President and Chief Executive Officer of Sente Labs, and a member of the board of Shoreline Biosciences, a cell therapy company, and IRRAS AB. Dr. Xanthopoulos participated in The Human Genome Project as a Section Head of the National Human Genome Research Institute from 1995 to 1997. Prior to this, he was an Associate Professor at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden after completing a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at The Rockefeller University, New York. In addition to being a director at Shoreline Biosciences and IRRAS AB, Dr. Xanthopoulos is also a member of the board of directors of Zosano Pharma, Inc and Sente Labs. Dr. Xanthopoulos received his B.S. in Biology with honors from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and received both his M.Sc. in Microbiology and Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the University of Stockholm, Sweden. Dr. Xanthopoulos has over 45 peer review publications and several issued patents. We believe that Dr. Xanthopoulos' senior executive experience managing and developing a major biotechnology company and his extensive industry knowledge and leadership experience in the life sciences industry qualify him to serve as a member of our board of directors.

Kan Chen, Ph.D. Dr. Chen has served as a member of our board of directors since December 2020. Dr. Chen is currently a partner and previously a principal at Qiming Weichuang Venture Capital Management (Shanghai) Co. Ltd., where he has served with a focus on healthcare investment since February 2016. Dr. Chen has also served on the boards of directors of Antengene Corporation Limited, CANbridge Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Zion Pharma Limited since March 2021, December 2020 and August 2020, respectively, and he served as a director of Abbisko Cayman Limited from February 2020 to June 2021. From October 2014 to January 2016, Dr. Chen was a senior scientist at Johnson & Johnson, where he focused on cancer medicine. Prior to that, Dr. Chen was a group leader at Jiangsu Hengrui Medicine, where he specialized in cancer immunotherapies. Dr. Chen completed his postdoctoral training in immunology at Harvard Medical School, earned his Ph.D. in Cell Biology from Case Western Reserve University and earned his B.S. in Biological Sciences from Fudan University. We believe that Dr. Chen is qualified to serve as a member of our board of directors because of his experience as an investor in biopharmaceutical companies and his expertise in immunology and drug discovery.

James Huang. Mr. Huang has served as a member of our board of directors since February 12, 2024. Mr. Huang is the Founding Managing Partner of Panacea Venture, a life science focused investment firm with a focus on investments in innovative and transformative early and growth stage healthcare and life sciences companies worldwide. Prior to Panacea, Mr. Huang was Managing Partner at Kleiner Perkins (KPCB) China and a Managing Partner at Vivo Ventures, a venture capital firm specializing in life sciences investments. He was also the president of Anesiva, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company focused on pain-management treatments. Earlier in his career, he held senior roles in business development, sales, marketing, and R&D with Tularik Inc. (acquired by Amgen Inc.), GlaxoSmithKline LLC, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company and ALZA Corp. (acquired by Johnson & Johnson). Additionally, Mr. Huang served on the board of directors of Casi Pharmaceuticals, Inc. from April 2013 to April 2023, Windtree Therapeutics, Inc. from December 2018 to April 2023 and Alaunos Therapeutics, Inc. from July 2020 to September 2023. Currently, Mr. Huang serves as a director on the board of directors of a number of companies, including Kindstar Globalgene Technology, Inc. (9960.HK). He received an M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from the University of

California, Berkeley. We believe that Mr. Huang is qualified to serve as a member of our board of directors because of his experience as an investor in the healthcare and life sciences companies and his expertise in the biopharmaceutical industry.

Jean Liu. Ms. Liu has served as a member of our board of directors since August 2021. Ms. Liu was the Chief Legal Officer at Seagen Inc., a global, multi-product biotechnology company, which was acquired by Pfizer in December 2023, where she has served since 2014. Previously, Ms. Liu served as the Vice President of General Counsel at Halozyme Therapeutics, Inc. and as the Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary at Durect Corporation. Earlier in her career, Ms. Liu was an attorney at Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro LLP (now Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP) and Venture Law Group, where she advised on technology transfer, licensing, patents, and copyright and trademark litigation. Ms. Liu holds a B.S. in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Michigan, an M.S. in Biology from Stanford University, and a J.D. from Columbia University. We believe Ms. Liu is qualified to serve as a member of our board of directors because of her legal expertise and senior executive experience in biopharmaceutical companies.

Karen J. Wilson. Ms. Wilson has served as a member of our board of directors since December 2020. Ms. Wilson is also currently a member of the boards of directors of Elicio Therapeutics, Inc. (formerly Angion Biomedica) and LAVA Therapeutics B.V. Ms. Wilson also served as a member of the board of directors of Vaxart, Inc. between August 2020 to August 2022. Ms. Wilson served as Senior Vice President of Finance at Jazz Pharmaceuticals plc until September 2020 after serving as Vice President of Finance and Principal Accounting Officer. Prior to joining the Jazz Pharmaceuticals organization in February 2011, Ms. Wilson served as Vice President of Finance and Principal Accounting Officer at PDL BioPharma, Inc. from 2009 to January 2011. She also previously served as a Principal at the consulting firm of Wilson Crisler LLC, Chief Financial Officer of ViroLogic, Inc., Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Operations for Novare Surgical Systems, Inc., and as a consultant and auditor for Deloitte & Touche LLP. Ms. Wilson is a Certified Public Accountant and received a B.S. in Business from the University of California, Berkeley. We believe that Ms. Wilson is qualified to serve as a member of our board of directors because of her expertise in finance and accounting and her senior executive experience in the pharmaceutical industry.

Family Relationships

There are no family relationships among any of our executive officers or directors.

Arrangements with Major Shareholders, Customers, and Suppliers

Other than the director appointments made pursuant to the Shareholders Agreement as described below under “Item 7.B. Related Party Agreements—Shareholders Agreement,” there are no arrangements or understandings with major shareholders, customers, suppliers or others, pursuant to which any person was selected as a director or member of senior management.

B. Compensation

The aggregate compensation awarded to, earned by and paid to our directors and executive officers who were employed by or otherwise performed services for us for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 was approximately USD 3.9 million. Our PRC subsidiaries are required by law to make contributions equal to specific percentages of each employee’s salary for his or her pension insurance, medical insurance, unemployment insurance and other statutory benefits and a housing provident fund. The total amount set aside or accrued by us to provide pension, retirement or similar benefits to our directors and executive officers who were employed by or otherwise performed services for us with respect to the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 was \$0.1 million. The foregoing aggregate compensation amounts include compensation paid to Dr. Chin Lee, M.D., M.P.H., who served as our Chief Medical Officer until August 6, 2023, and was an executive officer prior to his termination of employment. Dr. Lee did not receive any cash compensation in connection with his resignation.

In 2023, our executive officers had the opportunity to earn annual cash bonuses to compensate them for attaining company and individual performance goals. Each officer had an annual target bonus for 2023 that is expressed as a percentage of his or her annual base salary. Awards under the bonus plan for 2023 were generally based on company-wide objectives related to our clinical development programs and individual contributions and were determined by our Compensation Committee. Amounts paid in respect of these annual bonuses are included in the aggregate compensation amount shown in the paragraph above.

Our board of directors has adopted a non-employee director compensation program, or the Director Compensation Program, which became effective as of January 1, 2022 and has been updated in January 2024. The Director Compensation Program is intended to provide a total compensation package that enables us to attract and retain qualified and experienced individuals to serve as directors and to align our directors' interests with those of our stockholders. Directors who are also employees of our Company or our significant investors do not receive compensation for their service on our board of directors. We have reimbursed, and will continue to reimburse, our non-employee directors for their actual out-of-pocket costs and expenses incurred in connection with attending board meetings.

Under the Director Compensation Program, non-employee directors receive a cash retainer for service on our board of directors and for service on each committee of which the director is a member. Our Lead Independent Director and the Chairperson of each committee of our board receive a higher retainer for such service. Cash retainers are payable quarterly in arrears. Annual cash retainers will be pro-rated for any partial calendar quarter of service. In addition, under this program, each of our non-employee directors receives an annual grant of options vesting on the first anniversary of the grant date or upon a change of control of our Company (as defined in our 2021 Stock Incentive Plan). Under the Director Compensation Program, beginning with the calendar year 2024, the annual fees and equity awards for our non-employee directors are as follows:

Role	Annual retainer	Annual option award
Non-Employee Director	\$40,000	26,450
Lead Independent Director	\$17,500	7,090 shares
Audit Committee Chair	\$15,000	—
Audit Committee Member	\$7,500	—
Compensation Committee Chair	\$10,000	—
Compensation Committee Member	\$7,500	—
Nominating Committee Chair	\$10,000	—
Nominating Committee Member	\$7,500	—

As of December 31, 2023, options to purchase 2,720,002 ordinary shares granted to our executive officers and directors were outstanding under our equity incentive plans at a weighted average exercise price of \$5.99 per ordinary share. In addition, thus far in 2024, we have approved the grant of additional options to purchase 1,034,440 ordinary shares at a weighted average exercise price of \$1.18 per ordinary share, in the aggregate, to our executive officers and directors. Options under our equity incentive plans expire no later than ten years following the date of grant.

Employment Agreements with Executive Officers

We have entered into employment agreements with each of our executive officers. Under these agreements, some of our executive officers are employed for specified time periods. We may terminate employment for cause, at any time, for specific acts of the executive officer.

Each executive officer has agreed to hold, both during and after the termination or expiry of his or her employment agreement, in strict confidence and not to use, except as required in the performance of his or her duties in connection with the employment or pursuant to applicable law, any of our confidential information or trade secrets, any confidential information or trade secrets of our business partners, or the confidential or proprietary information of any third party received by us and for which we have confidential obligations. The executive officers have also agreed to disclose in confidence to us all inventions, designs and trade secrets which they conceive, develop or reduce to practice during the executive officer's employment with us and to assign all right, title and interest in them to us, and assist us in obtaining and enforcing patents, copyrights and other legal rights for these inventions, designs and trade secrets.

Employment Agreement with Wubin Pan

Effective January 1, 2021, Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited and its affiliates entered into an employment agreement with Dr. Wubin Pan setting forth the terms of his employment as the President and Chairperson of Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited and our company. Pursuant to the agreement, Dr. Pan is entitled to an annual base salary of USD 495,000 (USD 512,000 effective from January 1, 2022), which amount may not be reduced but is subject to annual review

by and at the sole discretion of our board of directors or its designee. Dr. Pan's employment agreement provides that he may be eligible to earn an annual performance-based bonus with a target amount equal to 50% of his annual base salary.

Pursuant to his employment agreement, if we terminate Dr. Pan's employment other than for cause or Dr. Pan terminates his employment for good reason (each as defined in his employment agreement), he is entitled to the following payments and benefits, subject (except for item below) to his timely execution and non-revocation of a general release of claims in favor of the company: (1) his fully earned but unpaid base salary and accrued and unused paid time off through the date of termination at the rate then in effect, any annual bonus payable for any prior calendar year (to the extent not previously paid), plus all other amounts under any compensation plan or practice to which he is entitled; (2) a payment equal to 12 months of his then-current base salary, payable in a lump sum payment 60 days following the termination date; (3) a payment equal to his prorated target annual bonus for the calendar year in which the termination date occurs, payable in a lump sum payment 60 days following the termination; and (4) payment of the health insurance premiums for him and his eligible dependents until the earliest of (a) the expiration of 18 months following his termination date or (b) the date he becomes eligible for health insurance coverage in connection with his new employment. In the event that such termination occurs during the period beginning two (2) months prior to and ending twelve (12) months following a change in control of our company (or with respect to equity awards granted under the 2019 Stock Incentive Plan, the corporate transaction) (as defined in his employment agreement) (or with respect to equity awards granted under the 2019 Stock Incentive Plan, the corporate transaction (as defined therein)), in addition to the severance benefits provided above, all of Dr. Pan's equity awards will vest on an accelerated basis as of the later of the date of termination or the date of the change in control (provided that if any equity award is subject to more favorable vesting conditions, such more favorable provisions shall apply).

In the event we terminate Dr. Pan's employment for cause, he terminates his employment without good reason, or upon his death or permanent disability, he is entitled to receive only his fully earned but unpaid base salary and accrued and unused paid time off through the date of termination at the rate then in effect, any annual bonus payable for any prior calendar year (to the extent not previously paid), plus all other amounts under any compensation plan or practice to which he is entitled.

Pursuant to his employment agreement, Dr. Pan is subject to a one-year post-termination non-solicitation covenant and a perpetual non-disparagement covenant, in addition to a noncompetition covenant that applies during the employment term and his obligations under the Company's standard proprietary information and inventions assignment agreement.

Employment Agreement with Zheng Wei

Effective January 1, 2021, Connect Biopharm LLC and its affiliates entered into an employment agreement with Dr. Zheng Wei setting forth the terms of his employment as the Chief Executive Officer of Connect Biopharm LLC and our company. Pursuant to the agreement, Dr. Wei is entitled to an annual base salary of USD 495,000 (USD 539,000 effective from January 1, 2022), which amount may not be reduced but is subject to annual review by and at the sole discretion of our board of directors or its designee. Dr. Wei's employment agreement provides that he may be eligible to earn an annual performance-based bonus with a target amount equal to 50% of his annual base salary.

Pursuant to his employment agreement, if we terminate Dr. Wei's employment other than for cause or Dr. Wei terminates his employment for good reason (each as defined in his employment agreement), he is entitled to the following payments and benefits, subject (except for item below) to his timely execution and non-revocation of a general release of claims in favor of the company: (1) his fully earned but unpaid base salary and accrued and unused paid time off through the date of termination at the rate then in effect, any annual bonus payable for any prior calendar year (to the extent not previously paid), plus all other amounts under any compensation plan or practice to which he is entitled; (2) a payment equal to 12 months of his then-current base salary, payable in a lump sum payment 60 days following the termination date; (3) a payment equal to his prorated target annual bonus for the calendar year in which the termination date occurs, payable in a lump sum payment 60 days following the termination date; and (4) payment of the COBRA premiums for him and his eligible dependents until the earliest of (a) the expiration of 18 months following his termination date, (b) expiration of his eligibility for continuation coverage under COBRA, or (c) the date he becomes eligible for health insurance coverage in connection with his new employment. In the event that such termination occurs during the period beginning two (2) months prior to and ending twelve (12) months following a change in control of our company (as defined in his employment agreement) (or with respect to equity awards granted under the 2019 Stock Incentive Plan, the corporate transaction (as defined therein)), in addition to the severance benefits provided above, all of Dr. Wei's equity awards will vest on an accelerated basis as of the later of the date of termination or the date of the change in control (or with respect to equity awards granted under the 2019 Stock Incentive Plan, the corporate transaction) (provided that if any equity award is subject to more favorable vesting conditions, such more favorable provisions shall apply).

In the event we terminate Dr. Wei's employment for cause, he terminates his employment without good reason, or upon his death or permanent disability, he is entitled to receive only his fully earned but unpaid base salary and accrued and unused paid time off through the date of termination at the rate then in effect, any annual bonus payable for any prior calendar year (to the extent not previously paid), plus all other amounts under any compensation plan or practice to which he is entitled.

Pursuant to his employment agreement, Dr. Wei is subject to a one-year post-termination non-solicitation covenant and a perpetual non-disparagement covenant, in addition to a noncompetition covenant that applies during the employment term and his obligations under the Company's standard proprietary information and inventions assignment agreement.

Offer Letter with Steven Chan

Connect Biopharm LLC entered into an offer letter with Steven Chan, dated October 11, 2021, setting forth the terms of employment as the Chief Financial Officer of Connect Biopharm LLC and its affiliates. Pursuant to the offer letter, Mr. Chan is entitled to receive (i) an annual base salary of USD 410,000, (ii) an annual discretionary bonus with a target amount equal to 40% of his annual base salary, (iii) an option to purchase 310,000 ordinary shares of Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited, (iv) a one-time sign-on bonus of USD 75,000 (subject to full or partial repayment in the event of his voluntary termination of employment within two years of his start date), and (v) reimbursement of moving expenses up to USD 50,000.

Pursuant to an addendum to the offer letter, if we terminate Mr. Chan's employment without cause or the executive terminates his employment as a result of a constructive termination (each as defined in the applicable offer letter), he is entitled to the following payments and benefits, subject to his timely execution and non-revocation of a general release of claims in favor of the company and continued compliance with the CIAA (as defined below): (1) a payment equal to (A) nine months of his then-current base salary plus (B) 75% of his target annual bonus for the applicable year, payable in a lump sum payment five days following the effectiveness of the release; and (2) payment of the COBRA premiums for him and his eligible dependents for up to nine months following his termination date. In the event that such termination occurs during the period beginning two months prior to and ending 12 months following a change in control of our company (as defined in the applicable offer letter), in addition to the severance benefits provided above, all of the executive's outstanding equity awards will vest on an accelerated basis as of the later of the date of termination or the date of the change in control (provided that if any equity award is subject to more favorable vesting conditions, such more favorable provisions shall apply).

Mr. Chan entered into our standard employee confidential information and inventions assignment agreement, or CIAA, in connection with the commencement of his employment with us.

Limitations on Liability and Indemnification Matters

Cayman Islands law does not limit the extent to which a company's memorandum and articles of association may provide for indemnification of officers and directors, except to the extent any such provision may be held by the Cayman Islands courts to be contrary to public policy, such as to provide indemnification against civil fraud or the consequences of committing a crime. Our articles of association provide that we shall indemnify our officers and directors against all actions, proceedings, costs, charges, expenses, losses, damages or liabilities incurred or sustained by such directors or officer, other than by reason of such person's dishonesty, willful default or fraud, in or about the conduct of our company's business or affairs (including as a result of any mistake of judgment) or in the execution or discharge of his or her duties, powers, authorities or discretions, including without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, any costs, expenses, losses or liabilities incurred by such director or officer in defending (whether successfully or otherwise) any civil proceedings concerning our company or its affairs in any court whether in the Cayman Islands or elsewhere. This standard of conduct is generally the same as permitted under the Delaware General Corporation Law for a Delaware corporation.

In addition, we have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and executive officers. Under these agreements, we agree to indemnify our directors and executive officers against specific liabilities and expenses incurred by such persons in connection with claims made by reason of their being a director or officer of our company.

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

2021 Stock Incentive Plan

Our board of directors and our shareholders have approved our 2021 Stock Incentive Plan, or the 2021 Plan, to provide additional incentives to our employees, directors and consultants and to promote our business.

The following paragraphs describe the principal terms of the 2021 Plan.

Shares Available for Issuance. The maximum aggregate number of ordinary shares which may be issued pursuant to all awards under the 2021 Plan is (1) 6,000,000 ordinary shares, plus (2) any ordinary shares that were, as of the effective date of the 2021 Plan, (i) available for issuance under the 2019 Plan or (ii) subject to outstanding awards under the 2019 Plan that become available for issuance under the 2021 Plan thereafter in accordance with its terms. The number of ordinary shares initially available for issuance will be increased on the first day of each of our fiscal years during the term of the 2021 Plan commencing with the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022, by an amount equal to the least of (i) 5.0% of the total number of ordinary shares issued and outstanding on the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal year; or (ii) such lesser number of shares as may be determined by our board of directors. Our board of directors determined that the increase under the 2021 Plan for the fiscal years beginning January 1, 2023 and 2024, to be 2.5% and 5.0%, respectively, of our outstanding shares as determined on December 31, 2022 and 2023, respectively. In no event will more than 60,000,000 shares be issuable upon the exercise of incentive share options (within the meaning of Section 422 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code) under the 2021 Plan.

As of the effective date of the 2021 Plan, no further grants will be made under the 2019 Plan. However, the 2019 Plan will continue to govern the terms and conditions of the outstanding awards granted under it.

Types of Awards. The 2021 Plan will permit the awards of options, share appreciation rights, restricted shares, restricted share units, dividend equivalent rights or other stock- or cash-based awards that the plan administrator determines to award under the 2021 Plan.

Plan Administration. Our board of directors or a committee designated by the board of directors will administer the 2021 Plan. The committee or the full board of directors, as applicable, will have the authority to (i) determine whether and the total number of awards to be granted in any fiscal year; (ii) determine the fair market value and exercise price set forth in the notice of stock option award and the award agreements; (iii) approve forms of award agreements for use under the 2021 Plan and amend terms of the award agreements, (iv) amend the terms of any outstanding awards granted under the 2021 Plan, provided that any amendment that would adversely affect a grantee's rights under an outstanding award in material aspects will not be made without the grantee's written consent, (v) construe and interpret the terms of the 2021 Plan and awards, including any notice of award or award agreement and (vi) exercise such other powers provided by the 2021 Plan, any award agreement or notice of award. In addition, our board of directors may authorize one or more officers of directors to grant awards under the 2021 Plan, and delegate authority under the 2021 Plan to such officers. We expect that our compensation committee will administer the 2021 Plan generally, other than awards to non-employee directors, which shall continue to be administered by our board of directors.

Award Agreement. Awards granted under the 2021 Plan will be evidenced by an award agreement that sets forth terms, conditions and limitations for each award, which may include the term of the award, the provisions applicable in the event of the grantee's employment or service terminates, and our authority to unilaterally or bilaterally amend, modify, suspend, cancel or rescind the award.

Eligibility. We may grant awards to employees, directors and consultants of our company and its related entities. However, we may grant options that are intended to qualify as incentive share options only to our employees and employees of our parent companies and subsidiaries.

Vesting Schedule. In general, the plan administrator will determine the vesting schedule, which will be specified in the relevant award agreement.

Exercise of Awards. The plan administrator will determine the exercise price or purchase price, as applicable, for each award, which will be stated in the award agreement. The vested portion of option will expire if not exercised prior to the time as the plan administrator determines at the time of its grant. However, the maximum exercisable term is ten years from the date of grant.

Transfer Restrictions. Awards may not be transferred in any manner by the recipient other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution, except as otherwise provided by the plan administrator.

Termination and Amendment of the 2021 Plan. Unless terminated earlier, the 2021 Plan has a term of ten years from the date of our board of directors' initial adoption of the 2021 Plan. Our board of directors or the compensation committee has the authority to amend or terminate the plan, subject to shareholder approval to the extent necessary to comply with applicable law. However, no such action may adversely affect in any material way any awards previously granted unless agreed by the recipient.

2019 Stock Incentive Plan

Our shareholders and our board of directors adopted our 2019 Stock Incentive Plan, or the 2019 Plan, in November 2019 to provide additional incentives to our employees, directors and consultants and to promote our business. As of the date of this annual report, the maximum aggregate number of ordinary shares which may be issued pursuant to all awards under the 2019 Plan is 2,570,864 ordinary shares.

The following paragraphs describe the principal terms of the 2019 Plan.

Types of Awards. The 2019 Plan permits the awards of options, share appreciation rights, restricted shares, restricted share units, dividend equivalent rights or any other type of awards that the plan administrator determines to award under the 2019 Plan.

Plan Administration. Our board of directors or a committee designated by the board of directors, constituted of one or more members of the board of directors, administers the 2019 Plan. The committee or the full board of directors, as applicable, has the authority to (i) determine whether and the total number of awards to be granted in any fiscal year; (ii) determine the fair market value and exercise price set forth in the notice of stock option award and the award agreements; (iii) approve forms of award agreements for use under the 2019 Plan and amend terms of the award agreements, (iv) amend the terms of any outstanding awards granted under the 2019 Plan, provided that any amendment that would adversely affect a grantee's rights under an outstanding award in material aspects will not be made without the grantee's written consent, (v) construe and interpret the terms of the 2019 Plan and awards, including any notice of award or award agreement and (vi) exercise such other powers provided by the 2019 Plan, any award agreement or notice of award. In addition, our board of directors may authorize one or more officers of directors to grant awards under the 2019 Plan, and delegate authority under the 2019 Plan to such officers.

Award Agreement. Awards granted under the 2019 Plan are evidenced by an award agreement that sets forth terms, conditions and limitations for each award, which may include the term of the award, the provisions applicable in the event of the grantee's employment or service terminates, and our authority to unilaterally or bilaterally amend, modify, suspend, cancel or rescind the award.

Eligibility. We may grant awards to employees, directors and consultants of our company and its related entities. However, we may grant options that are intended to qualify as incentive share options only to our employees and employees of our parent companies and subsidiaries.

Vesting Schedule. In general, the plan administrator determines the vesting schedule, which is specified in the relevant award agreement.

Exercise of Awards. The plan administrator determines the exercise price or purchase price, as applicable, for each award, which is stated in the award agreement. The vested portion of option will expire if not exercised prior to the time as the plan administrator determines at the time of its grant. However, the maximum exercisable term is ten years from the date of grant.

Transfer Restrictions. Awards may not be transferred in any manner by the recipient other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution, except as otherwise provided by the plan administrator.

Termination and Amendment of the 2019 Plan. Unless terminated earlier, the 2019 Plan has a term of ten years from the date of our board of directors' initial adoption of the 2019 Plan. Our board of directors has the authority to amend or terminate the plan, subject to shareholder approval to the extent necessary to comply with applicable law. However, no such action may adversely affect in any material way any awards previously granted unless agreed by the recipient.

ESOP Entity. Due to regulatory and practical administration issues relating to equity awards in the PRC, we formed Connect Union as a means of facilitating the issuance and delivery of ordinary shares under the 2019 Plan to our employees in the PRC. In connection therewith, we issued 2,570,864 ordinary shares to Connect Union, to hold for the 2019 Plan. Connect Union held the ordinary shares issued by us as a nominee structure, and the ordinary shares of our company to be obtained by employees, directors and consultants upon exercise of the options will come from the ordinary shares of our company held by Connect Union. In September 2021, Connect Union surrendered 2,570,864 ordinary shares to us and ceased holding ordinary shares issued by us under the nominee structure.

2021 Employee Share Purchase Plan

Our board of directors and our shareholders have approved the 2021 Employee Share Purchase Plan, or the 2021 ESPP, the material terms of which are summarized below.

The 2021 ESPP is comprised of two distinct components in order to provide increased flexibility to grant options to purchase shares under the 2021 ESPP to U.S. and to non-U.S. employees. Specifically, the 2021 ESPP authorizes (1) the grant of options to U.S. employees that are intended to qualify for favorable U.S. federal tax treatment under Section 423 of the Code (the “Section 423 Component”) and (2) the grant of options that are not intended to be tax-qualified under Section 423 of the Code to facilitate participation for employees located outside of the U.S. who do not benefit from favorable U.S. federal tax treatment and to provide flexibility to comply with non-U.S. law and other considerations (the “Non-Section 423 Component”). Where permitted under local law and custom, we expect that the Non-Section 423 Component will generally be operated and administered on terms and conditions similar to the Section 423 Component.

Shares Available for Awards; Administration. A total of 600,000 ordinary shares are initially reserved for issuance under the 2021 ESPP. In addition, the number of shares available for issuance under the 2021 ESPP will be annually increased on January 1 of each calendar year beginning in 2022 and ending in and including 2031, by an amount equal to the lesser of (A) 1% of the ordinary shares outstanding on the final day of the immediately preceding calendar year and (B) such smaller number of shares as is determined by our board of directors, provided that no more than 12,000,000 ordinary shares may be issued under the Section 423 Component. Our board of directors determined that the increase under the 2021 Plan for the fiscal years beginning January 1, 2023 and 2024, to be 0.0% and 0.0%, respectively, of our outstanding shares as determined on December 31, 2022 and 2023, respectively. Our board of directors or a committee of our board of directors administers and have authority to interpret the terms of the 2021 ESPP and determine eligibility of participants. The compensation committee is the initial administrator of the 2021 ESPP.

Eligibility. All of our employees are eligible to participate in the 2021 ESPP. However, an employee may not be granted rights to purchase shares under our 2021 ESPP if the employee, immediately after the grant, would own (directly or through attribution) shares possessing 5% or more of the total combined voting power or value of all classes of our shares.

Grant of Rights. Shares will be offered under the 2021 ESPP during offering periods. The length of the offering periods under the 2021 ESPP will be determined by the plan administrator and may be up to twenty-seven months long. Employee payroll deductions will be used to purchase shares on each purchase date during an offering period. The purchase dates for each offering period will be the final trading day in the offering period. Offering periods under the 2021 ESPP will commence when determined by the plan administrator. The plan administrator may, in its discretion, modify the terms of future offering periods. In non-U.S. jurisdictions where participation in the 2021 ESPP through payroll deductions is prohibited, the plan administrator may provide that an eligible employee may elect to participate through contributions to the participant’s account under the 2021 ESPP in a form acceptable to the 2021 ESPP administrator in lieu of or in addition to payroll deductions.

The 2021 ESPP permits participants to purchase ordinary shares through payroll deductions of up to a specified percentage of their eligible compensation. The plan administrator will establish a maximum number of shares that may be purchased by a participant during any offering period. In addition, no employee will be permitted to accrue the right to purchase shares under the Section 423 Component at a rate in excess of \$25,000 worth of shares during any calendar year during which such a purchase right is outstanding (based on the fair market value per share of our ordinary shares as of the first day of the offering period).

On the first trading day of each offering period, each participant will automatically be granted an option to purchase our ordinary shares. The option will expire at the end of the applicable offering period, and will be exercised at that time to the extent of the payroll deductions accumulated during the offering period. The purchase price of the shares, in the absence of a contrary designation, will be 85% of the lower of the fair market value of our ordinary shares on the first trading day of

the offering period or on the purchase date. Participants may voluntarily end their participation in the 2021 ESPP at any time during a specified period prior to the end of the applicable offering period, and will be paid their accrued payroll deductions that have not yet been used to purchase ordinary shares. Participation ends automatically upon a participant's termination of employment.

A participant may not transfer rights granted under the 2021 ESPP other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution, and options under the 2021 ESPP are generally exercisable only by the participant.

Certain Transactions. In the event of specific non-reciprocal transactions or events affecting our ordinary shares, the plan administrator will make equitable adjustments to the 2021 ESPP and outstanding rights. In the event of specific unusual or non-recurring events or transactions, including a change in control, the plan administrator may provide for (1) either the replacement of outstanding rights with other rights or property or termination of outstanding rights in exchange for cash, (2) the assumption or substitution of outstanding rights by the successor or survivor corporation or parent or subsidiary thereof, if any, (3) the adjustment in the number and type of shares subject to outstanding rights, (4) the use of participants' accumulated payroll deductions to purchase shares on a new purchase date prior to the next scheduled purchase date and termination of any rights under ongoing offering periods or (5) the termination of all outstanding rights.

Plan Amendment. The plan administrator may amend, suspend or terminate the 2021 ESPP at any time. However, shareholder approval will be obtained for any amendment that increases the aggregate number or changes the type of shares that may be sold pursuant to rights under the 2021 ESPP or changes the corporations or classes of corporations whose employees are eligible to participate in the 2021 ESPP.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

Our board of directors has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that is applicable to all of our employees, executive officers and directors. The Code of Conduct is available under the "Corporate Governance" section of our website at www.connectbiopharm.com. Our board of directors is responsible for overseeing the Code of Conduct and is required to approve any waivers of the Code of Conduct for employees, executive officers and directors. We expect that any amendments to the Code of Conduct, or any waivers of its requirements, will be disclosed on our website. The reference to our website address does not constitute incorporation by reference of the information contained at or available through our website, and you should not consider it to be a part of this annual report.

C. Board Practices.

Board Composition

Under our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, or articles of association, our board of directors must be composed of at least three members, the exact number of members to be determined from time to time by our board of directors. Our directors may be elected by a resolution of our board of directors, or by an ordinary resolution of our shareholders, which requires approval by a simple majority of the votes which are cast at a general meeting by those of our shareholders who, being entitled to do so, attend and vote at such meeting or by the unanimous written consent of our shareholders entitled to vote at such meeting. Our amended and restated memorandum and articles also provide that our directors may be removed with or without cause by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the votes of the shareholders present, represented by a proxy or voting by mail at the relevant ordinary shareholders' meeting, and that any vacancy on our board resulting from the death or resignation of a director may be filled by vote of a majority of our directors then in office. Directors chosen or appointed to fill a vacancy shall be elected by the board for the remaining duration of the current term of the replaced director (if any).

We currently have seven directors. The following table sets forth the names of our directors and the years of their initial appointment as directors.

Name	Current position	Year of appointment
Wubin Pan, Ph.D.	Chairperson	2015 ⁽¹⁾
Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos, Ph.D.	Lead Independent Director	2020
Kan Chen, Ph.D.	Director	2020
James Huang	Director	2024
Jean Liu	Director	2021
Zheng Wei, Ph.D.	Director	2015 ⁽¹⁾
Karen J. Wilson	Director	2020

⁽¹⁾ Served as a director of Connect SZ since 2012 and continued to serve as a director of our Company following the Reorganization in 2015. See Item 4. “Information on the Company.” for more information.

Wubin Pan, Ph.D., leads our board of directors as the Chairperson. The Chairperson is primarily responsible for ensuring that the board provides effective governance to the Company. In doing so, the Chairperson presides over meetings of the board and of our shareholders. The Chairperson takes a lead role in managing the board and facilitates effective communication among directors. He is responsible for overseeing matters pertaining to governance, including the organization, composition and effectiveness of the board and its committees. The Chairperson oversees the management of the board’s administrative activities, such as meetings, schedules, agendas, communication and documentation.

Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos, Ph.D., serves as our Lead Independent Director. The Lead Independent Director provides leadership to the independent directors, liaises on behalf of the independent directors and ensures board effectiveness to maintain high-quality governance of our company and the effective functioning of the board.

Director Independence

As a foreign private issuer, under the listing requirements and rules of Nasdaq, we are not required to have independent directors on our board of directors, except with respect to our audit committee, for which the Nasdaq listing requirements permit specified phase-in schedules.

Our board of directors has determined that, applying the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and the Nasdaq listing standards, all of our directors, except Dr. Pan and Zheng Wei, Ph.D., qualify as “independent directors.” In making such determination, our board considered the relationships that each non-employee director has with us and all other facts and circumstances our board of directors deemed relevant in determining the director’s independence, including the number of ordinary shares beneficially owned by the director and his or her affiliated entities.

Role of the Board in Risk Oversight

One of the key functions of our board of directors is informed oversight of our risk management process. In performing its risk oversight function, our board of directors is responsible for overseeing management’s development and execution of appropriate business strategies to mitigate the likelihood that such strategies will fail to generate long-term value for us and holders of our securities or that such strategies will motivate management to take excessive risks. Our board of directors periodically reviews information regarding our financial, operational, and strategic risks, including macroeconomic risks. Our lead independent director, who is also a member of our audit committee and our compensation committee, liaises with our Chairperson and management, as well as where applicable, our outside experts, to provide leadership regarding risk management. Although our board of directors does not have a standing risk management committee, and administers oversight of our risk management directly, we have various standing committees of our board of directors that address risks inherent in their respective areas of oversight. In particular, our board of directors is responsible for monitoring and assessing strategic risk exposure and our audit committee has the responsibility to consider and discuss our major financial risk exposures and the steps our management has taken to monitor and control these exposures, including guidelines and policies to govern the process by which risk assessment and management is undertaken. Our audit committee also monitors compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. Our nominating and corporate governance committee monitors the effectiveness of our corporate governance practices, including whether they are successful in preventing illegal or improper liability-creating conduct. Our compensation committee assesses and monitors whether any of our compensation policies

and programs has the potential to encourage excessive risk-taking. While each committee is responsible for evaluating some risks and overseeing the management of such risks, our entire board of directors is regularly informed through committee reports about such risks.

Corporate Governance Practices

As a Cayman Islands exempted company incorporated with limited liability, we are subject to various corporate governance requirements under Cayman Islands law. In addition, as a foreign private issuer listed on Nasdaq, we are subject to the Nasdaq corporate governance listing standards. However, Nasdaq's listing standards provide that foreign private issuers are permitted to follow home country corporate governance practices in lieu of the Nasdaq rules, with some exceptions. Some corporate governance practices in Cayman Islands may differ significantly from corporate governance listing standards. For example, neither the corporate laws of the Cayman Islands nor our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association require that (i) a majority of our directors be independent, (ii) our compensation committee include only independent directors, or (iii) our independent directors hold regularly scheduled meetings at which only independent directors are present. Other than as set forth below, we currently intend to comply with the corporate governance listing standards of Nasdaq to the extent possible under Cayman Islands law. However, we may choose to change such practices to follow home country practice in the future.

Although we are a foreign private issuer, we are required to comply with Rule 10A-3 of the Exchange Act, relating to audit committee composition and responsibilities. Rule 10A-3 provides that the audit committee must have direct responsibility for the nomination, compensation and choice of our auditors, as well as control over the performance of their duties, management of complaints made, and selection of consultants. Under Rule 10A-3, if the laws of a foreign private issuer's home country require that any such matter be approved by the board of directors or the shareholders of the Company, the audit committee's responsibilities or powers with respect to such matter may instead be advisory.

In addition, Nasdaq rules require that a listed company specify that the quorum for any meeting of the holders of share capital be at least 33 1/3% of the outstanding shares of the company's common voting stock. As provided under our post-listing amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, and as permitted by Cayman Islands law, a quorum required for and throughout a meeting of shareholders consists of one or more shareholders entitled to vote and present in person or by proxy or (in the case of a shareholder being a corporation) by its duly authorized representative holding shares which carry in aggregate not less than one-third of all votes attaching to all of our shares in issue and entitled to vote.

Additionally, Nasdaq rules require that the independent directors of listed companies hold regularly scheduled meetings at which only independent directors are present. We intend to follow our Cayman Islands home country practice, rather than complying with this Nasdaq rule.

Further, Nasdaq rules require that listed companies have a nominations committee comprised solely of independent directors. We intend to follow our Cayman Islands home country practice, as described under "—Board Composition," rather than complying with this Nasdaq rule.

Committees of our Board of Directors

Our board of directors has the following standing committees: an audit committee, a compensation committee and a nominating and corporate governance committee. The composition and functioning of all of our committees complies with the Cayman Islands Companies Act, the Exchange Act, Nasdaq, and SEC rules and regulations.

Audit Committee of the Board

The audit committee, which consists of Ms. Wilson, Ms. Liu, and Mr. Huang, assists the board in overseeing our accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of our consolidated financial statements. Ms. Wilson serves as Chairperson of the committee. The audit committee consists exclusively of members of our board who are financially literate, and Ms. Wilson is considered an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by applicable SEC rules and has the requisite financial sophistication as defined under the applicable Nasdaq rules and regulations. Our board has determined that all of the members of the audit committee satisfy the "independence" requirements set forth in Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act. The audit committee is governed by a charter that complies with Nasdaq rules.

The audit committee's responsibilities include:

- recommending the appointment of the independent auditor to the general meeting of shareholders;

- the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of any accounting firm engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit services;
- pre-approving the audit services and non-audit services to be provided by our independent auditor before the auditor is engaged to render such services;
- evaluating the independent auditor's qualifications, performance and independence, and presenting its conclusions to the full board on at least an annual basis;
- reviewing and discussing with the executive officers, the board and the independent auditor our consolidated financial statements and our financial reporting process; and
- approving or ratifying any related person transaction (as defined in our related person transaction policy) in accordance with our related person transaction policy.

The audit committee meets as often as one or more members of the audit committee deem necessary, but in any event will meet at least four times per year. The audit committee meets at least once per year with our independent accountant, without our executive officers being present.

Compensation Committee of the Board

The compensation committee, which consists of Dr. Xanthopoulos, Mr. Huang, and Ms. Wilson, assists the board in determining executive officer compensation. Dr. Xanthopoulos serves as Chairperson of the committee. Under SEC and Nasdaq rules, there are heightened independence standards for members of the compensation committee, including a prohibition against the receipt of any compensation from us other than standard board member fees. Although foreign private issuers are not required to meet this heightened standard, all of our compensation committee members meet this heightened standard.

The compensation committee's responsibilities include:

- identifying, reviewing and proposing policies relevant to executive officer compensation;
- evaluating each executive officer's performance in light of such policies and reporting to the board;
- analyzing the possible outcomes of the variable compensation components and how they may affect the compensation of the executive officers;
- recommending any equity long-term incentive component of each executive officer's compensation in line with the compensation policy and reviewing our executive officer compensation and benefits policies generally;
- reviewing, recommending for adoption of, administering and overseeing compliance with clawback policies we are legally required to adopt; and
- reviewing and assessing risks arising from our compensation policies and practices.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board

The nominating and corporate governance committee, which consists of Ms. Liu, Dr. Wei, and Dr. Chen, assists our board in identifying individuals qualified to become members of our board and executive officers consistent with criteria established by our board and in developing our corporate governance principles. Ms. Liu serves as Chairperson of the nominating and corporate governance committee.

The nominating and corporate governance committee's responsibilities include:

- drawing up selection criteria and appointment procedures for board members;
- reviewing and evaluating the size and composition of our board and making a proposal for a composition profile of the board at least annually;
- recommending nominees for election to our board and its corresponding committees;
- assessing the functioning of individual members of board and executive officers and reporting the results of such assessment to the board; and
- developing and recommending to the board rules governing the board, reviewing and reassessing the adequacy of such rules governing the board and recommending any proposed changes to the board.

Duties of Directors

Under Cayman Islands law, our directors owe fiduciary duties to our company, including a duty of loyalty, a duty to act honestly, and a duty to act in what they consider in good faith to be in our best interests. Our directors must also exercise their powers only for a proper purpose. Our directors also owe to our company a duty to act with skill and care. It was previously considered that a director need not exhibit in the performance of his or her duties a greater degree of skill than may reasonably be expected from a person of his or her knowledge and experience. However, English and Commonwealth courts have moved towards an objective standard with regard to the required skill and care and these authorities are likely to be followed in the Cayman Islands. In fulfilling their duty of care to us, our directors must ensure compliance with our articles of association, as amended and restated from time to time, and the class rights vested thereunder in the holders of the shares. In some limited exceptional circumstances, a shareholder may have the right to seek damages in our name if a duty owed by our directors is breached. Our board of directors has all the powers necessary for managing, and for directing and supervising, our business affairs. The functions and powers of our board of directors include, among others:

- convening shareholders' annual and extraordinary general meetings and reporting its work to shareholders at such meetings;
- declaring dividends and distributions;
- appointing officers and determining the term of office of the officers;
- exercising the borrowing powers of our company and mortgaging the property of our company; and
- approving the transfer of shares in our company, including the registration of such shares in our share register.

Terms of Directors and Officers

Our directors may be appointed by a resolution of our board of directors, or by an ordinary resolution of our shareholders. Our directors are not subject to a term of office and hold office until such time as they are removed from office by resolution of the shareholders. A director will cease to be a director if, among other things, the director (i) becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors; (ii) dies or is found to be or becomes of unsound mind, (iii) resigns his or her office by notice in writing to our company, or (iv) without special leave of absence from our board, is absent from three consecutive board meetings and our directors resolve that his or her office be vacated or (v) is removed from office pursuant to any other provision of our memorandum and articles of association. Our officers are elected by and serve at the discretion of our board of directors. We have entered into employment agreements with our executive officers.

D. Employees.

As of December 31, 2021, 2022, and 2023, we had 108, 100, and 81 full-time employees, respectively.

The following table shows the approximate number of employees we had at the end of the last three years by the principal business function they performed:

	December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Research and development	69	60	49
General and administrative	39	40	32
Total	108	100	81

The following table sets forth the number of employees we had at the end of the last three years by geography:

	December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
PRC and Hong Kong	82	68	62
United States	25	32	19
Other	1	-	-
Total	108	100	81

None of our employees work under a collective bargaining agreement. We have never experienced labor-related work stoppages or strikes and believe that our relations with our employees are satisfactory.

E. Share Ownership.

For information regarding the share ownership of directors and officers, see Item 7.A. “Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions—Major Shareholders.” For information as to our equity incentive plans, see Item 6.B. “Director, Senior Management and Employees—Compensation—Incentive Programs.”

F. Disclosure of a Registrant’s action to recover erroneously awarded compensation.

None.

ITEM 7. MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS.

A. Major Shareholders.

The following table sets forth information relating to the beneficial ownership of our ordinary shares as of March 1, 2024 by:

- each person, or group of affiliated persons, known by us to own beneficially 5% or more of our outstanding ordinary shares; and
- each member of our board of directors and each of our executive officers.

The number of ordinary shares beneficially owned by each entity, person, board member or executive officer is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC, and the information is not necessarily indicative of beneficial ownership for any other purpose. Under such rules, beneficial ownership includes any shares over which the individual has sole or shared voting power or investment power as well as any shares that the individual has the right to acquire within 60 days of March 1, 2024 through the exercise of any option or other right. Except as otherwise indicated, and subject to applicable community property laws, the persons named in the table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all ordinary shares held by that person.

The percentage of ordinary shares beneficially owned is computed on the basis of 55,102,954 ordinary shares outstanding as of December 31, 2023 on an as-converted basis. Ordinary shares that a person has the right to acquire within 60 days of March 1, 2024 are deemed outstanding for purposes of computing the percentage ownership of the person holding such rights, but are not deemed outstanding for purposes of computing the percentage ownership of any other person, except with respect to the percentage ownership of all board members and executive officers as a group. Unless otherwise indicated below, the address for each beneficial owner listed is c/o Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited, 12265 El Camino Real, Suite 350, San Diego, CA 92130, United States.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned**	Percentage of Shares Beneficially Owned
5% or Greater Shareholders:		
Entities affiliated with Panacea Opportunity Fund I, L.P. ⁽¹⁾	12,000,000	21.8%
BioFortune Inc. ⁽²⁾	6,197,398	11.2%
Shanghai Minhui Enterprise Management Consulting Partnership (Limited Partnership) ⁽³⁾	5,306,149	9.6%
Entities affiliated with Qiming Venture Partners ⁽⁴⁾	4,840,898	8.8%
Advantech Capital II Connect Partnership L.P. ⁽⁵⁾	4,762,185	8.6%
Entities affiliated with Lilly Asia Ventures ("LAV") ⁽⁶⁾	3,336,907	6.1%
Executive Officers and Directors:		
Zheng Wei, Ph.D. ⁽⁷⁾	6,487,545	11.8%
Wubin Pan, Ph.D. ⁽²⁾⁽⁸⁾	6,728,292	12.2%
Steven Chan ⁽⁹⁾	225,036	*
Kan Chen, Ph.D.	—	*
James Huang	—	*
Jean Liu ⁽¹⁰⁾	70,858	*
Karen J. Wilson ⁽¹¹⁾	141,758	*
Kleanthis G. Xanthopoulos, Ph.D. ⁽¹²⁾	138,848	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (eight (8) persons)	13,792,337	25.0%

* Indicates beneficial ownership of less than 1% of the total outstanding ordinary shares.

** Includes ordinary shares represented by ADSs.

- ⁽¹⁾ As reported on a Schedule 13D filed February 23, 2024, Panacea Venture Healthcare Fund II, L.P. stated that it holds 12,000,000 ordinary shares. James Huang is the sole owner of Panacea Innovation Limited, which is the sole owner of Panacea Venture Healthcare Fund II GP Company, Ltd., which is the general partner of Panacea Venture Healthcare Fund II, L.P. James Huang, a member of our board of directors, is the sole owner of Panacea Innovation Limited, which is the sole owner of Panacea Venture Healthcare Fund II GP Company, Ltd., which is the general partner of Panacea Venture Healthcare Fund II, L.P. As a result, each of James Huang, Panacea Innovation Limited and Panacea Venture Healthcare Fund II GP Company, Ltd. may be deemed to share beneficial ownership of the Ordinary Shares directly reported herein, but each disclaims such beneficial ownership. The registered address of the Panacea entities is c/o Maples Corporate Services Limited, Ugland House, Grand Cayman KY1-1104, Cayman Islands.
- ⁽²⁾ As reported on a Schedule G/A filed February 13, 2024, BioFortune Inc., a company limited by shares organized under the laws of the British Virgin Islands, stated that it holds 6,158,016 ordinary shares, which consists of (i) 530,894 ordinary shares underlying stock options held by Wubin Pan, Ph.D., our President and Chairperson of our board of directors and (ii) 39,382 ordinary shares held by Dr. Pan's spouse. Dr. Pan is the sole shareholder of BioFortune Inc. and may be deemed to have voting and investment power over such shares. Dr. Pan disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares, except to the extent of any pecuniary interest therein. The registered address of BioFortune Inc. is Coastal Building, Wickham's Cay II, P. O. Box 2221, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.
- ⁽³⁾ Consists of 5,306,149 ordinary shares held by Shanghai Minhui Enterprise Management Consulting Partnership (Limited Partnership), a limited partnership formed under the laws of the PRC. Suzhou Xiangtang Venture Investment Limited, a limited liability company organized under the laws of the PRC and the ultimate shareholders of which are Mr. Gu Zhenqi and Mr. Gu Jianping, is the general partner of Shanghai Minhui Enterprise Management Consulting Partnership (Limited Partnership). The registered address of Shanghai Minhui Enterprise Management Consulting Partnership (Limited Partnership) is 1/F, Block 1, No. 251, Yao Hua Road, Pilot Free Trade Zone, Shanghai, PRC. The business address of Suzhou Xiangtang Venture Investment Limited, Mr. Gu Zhenqi and Mr. Gu Jianping is 9th Floor, Xiangtang Building, No. 168 East Shanghai Road, Taicang, Jiangsu Province, PRC.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Represents (i) 96,285 ordinary shares held by Qiming Managing Directors Fund V, L.P., a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership, (ii) 3,102,470 ordinary shares held by Qiming Venture Partners V, L.P., a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership, (iii) 14,993 ordinary shares held by Qiming VII Strategic Investors Fund, L.P., a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership, and (iv) 1,627,150 ordinary shares held by Qiming Venture Partners VII, L.P., a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership. The general partner of Qiming Venture Partners V, L.P. is Qiming GP V, L.P., whose general partner is Qiming Corporate GP V, Ltd., a Cayman Islands exempted company. Qiming Corporate GP V, Ltd. is also

the general partner of Qiming Managing Directors Fund V, L.P. The voting and investment power of the shares held by Qiming Managing Directors Fund V, L.P. and Qiming Venture Partners V, L.P. in our company is exercised by Qiming Corporate GP V, Ltd., which is beneficially owned by Messrs. Duane Kuang, Gary Rieschel, and Nisa Leung. The general partner of Qiming Venture Partners VII, L.P. and Qiming VII Strategic Investors Fund, L.P. is Qiming GP VII, LLC, a Cayman Islands limited liability company. The voting and investment power of the shares held by Qiming Venture Partners VII, L.P. and Qiming VII Strategic Investors Fund, L.P. in our company are exercised by Qiming GP VII, LLC, which is beneficially owned by Messrs. Duane Kuang, Gary Rieschel, and Nisa Leung. Messrs. Duane Kuang, Gary Rieschel, and Nisa Leung disclaim beneficial ownership of such shares, except to the extent of any pecuniary interest therein. The registered address of the Qiming entities is M&C Corporate Services Limited, P.O. Box 309GT, Uglad House, South Church Street, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands.

- (5) Consists of 4,762,185 ordinary shares held by Advantech Capital II Connect Partnership L.P., a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership, or Advantech. Advantech Capital II Investment Partners Limited, an exempted company incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands, is the general partner of Advantech and may be deemed to beneficially own specific shares held by Advantech. Advantech Capital II Investment Partners Limited is beneficially owned and controlled by Advantech Capital Partners II Limited, which in turn is ultimately controlled by Hebert Pang Kee Chan. Mr. Chan disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by Advantech, except to the extent of any pecuniary interest therein. The registered address of the Advantech entities is 190 Elgin Avenue, George Town, Grand Cayman KY1-9005, Cayman Islands.
- (6) Consists of (i) 1,824,605 ordinary shares held by LAV Biosciences Fund V, L.P., (ii) 300,000 ordinary shares held by LAV Star Limited, (iii) 300,000 ordinary shares held by LAV Opportunities Limited, and (iv) 912,302 ordinary shares held by Orchids Limited. The address of the LAV entities is Lilly Asia Ventures Rom 606-7, St. George's Building, 2 Ice House Street, Central, Hong Kong.
- (7) As reported on a Schedule 13G/A filed February 13, 2024, Dr. Wei holds (i) 5,928,164 ordinary shares and (ii) includes 559,381 ordinary shares underlying options that are exercisable as of March 1, 2024 or that will become exercisable within 60 days after such date.
- (8) Includes (i) 530,894 ordinary shares underlying stock options held of record by Dr. Pan that are exercisable as of March 1, 2024; and (ii) 39,382 ordinary shares held of record by Dr. Pan's spouse.
- (9) Includes 217,536 shares underlying options held by Mr. Chan that are exercisable within 60 days after March 1, 2024.
- (10) Represents 70,858 ordinary shares underlying options held by Ms. Liu that are exercisable within 60 days after March 1, 2024.
- (11) Includes 131,758 ordinary shares underlying options held by Ms. Wilson that are exercisable within 60 days after March 1, 2024.
- (12) Represents 138,848 ordinary shares underlying options held by Dr. Xanthopoulos that are exercisable within 60 days after March 1, 2024.

Some of our directors are associated with our principal shareholders as indicated in the table below:

Director	Principal shareholder
Kan Chen, Ph.D.	Entities affiliated with Qiming Venture Partners
James Huang	Entities affiliated with Panacea Opportunity Fund I, L.P.
Wubin Pan, Ph.D.	BioFortune Inc.

As of March 31, 2024, based on public filings with the SEC, there are no other major shareholders holding 5% or more of our ordinary shares or ADSs representing ordinary shares except as described above. As of March 31, 2024, there were four (4) ordinary shareholders of record with an address in the United States. Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as depository of our ADSs, held 36,530,101 ordinary shares.

To our knowledge, except as disclosed above, we are not owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by another corporation, by any foreign government or by any other natural or legal person or persons, severally or jointly. To our knowledge, there are no arrangements or operations which may at a subsequent date result in us undergoing a change in control. Our major shareholders do not have different voting rights than any of our other shareholders.

B. Related Party Transactions.

The following is a description of material related party transactions we have entered into since January 1, 2021 with any members of our board of directors or executive officers and the holders of more than 5% of our ordinary shares.

Preferred Share Private Placements

The following is a summary of our securities issuances in the past three years. The history of securities issuances set forth below does not give effect to the 1-for-1.74 share consolidation of our ordinary shares effected prior to our IPO.

Ordinary Shares

On April 14, 2020, we issued 245,798 ordinary shares to each of BioFortune Inc. and Zheng Wei, Ph.D.

From December 2018 through December 2020, we issued 4,473,305 ordinary shares to Connect Union as nominee for purposes of the implementation of awards issue or to be issued to employees, directors and consultants of our company pursuant to the 2019 Plan. In September 2021, Connect Union surrendered all such ordinary shares to us and ceased to hold ordinary shares issued by us as a nominee structure.

Upon the closing of our IPO, we issued (i) 12,937,500 ordinary shares represented by the ADSs purchased in the offering, (ii) 121,080 ordinary shares to our founders immediately after the closing of the offering as a result of the achievement of the Financing Condition, and (iii) 46,232 ordinary shares to the holders of Series C Preferred Shares pursuant to the anti-dilution provisions contained in the Shareholders Agreement.

Preferred Shares

Series Pre-A Preferred Shares Financing. In connection with the Restructuring, on October 30, 2018, we issued and sold to existing shareholders of Connect SZ an aggregate of 31,090 Series Pre-A Preferred Shares (which were split into 3,109,000 Series Pre-A Preferred Shares in December 2018) as consideration and in exchange for the same equity interests they held in Connect SZ. The equity interest held in Connect SZ was originally purchased for aggregate consideration of USD 5.0 million.

Series A Preferred Shares Financing. In connection with the Restructuring, on October 30, 2018, we issued and sold to existing shareholders of Connect SZ an aggregate of 84,712 Series A Preferred Shares (which were split into 8,471,200 Series A Preferred Shares in December 2018) as consideration and in exchange for the same equity interests they held in Connect SZ. The equity interest held in Connect SZ was originally purchased for aggregate consideration of USD 20.0 million.

Series B Preferred Shares Financing. On December 20, 2018, we issued and sold to investors in private placements an aggregate of 10,127,579 Series B Preferred Shares at a subscription price of USD 5.4307 per share, for aggregate consideration of USD 55.0 million.

Series C Preferred Shares Financing. On August 21, 2020, we issued and sold to investors in private placements an aggregate of 16,605,196 Series C Preferred Shares at a subscription price of USD 6.3233 per share, for aggregate consideration of \$105 million. On December 1, 2020, we issued and sold to investors in private placements an aggregate of 4,744,341 Series C Preferred Shares at a subscription price of USD 6.3233 per share, for aggregate consideration of USD 30.0 million.

The following table sets forth the aggregate number of our ordinary shares and Preferred Shares acquired by holders of more than 5% of our ordinary shares in the financing transactions described above. Each Preferred Share identified in the following table converted into one ordinary share upon the completion of our IPO.

Participants	Ordinary shares	Series A Preferred shares	Series B Preferred shares	Series C Preferred shares
5% or Greater Shareholders (1)				
Entities affiliated with Qiming Venture				
Partners (2)	—	4,235,600	1,012,758	3,162,895
Advantech Capital II Connect				
Partnership L.P.	—	—	8,286,202	—
Entities affiliated with RA Capital				
Management (3)	—	—	—	6,325,789
Shanghai Minhui Enterprise				
Management Consulting				
Partnership (Limited Partnership)	9,232,700	—	—	—
Entities affiliated with Lilly Asia				
Ventures				5,806,218

(1) Additional details regarding these shareholders and their equity holdings are provided in this annual report under the caption “Principal Shareholders.”

(2) Represents shares acquired by Qiming Managing Directors Fund V, L.P., Qiming Venture Partners V, L.P., Qiming VII Strategic Investors Fund, L.P. and Qiming Venture Partners VII, L.P.

(3) Represents shares acquired by RA Capital Healthcare Fund, L.P., RA Capital Nexus Fund, L.P. and Blackwell Partners LLC—Series A.

(4) Represents shares acquired by LAV Biosciences Fund V, L.P., LAV Star Limited, LAV Opportunities Limited, and Orchids Limited.

Shareholders Agreement

We entered into a Second Amended and Restated Shareholders Agreement, or Shareholders Agreement, on December 1, 2020, by and among us and some of our shareholders, including each of the holders of more than 5% of our ordinary shares identified above. The Shareholders Agreement, as amended, imposes some affirmative obligations on us and also grants specific rights to holders, including registration rights with respect to the securities held by them, preemptive rights, co-sale and drag-along rights and some information and inspection rights. Pursuant to the Shareholders Agreement, we issued 121,080 ordinary shares to our founders immediately after the closing of our IPO as a result of the achievement of the Financing Condition. As a result of the issuance of ordinary shares to our founders, we have also issued an additional 46,232 ordinary shares to the holders of Series C Preferred Shares pursuant to the anti-dilution provisions contained in the Shareholders Agreement.

Except for Ms. Liu and Mr. Huang, each of our current directors was designated to serve on our board of directors under the Shareholders Agreement. Dr. Wei, Dr. Pan, Ms. Wilson and Dr. Xanthopoulos were designated by our founders to serve on our board of directors as their representatives. Dr. Chen, designated by Qiming, was selected to serve on our board of directors as a representative of our Series A Preferred Shares.

The rights of our shareholders under the Shareholders Agreement, except the registration rights discussed below terminated immediately prior to the completion of our IPO, and members previously elected to our board of directors pursuant to this agreement will continue to serve as directors until they resign, are removed or their successors are duly elected by the holders of our ordinary shares. The composition of our board of directors is described in more detail under “Management—Board Composition.”

Arrangements with Our Executive Officers and Directors

Agreements with Our Executive Officers and Directors

We have entered into employment agreements with each of our executive officers.

In March 2021, we repurchased 20,765 ordinary shares from Zheng Wei, Ph.D., for consideration of RMB 2.5 million (USD 0.4 million) for the payment of employee withholding taxes related to share-based awards. Following the repurchase, such shares were cancelled.

In May 2022, BioFortune, Inc., with sole shareholder Wubin Pan, Ph.D., surrendered 60,540 ordinary shares for no consideration. The surrendered shares were cancelled. In relation to the share surrender, the Company did not enter into any agreement or commitment for future consideration or compensation.

Indemnification Agreements

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and executive officers. See “Management—Limitations on Liability and Indemnification Matters.”

Consulting Arrangement with Artemis Catalyst

We have previously entered into a consulting agreement with Artemis Catalyst Ltd., a management consulting firm which is wholly owned by Selwyn Ho, MB BS, our former Chief Business Officer. The consulting agreement was terminated in January 2021 upon the commencement of full time employment by Dr. Ho with us on such date. For the year ended December 31, 2021, the total amount payable under the consulting agreement was USD 0.3 million.

Contract Research Organization Services

In the ordinary course of business, we have entered into transactions with Hangzhou Sino Company Limited, Frontage Laboratories (Suzhou) Company Limited, Hangzhou Tigermed Consulting Company Limited, Beijing Medical Development (Suzhou) Company Limited, and Shanghai Tigermed Consulting Company Limited, which are affiliated with Ye Linlu, who was a director of our company until November 2020, and Ye Xiaoping, who was a member of the board of directors of Connect SZ until February 2021. There were no transactions since the year ended December 31, 2020.

2019 Stock Incentive Plan

See “Management—2019 Stock Incentive Plan.”

Related Person Transaction Policy

Our board of directors has adopted a written related person transaction policy setting forth the policies and procedures for the review and approval or ratification of related person transactions. This policy covers any transaction or proposed transactions between us and a related person that are material to us or the related person, including without limitation, purchases of goods or services by or from the related person or entities in which the related person has a material interest, indebtedness, guarantees of indebtedness and employment by us of a related person. In reviewing and approving any such transactions, our audit committee is tasked to consider all relevant facts and circumstances, including, but not limited to, whether the transaction is on terms comparable to those that could be obtained in an arm’s length transaction and the extent of the related person’s interest in the transaction.

C. Interests of Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION.

A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information.

Please see Item 18. “Financial Statements” for our audited consolidated financial statements filed as part of this annual report.

Litigation

We are, from time to time, party to various claims and legal proceedings arising out of our ordinary course of business, but we do not believe that any of these existing claims or proceedings will have a material effect on our business, consolidated financial condition or results of operations. We are not currently a party to any material legal proceedings, including any such proceedings that are pending or threatened, of which we are aware.

Dividend Policy

Since our incorporation, we have never paid or declared any dividend on our ordinary shares, and we do not anticipate paying dividends on our ordinary shares in the foreseeable future. We intend to retain all available funds and any future earnings, if any, to fund the development and expansion of our business. As a result, investors in our ordinary shares or ADSs will benefit in the foreseeable future only if such ordinary shares or ADSs appreciate in value.

Any dividend on our ordinary shares will be paid to the depositary bank, as the registered holder of those ordinary shares, and the depositary bank will then pay such amounts to the holders of ADSs, subject to the terms of the deposit agreement. Holders of our ADSs will receive any dividend to the same extent as holders of our ordinary shares, to the extent permitted by applicable law and regulations, less the fees and expenses payable under the deposit agreement.

Any future determination to pay a dividend will be made at the discretion of our board of directors, and subject to Cayman Islands Law. In addition, our shareholders may by ordinary resolution declare a dividend, but no dividend may exceed the amount recommended by our board of directors. Under Cayman Islands law, a Cayman Islands company may pay a dividend out of either profit or its share premium account, provided that in no circumstances may a dividend be paid if this would result in the company being unable to pay its debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business. Even if our board of directors decides to declare and pay dividends, the timing, amount and form of future dividends, if any, will be based upon conditions then existing, including our results of operations, financial condition, current and anticipated capital requirements, business prospects, contractual restrictions and other factors our board of directors deems relevant, and subject to the restrictions contained in any future financing instruments and our memorandum and articles of association, as amended from time to time. Any profits or share premium we declare as dividends will not be available to be reinvested in our operations.

Moreover, we are a holding company that does not conduct any business operations of our own. As a result, we are dependent upon cash dividends, distributions and other transfers from our subsidiaries to make dividend payments.

During the year ended December 31, 2023, we did not declare or pay any dividends.

B. Significant Changes.

No significant change has occurred since the date of the financial statements included in this annual report.

ITEM 9. THE OFFER AND LISTING.

A. Offer and Listing Details

Our ADSs commenced trading on the Nasdaq Global Market on March 19, 2021. Prior to this, no public market existed for our ADSs.

B. Plan of Distribution

Not applicable.

C. Markets

Our ADSs are listed on Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol “CNTB.”

D. Selling Shareholders

Not applicable.

E. Dilution

Not applicable.

F. Expenses of the Issuer

Not applicable.

ITEM 10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

A. Share Capital

Not applicable.

B. Memorandum and Articles of Association.

We are a Cayman Islands exempted company incorporated with limited liability and our affairs are governed by our memorandum and articles of association, as amended from time to time, the Companies Act (As Revised) of the Cayman Islands, which we refer to as the Companies Act below and the common law of the Cayman Islands.

Our shareholders adopted our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, which became effective and replaced our fourth amended and restated memorandum and articles of association in its entirety immediately prior to the completion of our IPO. The following are summaries of some material provisions of our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, and of the Companies Act, insofar as they relate to the material terms of our ordinary shares.

Objects of Our Company. Under our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, the objects of our company are unrestricted and we have the full power and authority to carry out any object not prohibited by the law of the Cayman Islands.

Ordinary Shares. Our ordinary shares are issued in registered form and are issued when registered in our register of members (shareholders). We may not issue shares to bearer. Our shareholders who are nonresidents of the Cayman Islands may freely hold and vote their shares. Each ordinary share shall entitle the holder thereof to one vote on all matters subject to vote at our general meetings.

Dividends. The holders of our ordinary shares are entitled to such dividends as may be declared by our board of directors. In addition, our shareholders may declare dividends by ordinary resolution, but no dividend shall exceed the amount recommended by our directors. Our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association provide that our

directors may, before recommending or declaring any dividend, set aside out of the funds legally available for distribution such sums as they think proper as a reserve or reserves which shall, in the absolute discretion of the directors, be applicable for meeting contingencies or for equalizing dividends or for any other purpose to which those funds may be properly applied. Under the laws of the Cayman Islands, our company may pay a dividend out of either profit or our share premium account, provided that in no circumstances may a dividend be paid if this would result in our company being unable to pay its debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business.

Voting Rights. Each ordinary share shall be entitled to one vote on all matters subject to a vote at general meetings of our company. Voting at any shareholders' meeting is by show of hands unless a poll is demanded (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands). A poll may be demanded by the chairperson of such meeting or by any one or more shareholders who together hold not less than 10% of the votes attaching to the total number of ordinary shares which are present in person or by proxy at the meeting.

An ordinary resolution to be passed at a meeting by the shareholders requires the affirmative vote of a simple majority of the votes attaching to the ordinary shares which are cast at a meeting, while a special resolution requires the affirmative vote of no less than two-thirds of the votes attaching to the ordinary shares which are cast at a meeting. A special resolution will be required for important matters such as a change of name or making changes to our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association. Our company may, among other things, divide or combine our ordinary shares, by an ordinary resolution of our shareholders.

General Meetings of Shareholders. As a Cayman Islands exempted company, we are not obliged by the Companies Act to call shareholders' annual general meetings. Our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association provide that we may (but are not obliged to) in each year hold a general meeting as our annual general meeting in which case we shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling it, and the annual general meeting shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by our directors.

Shareholders' general meetings may be convened by the chairperson of our board of directors or by a majority of our directors (acting by a resolution of the board). Advance notice of at least ten calendar days is required for the convening of our annual general shareholders' meeting (if any) and any other general meeting of our shareholders. A quorum required for any general meeting of shareholders consists of one or more shareholders present in person or by proxy, holding shares which carry in aggregate not less than one-third of all votes attaching to all of our shares in issue and entitled to vote at such general meeting.

The Companies Act provides shareholders with only limited rights to requisition a general meeting, and does not provide shareholders with any right to put any proposal before a general meeting. However, these rights may be provided in a company's articles of association. Our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association provide that upon the requisition of shareholders holding shares which carry in aggregate not less than one-third of the votes attaching to the issued and outstanding shares of our company entitled to vote at general meetings, our board will convene an extraordinary general meeting and put the resolutions so requisitioned to a vote at such meeting. However, our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association do not provide our shareholders with any right to put any proposals before annual general meetings or extraordinary general meetings not called by such shareholders.

Transfer of Ordinary Shares. Subject to the restrictions set out below, any of our shareholders may transfer all or any of his or her ordinary shares by an instrument of transfer in the usual or common form or any other form approved by our board of directors.

Our board of directors may, in its absolute discretion, decline to register any transfer of any ordinary share which is not fully paid up or on which we have a lien. Our board of directors may also decline to register any transfer of any ordinary share unless:

- the instrument of transfer is lodged with us, accompanied by the certificate for the ordinary shares to which it relates and such other evidence as our board of directors may reasonably require to show the right of the transferor to make the transfer;
- the instrument of transfer is in respect of only one class of ordinary shares;
- the instrument of transfer is properly stamped, if required;
- in the case of a transfer to joint holders, the number of joint holders to whom the ordinary share is to be transferred does not exceed four; and

- a fee of such maximum sum as the Nasdaq Global Market may determine to be payable or such lesser sum as our directors may from time to time require is paid to us in respect thereof.

If our directors refuse to register a transfer they shall, within three months after the date on which the instrument of transfer was lodged, send to each of the transferor and the transferee notice of such refusal.

The registration of transfers may, after compliance with any notice required of the Nasdaq Global Market, be suspended and the register closed at such times and for such periods as our board of directors may from time to time determine, provided, however, that the registration of transfers shall not be suspended nor the register closed for more than 30 calendar days in any calendar year.

Liquidation. On the winding up of our company, if the assets available for distribution amongst our shareholders shall be more than sufficient to repay the whole of the share capital at the commencement of the winding up, the surplus shall be distributed amongst our shareholders in proportion to the par value of the shares held by them at the commencement of the winding up, subject to a deduction from those shares in respect of which there are monies due, of all monies payable to our company for unpaid calls or otherwise. If our assets available for distribution are insufficient to repay the whole of the share capital, the assets will be distributed so that the losses are borne by our shareholders in proportion to the par value of the shares held by them.

Calls on Shares and Forfeiture of Shares. Our board of directors may from time to time make calls upon shareholders for any amounts unpaid on their shares in a notice served to such shareholders at least 14 days prior to the specified time and place of payment. The shares that have been called upon and remain unpaid are subject to forfeiture.

Redemption, Repurchase and Surrender of Shares. We may issue shares on terms that such shares are subject to redemption, at our option or at the option of the holders of these shares, on such terms and in such manner as may be determined by our board of directors. Our company may also repurchase any of our shares on such terms and in such manner as have been approved by our board of directors or by an ordinary resolution of our shareholders. Under the Companies Act, the redemption or repurchase of any share may be paid out of our profits or out of the proceeds of a new issue of shares made for the purpose of such redemption or repurchase, or out of capital (including share premium account and capital redemption reserve) if our company can, immediately following such payment, pay its debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business. In addition, under the Companies Act no such share may be redeemed or repurchased (a) unless it is fully paid up, (b) if such redemption or repurchase would result in there being no shares outstanding or (c) if our company has commenced liquidation. In addition, our company may accept the surrender of any fully paid share for no consideration.

Variations of Rights of Shares. If at any time, our share capital is divided into different classes or series of shares, the rights attached to any class or series of shares (unless otherwise provided by the terms of issue of the shares of that class or series), whether or not our company is being wound-up, may be varied with the consent in writing of the holders of two-thirds of the issued shares of that class or series or with the sanction of a special resolution passed at a separate meeting of the holders of the shares of that class or series. The rights conferred upon the holders of the shares of any class issued with preferred or other rights shall not, subject to any rights or restrictions for the time being attached to the shares of that class, be deemed to be varied by the creation, allotment or issue of further shares ranking *pari passu* with or subsequent to such existing class of shares or the redemption or purchase of any shares of any class by our company. The rights of the holders of shares shall not be deemed to be materially adversely varied by the creation or issue of shares with preferred or other rights including, without limitation, the creation of shares with enhanced or weighted voting rights.

Issuance of Additional Shares. Our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association authorizes our board of directors to issue additional ordinary shares from time to time as our board of directors shall determine, to the extent of available authorized but unissued shares.

Our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association also authorizes our board of directors to establish from time to time one or more series of preference shares and to determine, with respect to any series of preference shares, the terms and rights of that series, including:

- the designation of the series;
- the number of shares of the series;
- the dividend rights, dividend rates, conversion rights, voting rights; and
- the rights and terms of redemption and liquidation preferences.

Our board of directors may issue preference shares without action by our shareholders to the extent authorized but unissued. Issuance of these shares may dilute the voting power of holders of ordinary shares.

Inspection of Books and Records. Holders of our ordinary shares have no general right under Cayman Islands law to inspect or obtain copies of our list of shareholders or our corporate records (except for the amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, special resolutions which have been passed by our shareholders, our register of mortgages and charges and a list of our current directors). However, we will provide our shareholders with annual audited consolidated financial statements. See “Where You Can Find Additional Information.”

Anti-Takeover Provisions. Some provisions of our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association may discourage, delay or prevent a change of control of our company or management that shareholders may consider favorable, including provisions that:

- authorize our board of directors to issue preference shares in one or more series and to designate the price, rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of such preference shares without any further vote or action by our shareholders; and
- limit the ability of shareholders to requisition and convene general meetings of shareholders.

However, under Cayman Islands law, our directors may only exercise the rights and powers granted to them under our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association for a proper purpose and for what they believe in good faith to be in the best interests of our company.

Exempted Company. We are an exempted company with limited liability under the Companies Act. The Companies Act distinguishes between ordinary resident companies and exempted companies. Any company that is registered in the Cayman Islands but conducts business mainly outside of the Cayman Islands may apply to be registered as an exempted company. The requirements for an exempted company are essentially the same as for an ordinary company except that an exempted company:

- does not have to file an annual return of its shareholders with the Registrar of Companies;
- the statutory provisions as to the required majority vote have been met;
- is not required to open its register of members for inspection;
- does not have to hold an annual general meeting;
- may issue shares with no par value;
- may obtain an undertaking against the imposition of any future taxation (such undertakings are usually given for 20 years in the first instance);
- may register by way of continuation in another jurisdiction and be deregistered in the Cayman Islands;
- may register as a limited duration company; and
- may register as a segregated portfolio company.

“Limited liability” means that the liability of each shareholder is limited to the amount unpaid by the shareholder on the shares of the company (except in exceptional circumstances, such as involving fraud, the establishment of an agency relationship or an illegal or improper purpose or other circumstances in which a court may be prepared to pierce or lift the corporate veil).

Our fiscal year is the calendar year ending December 31.

Differences in Corporate Law

The Companies Act of the Cayman Islands is derived, to a large extent, from the older Companies Acts of England but does not follow recent English statutory enactments and accordingly there are significant differences between the Companies Act of the Cayman Islands and the current Companies Act of England. In addition, the Companies Act differs from laws applicable to U.S. corporations and their shareholders. Set forth below is a summary of some significant differences between the provisions of the Companies Act applicable to us and the laws applicable to companies incorporated in the United States and their shareholders.

Mergers and Similar Arrangements. The Companies Act permits mergers and consolidations between Cayman Islands companies and between Cayman Islands companies and non-Cayman Islands companies. For these purposes, (i) “merger”

means the merging of two or more constituent companies and the vesting of their undertaking, property and liabilities in one of such companies as the surviving company, and (ii) a “consolidation” means the combination of two or more constituent companies into a consolidated company and the vesting of the undertaking, property and liabilities of such companies to the consolidated company. In order to effect such a merger or consolidation, the directors of each constituent company must approve a written plan of merger or consolidation, which must then be authorized by (a) a special resolution of the shareholders of each constituent company, and (b) such other authorization, if any, as may be specified in such constituent company’s articles of association. The written plan of merger or consolidation must be filed with the Registrar of Companies of the Cayman Islands together with a declaration as to the solvency of the consolidated or surviving company, a list of the assets and liabilities of each constituent company and an undertaking that a copy of the certificate of merger or consolidation will be given to the members and creditors of each constituent company and that notification of the merger or consolidation will be published in the Cayman Islands Gazette. Court approval is not required for a merger or consolidation which is effected in compliance with these statutory procedures.

A merger between a Cayman parent company and its Cayman subsidiary or subsidiaries does not require authorization by a resolution of shareholders of that Cayman subsidiary if a copy of the plan of merger is given to every member of that Cayman subsidiary to be merged unless that member agrees otherwise. For this purpose a company is a “parent” of a subsidiary if it holds issued shares that together represent at least ninety percent (90%) of the votes at a general meeting of the subsidiary.

The consent of each holder of a fixed or floating security interest over a constituent company is required unless this requirement is waived by a court in the Cayman Islands.

Save in some limited circumstances, a shareholder of a Cayman constituent company who dissents from the merger or consolidation is entitled to payment of the fair value of his shares (which, if not agreed between the parties, will be determined by the Cayman Islands court) upon dissenting to the merger or consolidation, provide the dissenting shareholder complies strictly with the procedures set out in the Companies Act. The exercise of dissenter rights will preclude the exercise by the dissenting shareholder of any other rights to which he or she might otherwise be entitled by virtue of holding shares, save for the right to seek relief on the grounds that the merger or consolidation is void or unlawful.

Separate from the statutory provisions relating to mergers and consolidations, the Companies Act also contains statutory provisions that facilitate the reconstruction and amalgamation of companies by way of schemes of arrangement, provided that the arrangement is approved by (a) 75% in value of the shareholders or class of shareholders, as the case may be, or (b) a majority in number representing 75% in value of the creditors or each class of creditors, as the case may be, with whom the arrangement is to be made, that are, in each case, present and voting either in person or by proxy at a meeting, or meetings, convened for that purpose. The convening of the meetings and subsequently the arrangement must be sanctioned by the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands. While a dissenting shareholder has the right to express to the court the view that the transaction ought not to be approved, the court can be expected to approve the arrangement if it determines that:

- the statutory provisions as to the required majority vote have been met;
- the shareholders have been fairly represented at the meeting in question and the statutory majority are acting bona fide without coercion of the minority to promote interests adverse to those of the class;
- the arrangement is such that may be reasonably approved by an intelligent and honest man of that class acting in respect of his interest; and
- the arrangement is not one that would more properly be sanctioned under some other provision of the Companies Act.

The Companies Act also contains a statutory power of compulsory acquisition which may facilitate the “squeeze out” of dissentient minority shareholders upon a tender offer. When a tender offer is made and accepted by holders of 90.0% of the shares affected within four months, the offeror may, within a two-month period commencing on the expiration of such four month period, require the holders of the remaining shares to transfer such shares to the offeror on the terms of the offer. An objection can be made to the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands but this is unlikely to succeed in the case of an offer which has been so approved unless there is evidence of fraud, bad faith or collusion.

If an arrangement and reconstruction by way of scheme of arrangement is thus approved and sanctioned, or if a tender offer is made and accepted, a dissenting shareholder would have no rights comparable to appraisal rights, which would otherwise ordinarily be available to dissenting shareholders of Delaware corporations, providing rights to receive payment in cash for the judicially determined value of the shares.

Shareholders’ Suits. In principle, we will normally be the proper plaintiff to sue for a wrong done to us as a company, and as a general rule a derivative action may not be brought by a minority shareholder. However, based on English authorities,

which would in all likelihood be of persuasive authority in the Cayman Islands, the Cayman Islands court can be expected to follow and apply the common law principles (namely the rule in *Foss v. Harbottle* and the exceptions thereto) so that a non-controlling shareholder may be permitted to commence a class action against or derivative actions in the name of the company to challenge actions where:

- the act complained of, although not *ultra vires*, could only be effected duly if authorized by more than a simple majority vote that has not been obtained; and
- those who control the company are perpetrating a “fraud on the minority.”

Indemnification of Directors and Executive Officers and Limitation of Liability. Cayman Islands law does not limit the extent to which a company’s memorandum and articles of association may provide for indemnification of officers and directors, except to the extent any such provision may be held by the Cayman Islands courts to be contrary to public policy, such as to provide indemnification against civil fraud or the consequences of committing a crime. Our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association provide that we shall indemnify our officers and directors against all actions, proceedings, costs, charges, expenses, losses, damages or liabilities incurred or sustained by such directors or officer, other than by reason of such person’s dishonesty, willful default or fraud, in or about the conduct of our company’s business or affairs (including as a result of any mistake of judgment) or in the execution or discharge of his or her duties, powers, authorities or discretions, including without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, any costs, expenses, losses or liabilities incurred by such director or officer in defending (whether successfully or otherwise) any civil proceedings concerning our company or its affairs in any court whether in the Cayman Islands or elsewhere. This standard of conduct is generally the same as permitted under the Delaware General Corporation Law for a Delaware corporation.

In addition, we have entered into indemnification agreements with our directors and specific executive officers that provide such persons with additional indemnification beyond that provided in our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association.

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

Directors’ Fiduciary Duties. Under Delaware corporate law, a director of a Delaware corporation has a fiduciary duty to the corporation and its shareholders. This duty has two components: the duty of care and the duty of loyalty. The duty of care requires that a director act in good faith, with the care that an ordinarily prudent person would exercise under similar circumstances. Under this duty, a director must inform himself of, and disclose to shareholders, all material information reasonably available regarding a significant transaction. The duty of loyalty requires that a director acts in a manner he or she reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the corporation. He or she must not use their corporate position for personal gain or advantage. This duty prohibits self-dealing by a director and mandates that the best interest of the corporation and its shareholders take precedence over any interest possessed by a director, officer or controlling shareholder and not shared by the shareholders generally. In general, actions of a director are presumed to have been made on an informed basis, in good faith and in the honest belief that the action taken was in the best interests of the corporation. However, this presumption may be rebutted by evidence of a breach of one of the fiduciary duties. Should such evidence be presented concerning a transaction by a director, the director must prove the procedural fairness of the transaction, and that the transaction was of fair value to the corporation.

As a matter of Cayman Islands law, a director of a Cayman Islands company is in the position of a fiduciary with respect to the company and therefore it is considered that he or she owes the following duties to the company—a duty to act bona fide in the best interests of the company, a duty not to make a profit based on his or her position as director (unless the company permits them to do so), a duty not to put himself or herself in a position where the interests of the company conflict with his or personal interest or his duty to a third party, and a duty to exercise powers for the purpose for which such powers were intended. A director of a Cayman Islands company owes to the company a duty to act with skill and care. It was previously considered that a director need not exhibit in the performance of his or her duties a greater degree of skill than may reasonably be expected from a person of his knowledge and experience. However, English and Commonwealth courts have moved towards an objective standard with regard to the required skill and care and these authorities are likely to be followed in the Cayman Islands.

Shareholder Action by Written Resolution. Under the Delaware General Corporation Law, a corporation may eliminate the right of shareholders to act by written consent by amendment to its certificate of incorporation. Cayman Islands law and our amended and restated articles of association provide that our shareholders may approve corporate matters by way of a

unanimous written resolution signed by or on behalf of each shareholder who would have been entitled to vote on such matter at a general meeting without a meeting being held.

Shareholder Proposals. Under the Delaware General Corporation Law, a shareholder has the right to put any proposal before the annual meeting of shareholders, provided it complies with the notice provisions in the governing documents. A special meeting may be called by the board of directors or any other person authorized to do so in the governing documents, but shareholders may be precluded from calling special meetings.

The Companies Act provides shareholders with only limited rights to requisition a general meeting, and does not provide shareholders with any right to put any proposal before a general meeting. However, these rights may be provided in a company's articles of association. Our amended and restated articles of association allow our shareholders holding shares which carry in aggregate not less than one-third of all votes attaching to the issued and outstanding shares of our company entitled to vote at general meetings to requisition an extraordinary general meeting of our shareholders, in which case our board is obliged to convene an extraordinary general meeting and to put the resolutions so requisitioned to a vote at such meeting. Other than this right to requisition a shareholders' meeting, our amended and restated articles of association do not provide our shareholders with any other right to put proposals before annual general meetings or extraordinary general meetings. As an exempted Cayman Islands company, we may but are not obliged by law to call shareholders' annual general meetings.

Cumulative Voting. Under the Delaware General Corporation Law, cumulative voting for elections of directors is not permitted unless the corporation's certificate of incorporation specifically provides for it. Cumulative voting potentially facilitates the representation of minority shareholders on a board of directors since it permits the minority shareholder to cast all the votes to which the shareholder is entitled on a single director, which increases the shareholder's voting power with respect to electing such director. There are no prohibitions in relation to cumulative voting under the laws of the Cayman Islands but our amended and restated articles of association do not provide for cumulative voting. As a result, our shareholders are not afforded any less protections or rights on this issue than shareholders of a Delaware corporation.

Removal of Directors. Under the Delaware General Corporation Law, a director of a corporation with a classified board may be removed only for cause with the approval of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote, unless the certificate of incorporation provides otherwise. Under our amended and restated articles of association, directors may be removed with or without cause, by an ordinary resolution of our shareholders. In addition, a director's office shall be vacated if the director (i) becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors; (ii) is found to be or becomes of unsound mind or dies; (iii) resigns his or her office by notice in writing to the company; (iv) without special leave of absence from our board of directors, is absent from three consecutive meetings of the board and the board resolves that his or her office be vacated; or (v) is removed from office pursuant to any other provisions of our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association.

Transactions with Interested Shareholders. The Delaware General Corporation Law contains a business combination statute applicable to Delaware corporations whereby, unless the corporation has specifically elected not to be governed by such statute by amendment to its certificate of incorporation, it is prohibited from engaging in various business combinations with an "interested shareholder" for three years following the date that such person becomes an interested shareholder. An interested shareholder generally is a person or a group who or which owns or owned 15% or more of the target's outstanding voting share within the past three years. This has the effect of limiting the ability of a potential acquirer to make a two-tiered bid for the target in which all shareholders would not be treated equally. The statute does not apply if, among other things, prior to the date on which such shareholder becomes an interested shareholder, the board of directors approves either the business combination or the transaction which resulted in the person becoming an interested shareholder. This encourages any potential acquirer of a Delaware corporation to negotiate the terms of any acquisition transaction with the target's board of directors.

Cayman Islands law has no comparable statute. As a result, we cannot avail ourselves of the types of protections afforded by the Delaware business combination statute. However, although Cayman Islands law does not regulate transactions between a company and its significant shareholders, it does provide that such transactions must be entered into bona fide in the best interests of the company and not with the effect of constituting a fraud on the minority shareholders.

Restructuring. A company may present a petition to the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands for the appointment of a restructuring officer on the grounds that the company:

(a) is or is likely to become unable to pay its debts; and

(b) intends to present a compromise or arrangement to its creditors (or classes thereof) either pursuant to the Companies Act, the law of a foreign country or by way of a consensual restructuring.

The Grand Court may, among other things, make an order appointing a restructuring officer upon hearing of such petition, with such powers and to carry out such functions as the court may order. At any time (i) after the presentation of a petition for the appointment of a restructuring officer but before an order for the appointment of a restructuring officer has been made, and (ii) when an order for the appointment of a restructuring officer is made, until such order has been discharged, no suit, action or other proceedings (other than criminal proceedings) shall be proceeded with or commenced against the company, no resolution to wind up the company shall be passed, and no winding up petition may be presented against the company, except with the leave of the court. However, notwithstanding the presentation of a petition for the appointment of a restructuring officer or the appointment of a restructuring officer, a creditor who has security over the whole or part of the assets of the company is entitled to enforce the security without the leave of the court and without reference to the restructuring officer appointed.

Dissolution; Winding up. Under the Delaware General Corporation Law, unless the board of directors approves the proposal to dissolve, dissolution must be approved by shareholders holding 100% of the total voting power of the corporation. Only if the dissolution is initiated by the board of directors may it be approved by a simple majority of the corporation's outstanding shares. Delaware law allows a Delaware corporation to include in its certificate of incorporation a supermajority voting requirement in connection with dissolutions initiated by the board.

Under Cayman Islands law, a company may be wound up by either an order of the courts of the Cayman Islands or by a special resolution of its members or, if the company is unable to pay its debts as they fall due, by an ordinary resolution of its members. The court has authority to order winding up in a number of specified circumstances including where it is, in the opinion of the court, just and equitable to do so.

Variation of Rights of Shares. Under the Delaware General Corporation Law, a corporation may vary the rights of a class of shares with the approval of a majority of the outstanding shares of such class, unless the certificate of incorporation provides otherwise. Under Cayman Islands law and our amended and restated articles of association, if our share capital is divided into more than one class of shares, we may vary the rights attached to any class with the written consent of the holders of two-thirds of the issued shares of that class or with the sanction of a special resolution passed at a general meeting of the holders of the shares of that class.

Amendment of Governing Documents. Under the Delaware General Corporation Law, a corporation's governing documents may be amended with the approval of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote, unless the certificate of incorporation provides otherwise. Under the Companies Act and our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, our memorandum and articles of association may only be amended by a special resolution of our shareholders.

Rights of Non-resident or Foreign Shareholders. There are no limitations imposed by our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association on the rights of non-resident or foreign shareholders to hold or exercise voting rights on our shares. In addition, there are no provisions in our amended and restated memorandum and articles of association governing the ownership threshold above which shareholder ownership must be disclosed.

C. Material Contracts.

On November 21, 2023, two of our wholly owned subsidiaries, Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited, or Connect HK, and Suzhou Connect Biopharma Co., Ltd., or Connect SZ, and, together with Connect HK, the Licensor, have entered into an exclusive license and collaboration agreement with Simcere Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., or the Licensee, a subsidiary of Simcere Pharmaceutical Group Ltd. to develop and commercialize rademikibart in Greater China.

Under the agreement, the Licensor will be responsible for completing rademikibart's ongoing China clinical trials in atopic dermatitis (AD) and a new drug application submission for AD in China. The Licensee has been granted exclusive rights to develop, manufacture and commercialize rademikibart for all human indications in Greater China, including mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan, while the Licensor retains rights in all other markets. The Licensee will be responsible for rademikibart's new drug application for AD in China and will also conduct and be responsible for the costs of all future clinical studies in all additional human indications for rademikibart in Greater China.

According to the terms of the agreement, the Licensor will receive a 150 million RMB (approximately US\$21 million, at the exchange rate of RMB 7.3166 to US\$1.00 as of October 31, 2023 set forth in the China Foreign Exchange Trade System) of upfront payment, among which 100 million RMB, less VAT of 5.6 million RMB (approximately US\$13.3

million, at the exchange rate of RMB 7.0827 to US\$1.00 as of December 31, 2023 set forth in the China Foreign Exchange Trade System) was received in as of December 31, 2023 and the remaining 50 million RMB, less VAT of 2.8 million RMB (approximately US\$6.7 million, at the exchange rate of RMB 7.0950 to US\$1.00 as of March 28, 2024 set forth in the China Foreign Exchange Trade System) was received as of March 31, 2024, and up to 875 million RMB (approximately US\$120 million, at the exchange rate of RMB 7.3166 to US\$1.00 as of October 31, 2023) upon achieving certain development and commercial milestones, in addition to royalties up to low double-digit percentages of net sales.

D. Exchange Controls.

According to the PRC Regulation for the Foreign Exchange promulgated by the State Council in January 1996, which was amended in January 1997 and August 2008, and the Regulation on the Administration of the Foreign Exchange Settlement, Sales and Payment promulgated by the People's Bank of China in June 1996, foreign exchanges required for distribution of profits and payment of dividends may be purchased from designated foreign exchange banks in the PRC upon presentation of a board resolution authorizing distribution of profits or payment of dividends.

According to the Circular of the SAFE, on Further Improving and Adjusting the Foreign Exchange Policies on Direct Investment and its appendix promulgated in November 2012 and amended in May 2015, October 2018 and December 2019 by the SAFE, (1) the opening of and payment into foreign exchange accounts under direct investment accounts are no longer subject to approval by the SAFE; (2) reinvestment with legal income of non-PRC investors in the PRC is no longer subject to approval by SAFE; (4) the procedures for capital verification and confirmation that non-PRC-funded enterprises need to go through are simplified; (4) purchase and external payment of foreign exchange under direct investment accounts are no longer subject to approval by SAFE; (5) PRC domestic transfer of foreign exchange under direct investment account is no longer subject to approval by SAFE; and (6) the administration over the conversion of foreign exchange capital of foreign-invested enterprises is improved. Later, the SAFE promulgated the Notice on Further Simplifying and Improving Policies for the Foreign Exchange Administration of Direct Investment in February 2015, which was further amended in December 2019 and prescribed that the bank instead of the SAFE can directly handle the foreign exchange registration and approval under foreign direct investment while the SAFE and its branches indirectly supervise the foreign exchange registration and approval under foreign direct investment through the bank.

The Provisions on the Administration of Foreign Exchange in Foreign Direct Investments by Foreign Investors, which were promulgated by the SAFE in May 2013 and amended in October 2018 and December 2019, regulate and clarify the administration over foreign exchange administration in foreign direct investments.

According to the Circular 19 promulgated in March 2015 and amended in December 2019, and the Circular 16 promulgated in June 2016, the settlement of foreign exchange by foreign invested enterprises shall be governed by the policy of foreign exchange settlement on a discretionary basis. However, the settlement of foreign exchange shall only be used for their own operational purposes within the business scope of the non-PRC invested enterprises and follow the principles of authenticity.

During the years presented in our consolidated balance sheets, we have not transferred cash out from our PRC entities so therefore experienced no foreign exchange control related issues.

Dividend Distribution

The SAFE promulgated the Notice on Improving the Check of Authenticity and Compliance to Further Promote Foreign Exchange Control in January 2017, which stipulates several capital control measures with respect to outbound remittance of profits from PRC domestic entities to offshore entities, including the following: (1) under the principle of genuine transaction, banks shall check board resolutions regarding profit distribution, the original version of tax filing records and audited financial statements; and (2) PRC domestic entities shall hold income to account for previous years' losses before remitting the profits. Moreover, PRC domestic entities shall make detailed explanations of sources of capital and utilization arrangements, and provide board resolutions, contracts and other proof when completing the registration procedures in connection with an outbound investment. Restrictions on our PRC subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends to an offshore entity primarily include: (i) the PRC subsidiaries may pay dividends only out of their accumulated after-tax profits upon satisfaction of relevant statutory conditions and procedures, if any, determined in accordance with Chinese accounting standards and regulations; (ii) each of the PRC subsidiaries is required to set aside at least 10% of its after-tax profits each year, if any, to fund reserve funds until the total amount set aside reaches 50% of its registered capital; (iii) the PRC subsidiaries are required to complete procedural requirements related to foreign exchange control in order to make dividend payments in non-PRC currency; and (iv) a withholding tax, at the rate of 10% or lower, is payable by the PRC subsidiary

upon dividend remittance. Such restrictions could have a material and adverse effect on our ability to distribute profits to our investors.

Since our inception, we have not distributed any dividends from our PRC entities.

Foreign Exchange Registration of Offshore Investment by PRC Residents

The SAFE promulgated the SAFE Circular 37 in July 2014. The SAFE Circular 37 requires PRC residents (including PRC institutions and individuals) to register with local branches of SAFE in connection with their direct or indirect offshore investment in a special purpose vehicle, or the SPV, outside of the PRC directly established or indirectly controlled by PRC residents for offshore investment and financing with their legally owned assets or interests in PRC domestic enterprises, or their legally owned assets or interests outside of the PRC. Such PRC residents are also required to amend their registrations with the SAFE when there is a change to the basic information of the SPV, such as changes of a PRC resident individual shareholder, the name or operating period of the SPV, or when there is a significant change to the SPV, such as changes of the PRC individual resident's increase or decrease of its capital contribution in the SPV, or any share transfer or exchange, merger, division of the SPV.

The Notice on Further Simplifying and Improving Policies for the Foreign Exchange Administration of Direct Investment, which was promulgated in February 2015 and effective in June 2015 and further amended in December 2019, provides that PRC residents may register with qualified banks instead of the SAFE in connection with their establishment or control of an entity outside of the PRC established for the purpose of direct investment outside of the PRC. The SAFE and its branches shall implement indirect supervision over foreign exchange registration of direct investment via the banks.

Failure to comply with the registration procedures set forth in the SAFE Circular 37 may result in restrictions on the foreign exchange activities of the relevant PRC company, including the payment of dividends and other distributions to its parent or affiliate outside of the PRC, the capital inflow from the entities outside of the PRC and settlement of foreign exchange capital, and may also subject relevant PRC company or PRC residents to penalties under PRC foreign exchange administration regulations.

Since our inception, none of our PRC entities have direct or indirect offshore investments in any SPVs.

Capital expenses

Approval from or registration with appropriate PRC governmental authorities is required where Renminbi is to be converted into non-PRC currency and remitted out of the PRC to pay capital expenses, such as the repayment of loans denominated in non-PRC currencies. As a result, our PRC subsidiaries are required to obtain approval from SAFE or complete a specific registration process in order to use cash generated from their operations to pay off their respective debt in a currency other than Renminbi owed to entities outside the PRC, or to make other capital expenditure payments outside the PRC in a currency other than Renminbi.

E. Taxation

The following discussion of Cayman Islands, PRC and United States federal income tax consequences relevant to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our ADSs or ordinary shares is based upon laws and relevant interpretations thereof in effect as of the date of this annual report, all of which are subject to change or different interpretation, possibly with retroactive effect. This summary does not deal with all possible tax consequences relating to an investment in our ADSs or ordinary shares, such as the tax consequences under U.S. state and local tax laws or under the tax laws of jurisdictions other than the Cayman Islands, the PRC and the United States. You should consult your own tax advisor concerning the tax consequences of your particular situation, as well as any tax consequences that may arise under the laws of any state, local, foreign or other taxing jurisdiction.

Cayman Islands Taxation

The Cayman Islands currently levies no taxes on individuals or corporations based upon profits, income, gains or appreciation and there is no taxation in the nature of inheritance tax or estate duty. There are no other taxes likely to be material to us levied by the government of the Cayman Islands except for stamp duties which may be applicable on instruments executed in, or, after execution, brought within the jurisdiction of the Cayman Islands. The Cayman Islands is

not party to any double tax treaties that are applicable to any payments made to or by our company. There are no exchange control regulations or currency restrictions in the Cayman Islands.

Payments of dividends and capital in respect of our ordinary shares or ADSs will not be subject to taxation in the Cayman Islands and no withholding will be required on the payment of a dividend or capital to any holder of our ordinary shares or ADSs, nor will gains derived from the disposal of our ordinary shares or ADSs be subject to Cayman Islands income or corporation tax.

PRC Taxation

Enterprise Income Tax and Withholding Tax

Under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law and its implementation rules, an enterprise established outside the PRC with “de facto management body” within the PRC is considered as a Tax Resident Enterprise for PRC enterprise income tax purposes and is generally subject to a uniform 25% enterprise income tax rate on its worldwide income. The implementation rules of the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law define the term “de facto management body” as the body that exercises full and substantial control and overall management over the business, productions, personnel, accounts and properties of an enterprise. In April 2009, the SAT issued Circular 82, which provides specific criteria for determining whether the “de facto management body” of a PRC-controlled enterprise that is incorporated offshore is located in the PRC. Although this circular only applies to offshore enterprises controlled by PRC enterprises or PRC enterprise groups, not those controlled by PRC individuals or non-PRC, the criteria set forth in the circular may reflect the SAT’s general position on how the “de facto management body” text should be applied in determining the tax resident status of all non-PRC enterprises. According to Circular 82, a non-PRC incorporated enterprise controlled by a PRC enterprise or a PRC enterprise group will be regarded as a PRC tax resident by virtue of having its “de facto management body” in the PRC if all of the following conditions are met: (i) the primary location of the day-to-day operational management is in the PRC; (ii) decisions relating to the enterprise’s financial and human resource matters are made or are subject to approval by organizations or personnel located in the PRC; (iii) the enterprise’s primary assets, accounting books and records, company seals, and board and shareholder resolutions, are located or maintained in the PRC; and (iv) at least 50% of board members with voting rights or senior executives habitually reside in the PRC.

We believe that we should not be considered as a PRC resident enterprise for PRC tax purposes as (i) we are incorporated outside of the PRC and not controlled by a PRC enterprise or PRC enterprise group; and (ii) we do not meet all of the conditions above. However, the tax resident status of an enterprise is subject to determination by the PRC tax authorities and uncertainties remain with respect to the interpretation of the term “de facto management body.” There can be no assurance that PRC tax authorities will ultimately not take a different view.

If the PRC tax authorities determine that we are a PRC resident enterprise for enterprise income tax purposes, our worldwide income could be subject to 25% enterprise income tax; and any dividends payable to non-resident enterprise holders of our ordinary shares or ADSs may be treated as income derived from sources within the PRC and therefore, subject to a 10% withholding tax (or 20% in the case of non-resident individual holders) unless an applicable income tax treaty provides otherwise. In addition, capital gains realized by non-resident enterprise shareholders (including our ADS holders) upon the disposition of our ordinary shares or ADSs may be treated as income derived from sources within PRC and therefore, subject to 10% income tax (or 20% in the case of non-resident individual shareholders or ADS holders) unless an applicable income tax treaty provides otherwise. It is unclear whether non-PRC shareholders of our company would be able to claim the benefits of any tax treaties between their country of tax residence and the PRC in the event that we are treated as a PRC resident enterprise. See “Risk Factors—Risks Related to Doing Business in the PRC—We may be treated as a resident enterprise for PRC tax purposes under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law, and we may therefore be subject to PRC income tax on our global income.”

Provided that we are not deemed to be a PRC resident enterprise, holders of our ordinary shares or ADSs who are not PRC residents will not be subject to PRC income tax on dividends distributed by us or gains realized from the sale or other disposition of our ordinary shares or ADSs. However, under the Bulletin 7, where a non-resident enterprise conducts an “indirect transfer” by transferring taxable assets, including, in particular, equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise, indirectly by disposing of the equity interests of a non-PRC holding company, the non-resident enterprise, being the transferor, or the transferee or the PRC entity which directly owned such taxable assets may report to the relevant tax authority such indirect transfer. Using a “substance over form” principle, the PRC tax authority may disregard the existence of the non-PRC holding company if it lacks a reasonable commercial purpose and was established for the purpose of reducing, avoiding or deferring PRC tax. As a result, gains derived from such indirect transfer may be subject to PRC

enterprise income tax, and the transferee or other person who is obligated to pay for the transfer is obligated to withhold the applicable taxes, currently at a rate of 10% for the transfer of equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise. We and our non-PRC resident investors may be at the risk of being required to file a return and being taxed under Bulletin 7, and we may be required to expend valuable resources to comply with Bulletin 7, or to establish that we should not be taxed under these regulations.

Value Added Tax

According to the Provisional Regulations of the PRC on Value-Added Tax, effective in January 1994 and further amended in November 2008, February 2016, and November 2017, and its implementation rules effected in January 1994 and amended in December 2008 and October 2011, except stipulated otherwise, taxpayers who sell goods, labor services or tangible personal property leasing services or import goods shall be subject to a 17% tax rate; taxpayers who sell transport services, postal services, basic telecommunications services, construction services, or real property leasing services, sell real property, transfer the land use right shall be subject to an 11% tax rate, and taxpayers who sell services or intangible assets shall be subject to a 6% tax rate.

According to the Circular of the Ministry of Finance and the SAT on Adjusting Value-added Tax Rates adopted in April 2018, as of May 2018, where a taxpayer engages in a taxable sales activity for the value-added tax purpose or imports goods, the previous applicable 17% and 11% rates are adjusted to 16% and 10%.

According to the Announcement on Relevant Policies for Deepening Value-Added Tax Reform, effective in April 2019, the 16% VAT tax rate, which applies to the sales or imported goods of a VAT general taxpayer, will be lowered to 13%; and the 10% VAT tax rate will be lowered to 9%.

According to the Measures for the Exemption of Value-Added Tax from Cross-Border Taxable Activities in the Collection of Value-Added Tax in Lieu of Business Tax (for Trial Implementation) revised in June 2018, if PRC domestic enterprises provide cross-border taxable activities such as professional technical services, technology transfer, and software services, which are consumed exclusively outside of the PRC, the above-mentioned cross-border taxable activities are exempt from VAT.

Tax on Indirect transfer

On February 3, 2015, the SAT issued Bulletin 7, which was amended on October 17, 2017 and December 29, 2017. Pursuant to Bulletin 7, an “indirect transfer” of assets, including equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise, by non-PRC resident enterprises, may be recharacterized and treated as a direct transfer of PRC taxable assets, if such arrangement does not have a reasonable commercial purpose and was established for the purpose of avoiding payment of PRC enterprise income tax. As a result, gains derived from such indirect transfer may be subject to PRC enterprise income tax. When determining whether there is a “reasonable commercial purpose” of the transaction arrangement, features to be taken into consideration include, inter alia, whether the main value of the equity interest of the relevant offshore enterprise derives directly or indirectly from PRC taxable assets; whether the assets of the relevant offshore enterprise mainly consists of direct or indirect investment in the PRC or if its income is mainly derived from the PRC; and whether the offshore enterprise and its subsidiaries directly or indirectly holding PRC taxable assets have a real commercial nature which is evidenced by their actual function and risk exposure. According to Bulletin 7, where the payer fails to withhold any or sufficient tax, the transferor shall declare and pay such tax to the tax authority by itself within the statutory time limit. Late payment of applicable tax will subject the transferor to default interest. Bulletin 7 does not apply to transactions of sale of shares by investors through a public stock exchange where such shares were acquired on a public stock exchange. On October 17, 2017, the SAT issued the SAT Circular 37, which was amended by the Announcement of the SAT on Revising Certain Taxation Normative Documents issued on June 15, 2018 by the SAT. The SAT Circular 37 further elaborates the relevant implemental rules regarding the calculation, reporting and payment obligations of the withholding tax by the non-resident enterprises. Nonetheless, there remain uncertainties as to the interpretation and application of Bulletin 7. Bulletin 7 may be determined by the tax authorities to be applicable to our offshore transactions or sale of our shares or those of our offshore subsidiaries where non-resident enterprises, being the transferors, were involved.

United States Federal Income Taxation Considerations

The following discussion describes certain material United States federal income tax consequences to U.S. Holders (defined below) of an investment in the ADSs or ordinary shares. This summary applies only to investors that hold the ADSs or ordinary shares as capital assets (generally, property held for investment) and that have the U.S. dollar as their

functional currency. This discussion is based on the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Internal Revenue Code, as in effect on the date of this annual report and on United States Treasury regulations in effect or, in certain cases, proposed, as of the date of this annual report, as well as judicial and administrative interpretations thereof available on or before such date. All of the foregoing authorities are subject to change, which change could apply retroactively and could affect the tax consequences described below. The summary below does not discuss certain United States federal tax consequences that may be relevant to a particular U.S. Holder's particular circumstances, such as consequences relating to the Medicare contribution tax on net investment income or the alternative minimum tax.

The following discussion neither deals with the tax consequences to any particular investor nor describes all of the tax consequences applicable to persons in special tax situations such as:

- banks;
- certain financial institutions;
- insurance companies;
- regulated investment companies;
- real estate investment trusts;
- broker dealers;
- United States expatriates;
- traders that elect to use the mark-to-market method of tax accounting;
- tax-exempt entities;
- persons holding an ADS or ordinary share as part of a straddle, hedging, conversion or integrated transaction;
- persons that actually or constructively own 10% or more of our stock, by total combined voting power or by value;
- persons who acquired ADSs or ordinary shares pursuant to the exercise of any employee share option or otherwise as compensation; or
- persons holding ADSs or ordinary shares through partnerships or other pass-through entities.

A "U.S. Holder," for purposes of this discussion, means a beneficial owner of ADSs or ordinary shares that is, for United States federal income tax purposes,

- an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (or other entity taxable as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes) created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- an estate, the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust (a) that is subject to the supervision of a court within the United States and the control of one or more United States persons as described in Internal Revenue Code Section 7701(a)(30), or (b) that has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

If an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes holds ADSs or ordinary shares, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status and the activities of the partnership. A U.S. Holder that is a partner in a partnership holding ADSs or ordinary shares is urged to consult its tax advisor.

The discussion below assumes that the representations contained in the deposit agreement are true and that the obligations in the deposit agreement and any related agreement will be complied with in accordance with their terms. Based on such assumptions, if you hold ADSs, you should generally be treated as the holder of the underlying ordinary shares represented by those ADSs for United States federal income tax purposes.

The United States Treasury has expressed concerns that intermediaries in the chain of ownership between the holder of an ADS and the issuer of the underlying ordinary shares may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the beneficial ownership of the underlying ordinary shares. Accordingly, the creditability of foreign tax credits by U.S. Holders of ADSs or the availability of the reduced tax rate for dividends received by certain non-corporate U.S. Holders could be affected by actions taken by intermediaries in the chain of ownership between the holder of an ADS and the Company.

Taxation of Dividends and Other Distributions on the ADSs or Ordinary Shares

Subject to the PFIC rules discussed below, the gross amount of any distributions we make to you with respect to the ADSs or ordinary shares (without reduction for any amounts withheld) generally will be includible in your gross income as foreign source dividend income on the date of receipt by the depository, in the case of ADSs, or by you, in the case of ordinary shares, but only to the extent that the distribution is paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under United States federal income tax principles). Any such dividends will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction allowed to corporations in respect of dividends received from other United States corporations. To the extent that the amount of the distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under United States federal income tax principles), such excess amount will be treated first as a tax-free return of your tax basis in your ADSs or ordinary shares, and then, to the extent such excess amount exceeds your tax basis in your ADSs or ordinary shares, as capital gain. However, we currently do not, and we do not intend to, calculate our earnings and profits under United States federal income tax principles. Therefore, a U.S. Holder should expect that any distribution will generally be reported as a dividend even if that distribution would otherwise be treated as a non-taxable return of capital or as capital gain under the rules described above.

With respect to some non-corporate U.S. Holders, including individual U.S. Holders, dividends may be taxed at the lower capital gains rate applicable to “qualified dividend income,” provided that (1) the ADSs or ordinary shares, as applicable, are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States or we are eligible for the benefits of a qualifying income tax treaty with the United States, (2) we are neither a PFIC nor treated as such with respect to you (as discussed below) for the taxable year in which the dividend is paid or the preceding taxable year, and (3) the ADSs or ordinary shares are held for a holding period of more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the ex-dividend date. Ordinary shares or ADSs will generally be considered for the purpose of clause (1) above to be readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States if they are listed on Nasdaq, as our ADSs are currently. If we are treated as a “resident enterprise” for PRC tax purposes (see “Taxation—PRC Taxation”), we may be eligible for the benefits of the income tax treaty between the United States and the PRC, or the Treaty. You should consult your tax advisors regarding the availability of the lower capital gains rate applicable to qualified dividend income for any dividends paid with respect to our ADSs or ordinary shares. Any non-U.S. withholding tax (including any PRC withholding tax (see “Taxation—PRC Taxation”) paid (or deemed paid) by a U.S. Holder at the rate applicable to such U.S. Holder may be eligible for foreign tax credits (or deduction in lieu of such credits) for U.S. federal income tax purposes, subject to applicable limitations. Any dividends will constitute foreign source income for foreign tax credit limitation purposes. If the dividends are taxed as qualified dividend income (as discussed above), the amount of the dividend taken into account for purposes of calculating the foreign tax credit limitation will in general be limited to the gross amount of the dividend, multiplied by the reduced tax rate applicable to qualified dividend income and divided by the highest tax rate normally applicable to dividends. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately with respect to specific classes of income. For this purpose, any dividends distributed by us with respect to ADSs or ordinary shares will generally constitute “passive category income.” A U.S. Holder who does not elect to claim a foreign tax credit for foreign income tax withheld may instead claim a deduction, for United States federal income tax purposes, in respect of such withholdings, but only for a year in which such holder elects to do so for all creditable foreign income taxes. Recently issued U.S. Treasury regulations may restrict the availability of any such foreign tax credit based on the nature of the tax imposed by the foreign jurisdiction, though under current U.S. Internal Revenue Service guidance, taxpayers generally may elect to determine the creditability of foreign taxes without regard to such restrictions for taxable years ending prior to the year further guidance is issued.

The rules relating to the determination of the foreign tax credit are complex, and U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors to determine whether and to what extent a credit would be available in their particular circumstances, including the effects of any applicable income tax treaties.

Taxation of a Disposition of ADSs or Ordinary Shares

Subject to the PFIC rules discussed below, upon a sale or other disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares, a U.S. Holder will generally recognize a capital gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized for the ADS or ordinary share and such U.S. Holder’s tax basis in such ADSs and ordinary shares. Any such gain or loss will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder’s holding period in the ADSs or ordinary shares at the time of the disposition exceeds one year. Long-term capital gain of individual U.S. Holders generally will be subject to United States federal income tax at reduced tax rates. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Any such gain or loss that you recognize generally will be treated as United States source income or loss for foreign tax credit limitation purposes. However, if we are treated as a “resident enterprise” for PRC tax purposes, we may be eligible for the benefits of the Treaty. In such event, if PRC tax were to be imposed on any gain from the disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares, a U.S. Holder that is eligible for the benefits of the Treaty may elect to treat the gain as PRC source income for foreign tax credit purposes. Recently issued U.S. Treasury regulations may restrict the availability of any such credit based on the nature of the tax imposed by the foreign jurisdiction, though under current U.S. Internal Revenue Service guidance, taxpayers generally may elect to determine the creditability of foreign taxes without regard to such restrictions for taxable years ending prior to the year further guidance is issued. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the proper treatment of gain or loss in their particular circumstances, including the effects of any applicable income tax treaties.

Passive Foreign Investment Company

A non-United States corporation will be a PFIC for United States federal income tax purposes for any taxable year if, after applying certain look-through rules, either:

- at least 75% of its gross income for such taxable year is passive income (the income test), or
- at least 50% of the total value of its assets (generally based on an average of the quarterly values of the assets during such year) is attributable to assets, including cash, that produce passive income or are held for the production of passive income (the asset test).

For this purpose, we will be treated as owning our proportionate share of the assets and earning our proportionate share of the income of any other corporation in which we own, directly or indirectly, 25% or more (by value) of the stock.

Based on the value of our assets, including goodwill, and the composition of our income and assets, we do not believe we were a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes for our taxable year ended December 31, 2023. However, the application of the PFIC rules is subject to uncertainty in several respects, and we cannot assure investors that we will not be a PFIC for any taxable year.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold ADSs or ordinary shares, we generally will continue to be treated as a PFIC with respect to you for all succeeding years during which you hold our ordinary shares or ADSs, unless we cease to be a PFIC and you make a “deemed sale” election with respect to the ordinary shares or ADSs. If such election is timely made, you will be deemed to have sold the ADSs and ordinary shares you hold at their fair market value on the last day of the last taxable year in which we were as a PFIC and any gain from such deemed sale would be subject to the consequences described in the following two paragraphs. In addition, a new holding period would be deemed to begin for the ordinary shares and ADSs for purposes of the PFIC rules. After the deemed sale election, your ordinary shares or ADSs with respect to which the deemed sale election was made will not be treated as shares in a PFIC unless we subsequently become a PFIC.

For each taxable year that we are treated as a PFIC with respect to you, you will be subject to special tax rules with respect to any “excess distribution” that you receive and any gain you recognize from a sale or other disposition (including a deemed sale discussed in the preceding paragraph and a pledge) of the ADSs or ordinary shares, unless you make a “mark-to-market” election as discussed below. Distributions you receive in a taxable year that are greater than 125% of the average annual distributions you received during the shorter of the three preceding taxable years or your holding period for the ADSs or ordinary shares will be treated as an excess distribution. Under these special tax rules:

- the excess distribution or gain will be allocated ratably over your holding period for the ADSs or ordinary shares;
- the amount allocated to the current taxable year, and any taxable year in your holding period prior to the first taxable year in which we were a PFIC, will be treated as ordinary income; and
- the amount allocated to each other year will be subject to the highest tax rate in effect for individuals or corporations, as applicable, for each such year and the interest charge generally applicable to underpayments of tax will be imposed on the resulting tax attributable to each such year.

In addition, non-corporate U.S. Holders will not be eligible for reduced rates of taxation on any dividends received from us (as described above under “—Taxation of Dividends and Other Distributions on the ADSs or Ordinary Shares”) if we are a PFIC in the taxable year in which such dividends are paid or in the preceding taxable year.

The tax liability for amounts allocated to taxable years prior to the year of disposition or “excess distribution” cannot be offset by any net operating losses for such years, and gains (but not losses) realized on the sale or other disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares cannot be treated as capital, even if you hold the ADSs or ordinary shares as capital assets.

If we are treated as PFIC with respect to you for any taxable year, to the extent any of our subsidiaries are also PFICs or we make direct or indirect equity investments in other entities that are PFICs, you may be deemed to own shares in such lower-tier PFICs that are directly or indirectly owned by us in that proportion which the value of the ADSs and ordinary shares you own bears to the value of all of the ADSs and ordinary shares, and you may be subject to the adverse tax consequences described in the preceding paragraphs with respect to the shares of such lower-tier PFICs that you would be deemed to own. You should consult your tax advisor regarding the applicability of the PFIC rules to any of our subsidiaries.

A U.S. Holder of “marketable stock” (as defined below) in a PFIC may make a mark-to-market election for such stock to elect out of the PFIC rules described above regarding excess distributions and recognized gains. If you make a valid mark-to-market election for the ADSs or ordinary shares, you will include in income for each year that we are a PFIC an amount equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the ADSs or ordinary shares as of the close of your taxable year over your adjusted basis in such ADSs or ordinary shares. You will be allowed a deduction for the excess, if any, of the adjusted basis of the ADSs or ordinary shares over their fair market value as of the close of the taxable year. However, deductions are allowable only to the extent of any net mark-to-market gains on the ADSs or ordinary shares included in your income for prior taxable years. Amounts included in your income under a mark-to-market election, as well as gain on the actual sale or other disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares, will be treated as ordinary income. Ordinary loss treatment will also apply to the deductible portion of any mark-to-market loss on the ADSs or ordinary shares, as well as to any loss realized on the actual sale or other disposition of the ADSs or ordinary shares, to the extent that the amount of such loss does not exceed the net mark-to-market gains previously included for such ADSs or ordinary shares. Your basis in the ADSs or ordinary shares will be adjusted to reflect any such income or loss amounts. If you make a mark-to-market election, any distributions that we make would generally be subject to the tax rules discussed above under “—Taxation of Dividends and Other Distributions on the ADSs or Ordinary Shares,” except that the lower rate applicable to qualified dividend income (discussed above) would not apply.

The mark-to-market election is available only for “marketable stock,” which is other than *de minimis* quantities on at least 15 days during each calendar quarter (“regularly traded”) on a qualified exchange or other market, as defined in the applicable United States Treasury regulations. Nasdaq is a qualified exchange. Our ADSs are currently listed on Nasdaq and, consequently, if you are a holder of ADSs and the ADSs are regularly traded, the mark-to-market election may be available to you if we become a PFIC. Because a mark-to-market election may not be made for equity interests in any lower-tier PFICs we own, a U.S. Holder may continue to be subject to the PFIC rules with respect to its indirect interest in any investments held by us that are treated as an equity interest in a PFIC for United States federal income tax purposes. You should consult your tax advisors as to the availability and desirability of a mark-to-market election, as well as the impact of such election on interests in any lower-tier PFICs.

Alternatively, if a non-United States corporation is a PFIC, a holder of shares in that corporation may avoid taxation under the PFIC rules described above regarding excess distributions and recognized gains by making a “qualified electing fund” election (a “QEF Election”) to include in income its share of the corporation’s income on a current basis. However, you may make a qualified electing fund election with respect to our ADSs or ordinary shares only if we agree to furnish you annually with certain tax information. If we determine we are a PFIC for any taxable year, we intend to provide the information necessary for you to make a QEF Election with respect to us and intend to cause each lower-tier PFIC which we control to provide such information with respect to such lower-tier PFIC.

A U.S. Holder of a PFIC is generally required to file an annual report with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. If we are or become a PFIC, you should consult your tax advisor regarding any reporting requirements that may apply to you.

You should consult your tax advisor regarding the application of the PFIC rules to your investment in ADSs or ordinary shares.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Any dividend payments with respect to ADSs or ordinary shares and proceeds from the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares may be subject to information reporting to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and possible United States backup withholding. Backup withholding will not apply, however, to a U.S. Holder who furnishes a correct taxpayer identification number and makes any other required certification or who is otherwise exempt from backup withholding. U.S. Holders who are required to establish their exempt status generally must provide such certification on Internal Revenue Service Form W-9. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the application of the United States information reporting and backup withholding rules.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Amounts withheld as backup withholding may be credited against your United States federal income tax liability, and you may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules by timely filing the appropriate claim for refund with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and furnishing any required information.

Additional Reporting Requirements

Certain U.S. Holders who are individuals (and certain entities) are required to report information relating to an interest in our ADSs or ordinary shares, subject to certain exceptions (including an exception for ADSs and ordinary shares held in accounts maintained by some financial institutions). U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of these rules on the ownership and disposition of our ADSs or ordinary shares.

F. Dividends and Paying Agents.

Not applicable.

G. Statement by Experts.

Not applicable.

H. Documents on Display.

We are subject to the periodic reporting and other informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. Under the Exchange Act, we are required to file reports and other information with the SEC. Specifically, we are required to file annually a Form 20-F containing financial statements audited by an independent registered public accounting firm no later than 120 days after the close of each fiscal year, which is December 31 of each year. The SEC also maintains a web site at www.sec.gov that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding registrants that make electronic filings with the SEC using its EDGAR system. As a foreign private issuer, we are exempt from the rules under the Exchange Act prescribing the furnishing and content of quarterly reports and proxy statements, and officers, directors and principal shareholders are exempt from the reporting and short-swing profit recovery provisions contained in Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

We also make available on our website, free of charge, our Annual Report and the text of our reports on Form 6-K, including any amendments to these reports, as well as some other SEC filings, as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC. Our website address is www.connectbiopharm.com. The reference to our website is an inactive textual reference only, and information contained therein or connected thereto is not incorporated into this Annual Report.

I. Subsidiary Information.

Not applicable.

J. Annual Report to Security Holders.

Not applicable.

ITEM 11. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK.

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of, or future cash flows from, a financial instrument will vary due to changes in market prices. The type of market risk that primarily impacts us is foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk

Our interest rate risk primarily arises from short-term investments in wealth management products measured at fair value through profit or loss and cash and cash equivalents. Those carried at variable rates expose us to cash flow interest rate risk whereas those at fixed rates expose us to fair value interest rate risk. We believe we did not have significant interest rate risk during the periods presented.

Exchange risk

As discussed above, we operate internationally and can be exposed to foreign exchange risk, primarily the USD. Foreign exchange risk arises from future commercial transactions and recognized assets and liabilities denominated in a currency that is not the functional currency of the relevant group entity. See detail to our potential exposure to foreign currency risk at the end of the reporting periods in the consolidated financial statements and the related footnote disclosure.

Most foreign exchange transactions were denominated in USD for the subsidiaries that have functional currency in RMB. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, if the USD strengthened/weakened by 5% against the RMB with all other variables held constant, net loss for the years then ended would have been US\$0.8 million lower/higher and US\$0.5 million lower/higher, respectively. We plan to monitor the exchange rate movement between USD and RMB to minimize potential risks.

Credit risk

Credit risk primarily arises from cash and cash equivalents, financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, and other receivables. The maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying amount of each financial asset in the balance sheets.

The credit risk of cash and cash equivalents and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is limited because the counterparties are mainly state-owned or reputable commercial institutions located in the PRC and other reputable financial institutions located in Australia and the United States. Additionally, there may be credit risk with from amounts in deposit accounts at banking institutions in which balances exceeds each country's insurance limits for such accounts.

For other receivables, management makes periodic as well as individual assessments on the recoverability based on historical settlement records and past experience and adjusts for forward looking information based on macroeconomic factors affecting the ability of the debtors to settle the receivables.

We apply the expected credit loss model to financial assets measured at amortized cost. Impairment on other receivables is measured as either 12-month expected credit losses or lifetime expected credit losses, depending on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition. To assess whether there is a significant increase in credit risk, we compare the risk of default occurring on the asset as of the reporting date with the risk of default as of the date of initial recognition by considering available, reasonable and supportive forwarding-looking information.

In view of the history of cooperation with debtors, the sound collection history of other receivables as well as forward-looking factors, we believe that the credit risk inherent in these outstanding receivables is not significant.

Liquidity risk

We aim to maintain sufficient cash, cash equivalents, short-term investments, and long-term investments to meet obligations coming due as well as future operating and capital requirements.

Inflation Risk

We do not believe that inflation has had a material effect on our business, financial condition, or results of operations. If our costs become subject to significant inflationary pressures, we may not be able to fully offset such higher costs through price increases. Our inability or failure to do so could harm our business, financial condition, and operating results.

ITEM 12. DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES OTHER THAN EQUITY SECURITIES.

A. Debt Securities.

Not applicable.

B. Warrants and Rights.

Not applicable.

C. Other Securities.

Not applicable.

D. American Depositary Shares.

Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as depositary, will register and deliver the ADSs. Each ADS will represent ownership of one ordinary share, deposited with Deutsche Bank AG, Hong Kong Branch, as custodian for the depositary. Each ADS will also represent ownership of any other securities, cash or other property which may be held by the depositary. The depositary's corporate trust office at which the ADSs will be administered is located at 1 Columbus Circle, New York, NY 10019, USA. The principal executive office of the depositary is located at 1 Columbus Circle, New York, NY 10019, USA.

The Direct Registration System, or DRS, is a system administered by The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, pursuant to which the depositary may register the ownership of uncertificated ADSs, which ownership shall be evidenced by periodic statements issued by the depositary to the ADS holders entitled thereto.

We do not treat ADS holders as our shareholders and accordingly, you, as an ADS holder, will not have shareholder rights. Cayman Islands law governs shareholder rights. The depositary will be the holder of the ordinary shares underlying your ADSs. As a holder of ADSs, you will have ADS holder rights. A deposit agreement among us, the depositary and you, as an ADS holder, and the beneficial owners of ADSs sets out ADS holder rights as well as the rights and obligations of the depositary. The laws of the State of New York govern the deposit agreement and the ADSs.

Fees and Expenses

As an ADS holder, an investor will be required to pay the following service fees to the depositary bank and specific taxes and governmental charges (in addition to any applicable fees, expenses, taxes and other governmental charges payable on the deposited securities represented by any of your ADSs):

Service	Fees
• To any person to which ADSs are issued or to any person to which a distribution is made in respect of ADS distributions pursuant to stock dividends or other free distributions of stock, bonus distributions, stock splits or other distributions (except where converted to cash)	Up to US\$0.05 per ADS issued
• Cancellation of ADSs, including the case of termination of the deposit agreement	Up to US\$0.05 per ADS cancelled
• Distribution of cash dividends	Up to US\$0.05 per ADS held
• Distribution of cash entitlements (other than cash dividends) and/or cash proceeds from the sale of rights, securities and other entitlements	Up to US\$0.05 per ADS held
• Distribution of ADSs pursuant to exercise of rights.	Up to US\$0.05 per ADS held
• Distribution of securities other than ADSs or rights to purchase additional ADSs	Up to US\$0.05 per ADS held
• Depositary services	Up to US\$0.05 per ADS held on the applicable record date(s) established by the depositary bank

The depositary collects its fees for issuance and cancellation of ADSs directly from investors depositing shares or surrendering ADSs for the purpose of withdrawal or from intermediaries acting for them. The depositary collects fees for making distributions to investors by deducting those fees from the amounts distributed or by selling a portion of distributable property to pay the fees. The depositary may collect its annual fee for depositary services by deduction from cash distributions or by directly billing investors or by charging the book-entry system accounts of participants acting for them. The depositary may generally refuse to provide fee-attracting services until its fees for those services are paid.

PART II

ITEM 13. DEFAULTS, DIVIDEND ARREARAGES AND DELINQUENCIES.

None.

ITEM 14. MATERIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE RIGHTS OF SECURITY HOLDERS AND USE OF PROCEEDS.

On March 18, 2021, the SEC declared effective our registration statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-253631), as amended, filed in connection with our IPO (the “Registration Statement”). Pursuant to the Registration Statement, we registered the offer and sale of 12,937,500 of our ADSs, including up to 1,687,500 ADSs pursuant to the underwriters’ option to purchase additional ADSs. Jefferies LLC, SVB Leerink LLC, Piper Sandler & Co. and China International Capital Corporation Hong Kong Securities Limited acted as representatives of the underwriters for the offering.

On March 23, 2021, we issued and sold 12,937,500 of our ADSs, at a price to the public of \$17.00 per share. The aggregate offering price of the shares sold was approximately \$219.9 million. Upon completion of the IPO on March 23, 2021, we received net proceeds of \$202.8 million, after deducting underwriting discounts, commissions and offering expenses of \$17.1 million. No payments for such expenses were made directly or indirectly to (i) any of our officers or directors or their associates, (ii) any persons owning 10% or more of any class of our equity securities or (iii) any of our affiliates.

The offering terminated after the sale of all securities registered pursuant to the Registration Statement. As of December 31, 2023, approximately USD 106 million of our IPO proceeds have been used. Through December 31, 2023, approximately USD 73 million of our IPO proceeds were used for to fund the clinical development of our product candidates.

Below is a summary of the currently expected use of the net proceeds from our IPO:

- approximately \$120 million to fund the clinical development of our product candidates;
- approximately \$20 million to fund the research and preclinical development program; and
- the remainder to fund other current and future research and development activities and for working capital and other general corporate purposes, which may include capital projects.

ITEM 15. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) Disclosure Controls and Procedures.

As required by Rule 13a-15 under the Exchange Act, management, including our chief executive officer and our chief financial officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report. Disclosure controls and procedures refer to controls and other procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitations, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in our reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, including our principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding our required disclosures. Based on such evaluation, our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, has concluded that, as of December 31, 2023, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

(b) Management’s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting.

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act.

Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect material misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject

to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Our management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023 based on the criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) of the Treadway Commission. Based on this assessment, our management, with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, has concluded that as of December 31, 2023, the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective.

(c) Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.

This Annual Report does not include an attestation report of the company's registered public accounting firm because we are an emerging growth company under the JOBS Act.

(d) Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting.

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by this annual report on Form 20-F that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 16A. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

The audit committee, which consists of Ms. Wilson, Mr. Huang and Ms. Liu, assists the board in overseeing our accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of our consolidated financial statements. Ms. Wilson serves as Chairperson of the committee. The audit committee consists exclusively of members of our board who are financially literate, and Ms. Wilson is considered an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by applicable SEC rules and has the requisite financial sophistication as defined under the applicable Nasdaq rules and regulations. Our board has determined that all of the members of the audit committee satisfy the "independence" requirements set forth in Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act. The audit committee is governed by a charter that complies with Nasdaq rules.

ITEM 16B. CODE OF ETHICS.

Our board of directors has adopted, a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (the "Code of Conduct") that is applicable to all of our employees, executive officers and directors. The Code of Conduct is available under the "Corporate Governance" section of our website at www.connectbiopharm.com. Our board of directors is responsible for overseeing the Code of Conduct and is required to approve any waivers of the Code of Conduct for employees, executive officers and directors. We expect that any amendments to the Code of Conduct, or any waivers of its requirements, will be disclosed on our website. The reference to our website address does not constitute incorporation by reference of the information contained at or available through our website, and you should not consider it to be a part of this annual report.

ITEM 16C. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

The following table sets forth the aggregate fees by categories specified below in connection with certain professional services rendered by PricewaterhouseCoopers Zhong Tian LLP, our principal external auditors, for the periods indicated.

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2022	2023
<i>(In thousands)</i>		
Audit fees ⁱ	\$ 798	\$ 902
All other fees ⁱⁱ	—	—
Total	\$ 798	\$ 902

- (i) "Audit fees" means the aggregate fees billed in each of the fiscal years listed for professional services rendered by our principal auditors for the audit of our consolidated financial statements and interim review services provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.

- (ii) “All other fees” means the aggregate fees billed in each of the fiscal years listed for products and services provided by our principal auditors, other than the services reported under audit fees, audit-related fees and tax fees.

Audit Committee Pre-approval Policies and Procedures

Our audit committee has adopted procedures which set forth the manner in which the committee will review and approve all audit and non-audit services to be provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers Zhong Tian LLP. The pre-approval procedures are as follows:

- Any audit or non-audit service to be provided to us by the independent accountant must be (i) pre-approved by the audit committee; or (ii) pre-approved by one or several committee members designated by the committee and ratified by the audit committee.

ITEM 16D. EXEMPTIONS FROM THE LISTING STANDARDS FOR AUDIT COMMITTEES.

Not applicable.

ITEM 16E. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY THE ISSUER AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS.

The table below is a summary of the shares purchased by an “affiliated purchaser” as defined in Rule 10b-18(a)(3) under the Exchange Act, during the 2023 fiscal year. All ADSs were purchased in the open market. The Company did not repurchase any equity securities during the 2023 fiscal year.

	Total Number of ADSs Purchased	Average Price Paid per ADS (US\$)	Total Number of ADSs Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Programs	Approximate Dollar Value of ADSs that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Programs (US\$)
December 2023	269,627	\$ 0.91	269,627	\$ —

ITEM 16F. CHANGE IN REGISTRANT’S CERTIFYING ACCOUNTANT.

Not applicable.

ITEM 16G. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE.

As a Cayman Islands exempted company incorporated with limited liability, we are subject to various corporate governance requirements under Cayman Islands law. In addition, as a foreign private issuer listed on Nasdaq, we are subject to the Nasdaq corporate governance listing standards. However, Nasdaq’s listing standards provide that foreign private issuers are permitted to follow home country corporate governance practices in lieu of the Nasdaq rules, with some exceptions. Some corporate governance practices in Cayman Islands may differ significantly from corporate governance listing standards. For example, neither the corporate laws of the Cayman Islands nor our amended and restated memorandum and articles require that (i) a majority of our directors be independent, (ii) our compensation committee include only independent directors, or (iii) our independent directors hold regularly scheduled meetings at which only independent directors are present. Other than as set forth below, we currently comply with the corporate governance listing standards of Nasdaq to the extent possible under Cayman Islands law. However, we may choose to change such practices to follow home country practice in the future.

Although we are a foreign private issuer, we are required to comply with Rule 10A-3 of the Exchange Act, relating to audit committee composition and responsibilities. Rule 10A-3 provides that the audit committee must have direct responsibility for the nomination, compensation and choice of our auditors, as well as control over the performance of their duties, management of complaints made, and selection of consultants. Under Rule 10A-3, if the laws of a foreign private issuer’s home country require that any such matter be approved by the board of directors or the shareholders of the Company, the audit committee’s responsibilities or powers with respect to such matter may instead be advisory.

In addition, Nasdaq rules require that a listed company specify that the quorum for any meeting of the holders of share capital be at least 33 1/3% of the outstanding shares of the company's common voting stock. As provided under our post-listing amended and restated memorandum and articles of association, and as permitted by Cayman Islands law, a quorum required for and throughout a meeting of shareholders consists of one or more shareholders entitled to vote and present in person or by proxy or (in the case of a shareholder being a corporation) by its duly authorized representative holding shares which carry in aggregate not less than one-third of all votes attaching to all of our shares in issue and entitled to vote.

Additionally, Nasdaq rules require that the independent directors of listed companies hold regularly scheduled meetings at which only independent directors are present. We intend to follow our Cayman Islands home country practice, rather than complying with this Nasdaq rule.

Further, Nasdaq rules require that listed companies have a nominations committee comprised solely of independent directors. We intend to follow our Cayman Islands home country practice, as described in the section titled Item 6. "Directors, Senior Management and Employees – Board Practices," rather than complying with this Nasdaq rule.

Also, the Nasdaq rules require each issuer to hold an annual meeting of shareholders no later than one year after the end of the issuer's fiscal year. We intend to follow our home country practice with respect to annual meetings of shareholders and did not hold an annual meeting of shareholders in the year ended December 31, 2023. We may, however, hold annual meetings of shareholders in the future if there are significant issues that require approval of shareholders.

ITEM 16H. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURE.

Not applicable.

ITEM 16I. DISCLOSURE REGARDING FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS THAT PREVENT INSPECTIONS.

Not applicable.

ITEM 16J. INSIDER TRADING POLICIES.

Not applicable.

ITEM 16K. CYBERSECURITY.

Cybersecurity Risk Management, Strategy and Governance

We have developed and implemented a cybersecurity risk management program intended to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of our critical systems and information.

We design and assess our program based on the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Cybersecurity Framework, or NIST CSF. This does not imply that we meet any particular technical standards, specifications, or requirements, only that we use the NIST CSF as a guide to help us identify, assess, and manage cybersecurity risks relevant to our business.

Our cybersecurity risk management program is integrated into our overall enterprise risk management program, and shares common methodologies, reporting channels and governance processes that apply across the enterprise risk management program to other legal, compliance, strategic, operational, and financial risk areas.

Key elements of our cybersecurity risk management program include but not limited to the following:

- A cybersecurity incident response plan that includes procedures for responding to cybersecurity incidents.
- The utilization of Microsoft 365 services for email, data storage, Identity Provider (IdP) for Single Sign-On (SSO), and other technical controls such as remote user and device management.

- Microsoft 365 configurations, which are aligned with security and industrial standards. We've enabled automatic risk management mechanisms and alert notifications for the IT team.
- The regular monitoring of our Microsoft security score, which serves as a benchmark for our security posture, and guides our improvement efforts.
- Risk assessments designed to help identify material cybersecurity risks to our critical systems, information, products, services, and our broader enterprise IT environment, including annual external assessments and vulnerability scanning.
- A security team principally responsible for managing (1) our cybersecurity risk assessment processes, (2) our security controls, and (3) our response to cybersecurity incidents.
- Regular security awareness training sessions for the Company, including two simulated phishing email campaigns, managed by KnowBe4, a third party leader in security awareness training.
- A disaster recovery program including business continuity procedures in the event of a disaster. This program includes backup procedures, failover features with all modern SaaS services, and data recovery protocols.
- A third-party risk management (TPRM) process based on our assessment of their criticality to our operations and respective risk profile to safeguard against risks posed by service providers, suppliers, and vendors, encompassing risk identification, due diligence and risk assessment prior to engagement, and categorization of third parties based on risk levels.

We have not identified risks from known cybersecurity threats, including as a result of any prior cybersecurity incidents, that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect us, including our operations, business strategy, results of operations, or financial condition. We have not experienced any material IT security incidents in 2023. We face risks from cybersecurity threats that, if realized, are reasonably likely to materially affect us, including our operations, business strategy, results of operations, or financial condition. See “Risk Factors – Our information technology systems, or those of our CROs, manufacturers, other contractors or consultants or collaborators, may fail or suffer system failures, security breaches or deficiencies in cybersecurity, which could result in a material disruption of our product development programs, compromise sensitive information related to our business or trigger contractual and legal obligations.”

Cybersecurity Governance

Our Board considers cybersecurity risk as part of its risk oversight function and has delegated to the Audit Committee oversight of cybersecurity and other information technology risks. The Audit Committee oversees management’s implementation of our cybersecurity risk management program.

The Audit Committee receives periodic reports from management on our cybersecurity risks, and our IT team directly reports to the Audit Committee on a periodic basis. In addition, management updates the Audit Committee, as necessary, regarding any significant cybersecurity incidents, as well as any incidents with lesser impact potential.

The Audit Committee reports to the full Board regarding its activities, including those related to cybersecurity. The full Board also receives briefings from management on our cyber risk management program. Board members receive presentations on cybersecurity topics from internal staff as part of the Board’s continuing education on topics that impact public companies.

Our management team, including our Chief Financial Officer, or CFO, and Chief Compliance Officer, or CCO, is responsible for assessing and managing our material risks from cybersecurity threats. Our CFO, collaborates closely with our CCO, bears the responsibility of assessing, monitoring, and managing our cybersecurity risks and has extensive experience and knowledge of the risks related to our industry. Under our management team’s supervision, our IT team has primary responsibility for our overall cybersecurity risk management program and supervises our internal cybersecurity personnel.

Our management team supervises efforts to prevent, detect, mitigate, and remediate cybersecurity risks and incidents through various means, which may include briefings from internal security personnel; threat intelligence and other information obtained from governmental, public or private sources, including external consultants engaged by us; and alerts and reports produced by security tools deployed in the IT environment.

PART III

ITEM 17. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

We have elected to furnish financial statements and related information specified in Item 18.

ITEM 18. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

Financial statements are filed as part of this Annual Report beginning on page F-1.

ITEM 19. EXHIBITS.

List all exhibits filed as part of the registration statement or annual report, including exhibits incorporated by reference.

Incorporation by Reference						
Exhibit No.	Description	Form	File No.	Exhibit No.	Filing Date	Filed / Furnished
1.1	Fifth Amended and Restated Memorandum and Articles of Association of Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited	20-F	001-40212	1.1	3/31/2022	
2.1	Specimen Certificate for Ordinary Shares	F-1/A	333-253631	4.1	3/12/2021	
2.2	Deposit Agreement, among Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited, the depository, and the holders and beneficial owners of American Depository Shares issued thereunder	S-8	333-254524	4.3	3/19/2021	
2.3	Specimen American Depository Receipt (included in Exhibit 2.2)	S-8	333-254524	4.3	3/19/2021	
2.4	Second Amended and Restated Shareholders Agreement, dated as of December 1, 2020, between Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited, its subsidiaries and certain of its shareholders	F-1	333-253631	4.4	2/26/2021	
2.5	Description of Securities	20-F	001-40212	2.5	3/31/2022	
4.1†	Form of Indemnification Agreement	F-1/A	333-253631	10.2	3/17/2021	
4.2†	Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited 2019 Stock Incentive Plan	F-1	333-253631	10.1	2/26/2021	
4.3†	2021 Incentive Award Plan and form of share option grant notice and share option agreement thereunder	F-1/A	333-253631	10.3	3/12/2021	
4.4†	2021 Employee Share Purchase Plan	F-1/A	333-253631	10.4	3/12/2021	
4.5†	Non-Employee Director Compensation Program					*
4.6†	Employment Agreement, effective as of January 1, 2021, between Connect Biopharm LLC and Zheng Wei, Ph.D.	F-1	333-253631	10.11	2/26/2021	
4.7†	Employment Agreement, effective as of January 1, 2021, between Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited and Wubin Pan, Ph.D.	F-1	333-253631	10.12	2/26/2021	
4.8†	Employment Letter, dated October 13, 2021, between Connect Biopharm LLC and Steven Chan	20-F	001-40212	4.10	3/31/2022	
4.9	English translation of Lease Renewal Agreement, dated May 1, 2023 between Suzhou Connect Biopharma Co., Ltd. and Taicang Science and Technology Venture Park Co., Ltd.	6-K	001-40212	99.1	6/23/2023	
4.10	Lease Contract, effective as of December 22, 2021, between Connect Biopharm LLC and Paseo Del Mar LLC	20-F	001-40212	4.13	3/31/2022	
4.11	English translation of License and Collaboration Agreement, dated November 21, 2023 between the Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited, Suzhou Connect Biopharma Co., Ltd. and Simcere Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.	6-K	001-40212	99.1	11/21/2023	
8.1	List of Subsidiaries					*

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* Filed herewith.

** Furnished herewith.

† Indicates management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

Some agreements filed as exhibits to this Annual Report contain representations and warranties that the parties thereto made to each other. These representations and warranties have been made solely for the benefit of the other parties to such agreements and may have been qualified by specific information that has been disclosed to the other parties to such agreements and that may not be reflected in such agreements. In addition, these representations and warranties may be intended as a way of allocating risks among parties if the statements contained therein prove to be incorrect, rather than as actual statements of fact. Accordingly, there can be no reliance on any such representations and warranties as characterizations of the actual state of facts. Moreover, information concerning the subject matter of any such representations and warranties may have changed since the date of such agreements.

SIGNATURES

The registrant hereby certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form 20-F and that it has duly caused and authorized the undersigned to sign this annual report on its behalf.

Date: April 16, 2024

Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited

/s/ Steven Chan

Steven Chan, Chief Financial Officer

CONNECT BIOPHARMA HOLDINGS LIMITED

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited and its subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related consolidated statements of loss, comprehensive loss, changes in shareholders’ (deficit)/equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, including the related notes (collectively referred to as the “consolidated financial statements”). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023 in conformity with IFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company changed the currency in which it presents its financial statements in 2023 from Renminbi to U.S. Dollar, which resulted in the inclusion of the January 1, 2022 balance sheet.

Basis for Opinion

These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers Zhong Tian LLP
Beijing, the People’s Republic of China
April 16, 2024

We have served as the Company’s auditor since 2020.

CONNECT BIOPHARMA HOLDINGS LIMITED

Consolidated Statements of Loss

(In USD thousands, except per share data)

	Notes	Year Ended December 31,		
		2021	2022	2023
		Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ	
Research and development expenses	6	\$ (80,496)	\$ (96,630)	\$ (51,913)
Administrative expenses	6	(19,014)	(20,806)	(14,515)
Net impairment losses	13	—	(4,698)	—
Other income	8	2,950	929	1,580
Other (losses)/gains—net	9	(1,547)	1,889	2,774
Operating loss		(98,107)	(119,316)	(62,074)
Finance income	10	97	1,544	2,714
Finance cost	10	(7)	(21)	(23)
Finance income—net	10	90	1,523	2,691
Fair value loss of financial instruments with preferred rights	25	(103,983)	—	—
Net loss before income tax		(202,000)	(117,793)	(59,383)
Income tax expense	11	(266)	(298)	(120)
Net loss		\$ (202,266)	\$ (118,091)	\$ (59,503)
Net loss attributable to:				
Owners of the Company		\$ (202,266)	\$ (118,091)	\$ (59,503)
Net loss per share				
Basic and diluted	12	\$ (3.88)	\$ (2.15)	\$ (1.08)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

- (i) The Group elected to change its presentation currency from RMB to USD with effect from January 1, 2023 as described in Note 2 to these consolidated financial statements. The consolidated statements of loss for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2022 have been re-presented to reflect the Group's change in presentation currency.

CONNECT BIOPHARMA HOLDINGS LIMITED

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Loss

(In USD thousands)

	Notes	Year Ended December 31,		
		2021	2022	2023
		Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ	
Net loss		\$ (202,266)	\$ (118,091)	\$ (59,503)
Other comprehensive (loss)/income				
<i>Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss</i>				
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	2.6	940	(3,235)	(604)
Changes in the fair value of debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	3.3, 18(a)	—	(365)	354
Other comprehensive (loss)/income for the year, net of tax		940	(3,600)	(250)
Total comprehensive loss for the year		\$ (201,326)	\$ (121,691)	\$ (59,753)
Total comprehensive loss attributable to:				
Owners of the Company		\$ (201,326)	\$ (121,691)	\$ (59,753)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

(i) The Group elected to change its presentation currency from RMB to USD with effect from January 1, 2023 as described in Note 2 to these consolidated financial statements. The consolidated statements of comprehensive loss for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2022 have been re-presented to reflect the Group's change in presentation currency.

CONNECT BIOPHARMA HOLDINGS LIMITED
Consolidated Balance Sheets
(In USD thousands)

	Notes	As of January 1,		As of December 31,	
		2022		2023	
		Re-presented ⁱ		Re-presented ⁱ	
ASSETS					
Non-current assets					
Property, plant and equipment	13	\$ 9,307	\$ 4,976	\$ 4,274	
Right-of-use assets	15(a)	3,580	3,494	453	
Intangible assets		88	72	62	
Investments:					
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	18(a)	—	9,440	—	
Other non-current assets	14	2,950	252	132	
Total non-current assets		15,925	18,234	4,921	
Current assets					
Other receivables and prepayments	17	7,412	3,362	2,318	
Investments:					
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	18(a)	—	73,407	12,646	
Cash and cash equivalents	18(b), 19	267,716	79,010	106,007	
Total current assets		275,128	155,779	120,971	
Total assets		\$ 291,053	\$ 174,013	\$ 125,892	
LIABILITIES					
Non-current liabilities					
Lease liabilities	15(b)	\$ 26	\$ 245	\$ 180	
Deferred income		784	652	405	
Total non-current liabilities		810	897	585	
Current liabilities					
Trade payables		12,735	11,937	7,660	
Other payables and accruals	24	5,151	3,501	2,999	
Contract liabilities	5	—	—	13,320	
Lease liabilities	15(b)	99	186	285	
Total current liabilities		17,985	15,624	24,264	
Total liabilities		18,795	16,521	24,849	
Net assets		272,258	157,492	101,043	
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY					
Share capital	20	10	10	10	
Share premium	20	628,643	628,661	628,707	
Treasury shares	21	(180)	(180)	(180)	
Share-based compensation reserves	22(a)	9,566	16,473	19,731	
Other reserves	22(b)	(4,028)	(7,628)	(7,878)	
Accumulated losses		(361,753)	(479,844)	(539,347)	
Total shareholders' equity		272,258	157,492	101,043	
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity		\$ 291,053	\$ 174,013	\$ 125,892	

The accompany notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

- (i) The Group elected to change its presentation currency from RMB to USD with effect from January 1, 2023 as described in Note 2 to these consolidated financial statements. The consolidated balance sheets as of January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022 have been re-presented to reflect the Group's change in presentation currency.

CONNECT BIOPHARMA HOLDINGS LIMITED
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' (Deficit)/Equity
(In USD thousands)

	Notes	Share Capital	Share Premium	Treasury Shares	Share-Based Compensation Reserves	Other Reserves	Accumulated Losses	Total Shareholders' (Deficit)/Equity
		Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ
Balance at January 1, 2021		\$ 3	\$ 6,012	\$ —	\$ 972	\$ (4,582)	\$ (159,487)	\$ (157,082)
Comprehensive loss								
Net loss		—	—	—	—	—	(202,266)	(202,266)
Exchange differences		—	—	—	—	940	—	940
		—	—	—	—	940	(202,266)	(201,326)
Transactions with owners								
Issuance of ordinary shares, net of issuance costs	20, 23	2	200,630	—	—	—	—	200,632
Conversion from preferred shares to ordinary shares	20	5	421,456	—	—	—	—	421,461
Repurchase of ordinary shares	20	—	—	(180)	—	(386)	—	(566)
Issuance of shares to co-founders	23	—	218	—	(218)	—	—	—
Exercise of stock options	20	—	327	—	(174)	—	—	153
Share-based compensation	23	—	—	—	8,986	—	—	8,986
		7	622,631	(180)	8,594	(386)	—	630,666
Balance at December 31, 2021		10	628,643	(180)	9,566	(4,028)	(361,753)	272,258
Comprehensive loss								
Net loss		—	—	—	—	—	(118,091)	(118,091)
Unrealized losses from fair value change of debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income		—	—	—	—	(365)	—	(365)
Exchange differences		—	—	—	—	(3,235)	—	(3,235)
		—	—	—	—	(3,600)	(118,091)	(121,691)
Transactions with owners								
Issuance of ordinary shares, net of issuance costs	20	—	18	—	—	—	—	18
Shares surrendered and cancelled	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Share-based compensation	23	—	—	—	6,907	—	—	6,907
		—	18	—	6,907	—	—	6,925
Balance at December 31, 2022		\$ 10	\$ 628,661	\$ (180)	\$ 16,473	\$ (7,628)	\$ (479,844)	\$ 157,492

The accompany notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

- (i) The Group elected to change its presentation currency from RMB to USD with effect from January 1, 2023 as described in Note 2 to these consolidated financial statements. The consolidated statements of changes in shareholders' (deficit)/equity for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2022 have been re-presented to reflect the Group's change in presentation currency.

CONNECT BIOPHARMA HOLDINGS LIMITED
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' (Deficit)/Equity
(In USD thousands)

	Notes	Share Capital	Share Premium	Treasury Shares	Share-Based Compensation Reserves	Other Reserves	Accumulated Losses	Total Shareholders' (Deficit)/Equity
		Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ
Balance at January 1, 2023		\$ 10	\$ 628,661	\$ (180)	\$ 16,473	\$ (7,628)	\$ (479,844)	\$ 157,492
Comprehensive loss								
Net loss		—	—	—	—	—	(59,503)	(59,503)
Unrealized gains from fair value change of debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	18(a)	—	—	—	—	354	—	354
Exchange differences		—	—	—	—	(604)	—	(604)
		—	—	—	—	(250)	(59,503)	(59,753)
Transactions with owners								
Issuance of ordinary shares, net of issuance costs	20	—	44	—	—	—	—	44
Exercise of stock options	20	—	2	—	(1)	—	—	1
Share-based compensation	23	—	—	—	3,259	—	—	3,259
		—	46	—	3,258	—	—	3,304
Balance at December 31, 2023		\$ 10	\$ 628,707	\$ (180)	\$ 19,731	\$ (7,878)	\$ (539,347)	\$ 101,043

The accompany notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

- (i) The Group elected to change its presentation currency from RMB to USD with effect from January 1, 2023 as described in Note 2 to these consolidated financial statements. The consolidated statements of changes in shareholders' (deficit)/equity for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2022 have been re-presented to reflect the Group's change in presentation currency.

CONNECT BIOPHARMA HOLDINGS LIMITED
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(In USD thousands)

	Notes	Year Ended December 31,		
		2021	2022	2023
		Re-presented ⁱ	Re-presented ⁱ	
Cash flows from operating activities				
Cash used in operations	26(a)	\$ (84,324)	\$ (101,520)	\$ (47,930)
Net cash used in operating activities		(84,324)	(101,520)	(47,930)
Cash flows from investing activities				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(3,834)	(4,405)	(294)
Purchase of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	18(b)	(17,959)	(6,456)	(1,573)
Purchase of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	18(a)	—	(109,608)	(31,028)
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets, intangible assets and other long-term assets		—	—	2,943
Proceeds from disposal of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		20,076	6,478	1,578
Proceeds from maturities of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	18(a)	—	27,748	103,613
Payment of investment management fee		—	—	(84)
Payment for right-of-use assets	15(a)	(3,442)	—	—
Purchase of intangible assets		(48)	—	—
Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities		(5,207)	(86,243)	75,155
Cash flows from financing activities				
Proceeds from exercise of options	23	34	119	—
Proceeds from issuance of ordinary shares	20	219,985	18	44
Payment for lease liabilities	15(b)	(126)	(222)	(290)
Payment for repurchase of ordinary shares	20	(566)	—	—
Payment in relation to listing expenses	20	(17,107)	—	—
Net cash generated from/(used in) financing activities		202,220	(85)	(246)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		112,689	(187,848)	26,979
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of year		154,803	267,716	79,010
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents		224	(858)	18
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		\$ 267,716	\$ 79,010	\$ 106,007

The accompany notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

- (i) The Group elected to change its presentation currency from RMB to USD with effect from January 1, 2023 as described in Note 2 to these consolidated financial statements. The consolidated statements of cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2022 have been re-presented to reflect the Group's change in presentation currency.

CONNECT BIOPHARMA HOLDINGS LIMITED**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements****1. General Information, Reorganization and Basis of Presentation****1.1 General information**

Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited (the “Company”) was incorporated on November 23, 2015 in the Cayman Islands as an exempted company with limited liability. The address of the Company’s registered office is P.O. Box 613, Harbour Centre, George Town, Grand Cayman KY1-1107, Cayman Islands. The Company completed its initial public offering (“IPO”) in March 2021 and the Company’s American Depositary Shares (“ADSs”) have been listed on the Nasdaq Global Market (“Nasdaq”) since then. Each ADS of the Company represents one ordinary share, par value U.S. Dollar (“USD”) 0.000174 per share.

The Company and its subsidiaries (collectively the “Group”) is a clinical-stage company focused on the discovery and development of next-generation immune modulators for the treatment of serious autoimmune diseases and inflammation. The Group has leveraged its expertise in the biology of T cell modulation to build a portfolio of drug candidates consisting of small molecules and antibodies targeting critical pathways of inflammation. The Group currently carries out clinical trials on its product candidates in the United States, the People’s Republic of China (“PRC”), Europe, and other jurisdictions.

As of December 31, 2023, the Company had direct or indirect interests in the following principal subsidiaries:

Company name	Principal activities	Place and date of incorporation	Attributable equity interest to the Group
Directly Held:			
Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited (“Connect HK”)	Investment holding	Hong Kong/December 1, 2015	100 %
Indirectly held:			
Connect Biopharm LLC (“Connect US”)	Pharmaceutical R&D	San Diego, United States of America/January 24, 2012	100 %
Connect Biopharma Australia PTY LTD (“Connect AU”)	Pharmaceutical R&D	Prahran, Australia/July 18, 2014	100 %
Suzhou Connect Biopharma Co., Ltd. (“Connect SZ”)	Pharmaceutical R&D	Suzhou, PRC/May 2, 2012	100 %
Connect Biopharma (Shanghai) Co., Ltd (“Connect SH”)	Pharmaceutical R&D	Shanghai, PRC/October 23, 2015	100 %
Connect Biopharma (Beijing) Co., Ltd (“Connect BJ”)	Pharmaceutical R&D	Beijing, PRC/July 9, 2019	100 %
Connect Biopharma (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd (“Connect SHZ”)	Pharmaceutical R&D	Shenzhen, PRC/November 15, 2021	100 %

2. Summary of Material Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

2.1 Basis of preparation

The Group’s consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS Accounting Standards”) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (“IASB”). The Group

adopted and transitioned to IFRS Accounting Standards issued by IASB on January 1, 2018. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income, and financial instruments with preferred rights.

The Group has adopted the following standards and amendments for the first time for our annual reporting period commencing January 1, 2023:

Standard	Key requirements	Effective for annual periods beginning on or after
IFRS 17	Insurance Contracts	January 1, 2023
Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2	Disclosure of Accounting Policies	January 1, 2023
Amendments to IAS 8	Definition of Accounting Estimates	January 1, 2023
Amendments to IAS 12	Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities Arising from a Single Transaction	January 1, 2023
Amendments to IAS 12	International Tax Reform-Pillar Two Model Rules	January 1, 2023

The standards and amendments listed above did not have any impact on the amounts recognized in prior periods and are not expected to significantly affect the current or future periods.

The consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023 were authorized for issue by the Company's board of directors (the "Board") on April 16, 2024.

Liquidity

Since inception, the Group has incurred accumulated losses of USD 539.3 million. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Group had operating loss of USD 62.1 million and net operating cash outflow of USD 47.9 million. The principal sources of funding have historically been cash contributions from equity holders. The cumulative contributions up through December 31, 2023 approximated USD 440.1 million, among which included USD 219.9 million of proceeds from issuance of ordinary shares in connection with the IPO. As of December 31, 2023, the Group had net assets of USD 101.0 million, mainly including cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments at fair value through other comprehensive income of USD 118.7 million. Taking this into consideration, the Group believes it will have sufficient available financial resources to meet its obligations and working capital requirements for at least in the next twelve months from the date of issuance of these financial statements. Accordingly, the Group considers that it is appropriate to prepare the consolidated financial information on a going concern basis.

2.2 Change in presentation currency

The Company elected to change its presentation currency from RMB to USD with effect from January 1, 2023. This change was made as a result of the Group's assessment that this change will help provide a clearer understanding of the Group's financial performance and improve comparability of our performance to peers. Figures have been re-presented from January 1, 2021 to reflect the change in presentation currency from RMB to USD. This change in presentation currency did not impact the valuation of assets, liabilities, or equity.

This change in presentation currency constitutes a change in accounting policy with retrospective application in accordance with IAS 8, *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, and is reflected in these consolidated financial statements by applying the procedures in accordance with the requirements set out in IAS 21, *The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates*.

Hence, the Group's financial information as previously reported since January 1, 2018 has been re-translated using the procedures outlined below:

- the consolidated statements of financial position have been translated at the foreign exchange rate at the balance sheet dates;
- the consolidated statements of loss, consolidated statements of comprehensive loss and consolidated statements of cash flows were translated at average exchange rates for the respective periods;
- historic equity transactions were translated at the foreign exchange rate on the date of the transactions and were subsequently carried at historical value;
- foreign exchange differences arising on translation to presentation currency are recognized in other comprehensive income; and
- all foreign exchange rates used were extracted from the Group's underlying financial records.

Since it is impracticable to reproduce the financial records before January 1, 2018, the Company applied the change in presentation currency prospectively from January 1, 2018. The net losses arising from the Group's entities whose functional currency was not USD prior to January 1, 2018 were translated into USD at the relevant average rates of exchange for each year. Differences arising from the retranslation of the net assets are recognized in other comprehensive income.

In addition to the comparative information in respect of the previous period provided in the consolidated financial statements, the Group presents an additional consolidated balance sheet as at January 1, 2022, due to the change of presentation currency, in accordance with IAS 1, *Presentation of Financial Statements*.

2.3 New and amended standards and interpretations not yet adopted by the Group

The Group has not applied the following new and revised IFRSs that have been issued but are not yet effective in the consolidated financial statements.

Standard	Key requirements	Effective for annual periods beginning on or after
Amendments to IAS 1	Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current	January 1, 2024
Amendments to IAS 1	Non-current Liabilities with Covenants	January 1, 2024
Amendments to IFRS 16	Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback	January 1, 2024
Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7	Supplier Finance Arrangements	January 1, 2024
Amendments to IAS 21	Lack of Exchangeability	January 1, 2025
Amendments to IFRS 10 and IAS 28	Sale or Contribution of Assets Between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture	To be determined

The Group expects to adopt these standards, updates and interpretations when they become mandatory. These standards are not expected to have a material impact on disclosures or amounts reported in the Group's consolidated financial statements in the period of initial application and future reporting periods.

2.4 Principles of consolidation

Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are all entities over which the Group has control. The Group controls an entity when the Group is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power to direct the activities of the entity. Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group. They are deconsolidated from the date that control ceases.

Intra-group transactions, balances and unrealized gains on transactions between Group companies are eliminated. Unrealized losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the transferred asset. When necessary, amounts reported by subsidiaries have been adjusted to conform with the Group's accounting policies.

2.5 Foreign currency translation

(a) Functional and presentation currency

The consolidated financial statements of the Group are presented in USD.

Items included in the financial statements of each of the Group's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates (the "functional currency"). The functional currency of the Company is USD. The subsidiaries have the following functional currencies:

	Functional Currency
Connect HK and Connect US	USD
Connect SZ, Connect SH, Connect BJ, Connect SHZ	RMB
Connect AU	AUD

(b) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions, and from the translation of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at year end exchange rates are generally recognized in profit or loss.

Since the Group has no borrowings, all foreign exchange gains or losses are presented in the consolidated statements of loss on a net basis within other (losses)/gains-net.

Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was determined. Translation differences on assets and liabilities carried at fair value are reported as part of the fair value gain or loss. For example, translation differences on non-monetary assets and liabilities such as equities held at fair value through profit or loss are recognized in profit or loss as part of the other (losses)/gains and translation differences on non-monetary assets such as equities classified as at fair value through other comprehensive income are recognized in other comprehensive income.

(c) Group companies

The results and financial position of foreign operations (none of which has the currency of a hyperinflationary economy) that have a functional currency different from the presentation currency are translated into the presentation currency as follows:

- assets and liabilities for each balance sheet presented are translated at the closing rate at the date of that balance sheet;
- income and expenses for each statement of loss and comprehensive income/(loss) are translated at average exchange rates (unless this average is not a reasonable approximation of the cumulative effect of the rates prevailing on the transaction dates, in which case income and expenses are translated at the rate on the dates of the transactions); and
- all resulting currency translation differences are recognized in other comprehensive income/loss.

On consolidation, exchange differences arising from the translation of any net investment in foreign entities are recognized in other comprehensive income. When a foreign operation is sold or any borrowings forming part of the net investment are repaid, the associated exchange differences are reclassified to profit or loss, as part of the gain or loss on sale.

2.6 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognized as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of any component accounted for as a separate asset is derecognized when replaced. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to profit or loss during the reporting period in which they are incurred.

The Group's assets under construction represents buildings and equipment under construction and pending installation, and is stated at cost less accumulated impairment losses, if any. Costs include construction and acquisition costs. No provision for depreciation is made on assets under construction until such time as the assets are completed and ready for its intended use. Once the asset becomes available for use, it is transferred to the appropriate category of assets.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate the cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives or, in the case of leasehold improvements, the shorter lease term as follows:

Assets	Useful life
Laboratory equipment	5-10 years
Leasehold improvements	Shorter of lease term or 5 years
Office equipment and furniture	3-5 years

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted if appropriate at the end of each reporting period.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount (Note 2.7).

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount and are recognized within other gains/(losses)—net in the statements of loss.

2.7 Impairment of non-financial assets

Non-financial assets other than goodwill and intangible assets that have an indefinite useful life are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognized for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at the end of each reporting period.

2.8 Investments and other financial assets

(a) Classification

The Group classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

- those to be measured subsequently at fair value (either through other comprehensive income ("OCI") or through profit or loss), and
- those to be measured at amortized cost.

The classification depends on the entity's business model for managing the financial assets and the contractual terms of the cash flows.

For assets measured at fair value, gains and losses will either be recorded in profit or loss or OCI. For investments in equity instruments that are not held for trading, the Group has made an irrevocable election at the time of initial recognition to account for the equity investment at fair value through OCI ("FVOCI").

The Group reclassifies debt investments when and only when its business model for managing those assets changes.

(b) Recognition and derecognition

Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognized on trade date, the date on which the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets are derecognized when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the Group has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

(c) Measurement

At initial recognition, the Group measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at fair value through profit or loss ("FVTPL"), transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the financial asset. Transaction costs of financial asset carried at FVTPL are expensed in profit or loss. Financial assets with embedded derivatives are considered in their entirety when determining whether their cash flows are solely payment of principal and interest.

(i) Debt instruments

Subsequent measurement of debt instruments depends on the Group's business model for managing the asset and the cash flow characteristics of the asset. There are three measurement categories into which the Group classifies its debt instruments:

- **Amortized cost:** Assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows, where those cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest, are measured at amortized cost. Interest income from these financial assets is included in finance income using the effective interest rate method. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition is recognized directly in profit or loss and presented in other gains/(losses), together with foreign exchange gains and losses. Impairment losses are presented as separate line item in the statements of loss.
- **FVOCI:** Assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows and for selling the financial assets, where the assets' cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest, are measured at FVOCI. Movements in the carrying amount are taken through OCI, except for the recognition of impairment gains or losses, interest income and foreign exchange gains and losses which are recognized in profit or loss. When the financial asset is derecognized, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognized in OCI is reclassified from equity to profit or loss and recognized in other gains/(losses). Interest income from these financial assets is included in finance income using the effective interest rate method. Foreign exchange gains and losses are presented in other gains/(losses) and impairment expenses are presented as a separate line item in the statements of loss.
- **FVTPL:** Assets that do not meet the criteria for amortized cost or FVOCI are measured at FVTPL. A gain or loss on a debt investment that is subsequently measured at FVTPL is recognized in profit or loss and presented net within other gains/(losses) in the period in which it arises.

(ii) Equity instruments

The Group subsequently measures all equity investments at fair value. Where the Group's management has elected to present fair value gains and losses on equity investments in OCI, there is no subsequent reclassification of fair value gains and losses to profit or loss following the derecognition of the investment. Dividends from such investments continue to be recognized in profit or loss as other income when the Group's right to receive payments is established.

Changes in the fair value of financial assets at FVTPL are recognized in other gains/(losses) in the statements of loss as applicable. Impairment losses (and reversal of impairment losses) on equity investments measured at FVOCI are not reported separately from other changes in fair value.

There were no equity investments during the reporting periods.

(d) Impairment

The Group assesses on a forward-looking basis the expected credit loss associated with its debt instruments carried at amortized cost and FVOCI. The impairment methodology applied depends on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk refer to Note 3.1(b) for further details.

2.9 Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of presentation in the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

2.10 Share-based compensation

The Group operates an equity-settled share-based compensation plan, under which the Group receives services from employees, directors and consultants. The consultants' work for the Group is under the Group's direction in the same way as employees and the services rendered by the consultants are similar to those rendered by the Group's employees.

The fair value of options granted under the share incentive plans is recognized as an employee benefits expense with a corresponding increase in equity. The total amount to be expensed is determined by reference to the fair value of the options granted:

- including any market performance conditions (e.g. the entity's share price);
- excluding the impact of any service and non-market performance vesting conditions (e.g. profitability, sales growth targets and remaining an employee of the entity over a specified time period); and
- including the impact of any non-vesting conditions (e.g. the requirement for employees to save or hold shares for a specific period of time).

The total expense is recognized over the vesting period, which is the period over which all of the specified vesting conditions are to be satisfied. At the end of each period, the Group revises its estimates of the number of options that are expected to vest based on the non-market vesting and service conditions. The Group recognizes the impact of the revision to original estimates, if any, in profit or loss, with a corresponding adjustment to equity.

2.11 Revenue from contracts with customers

(a) Revenue recognition

The Group may enter into collaboration and licensing arrangements for research and development, manufacturing, and commercialization activities with counterparties for the development and commercialization of its product candidates. These arrangements may contain multiple components, such as (i) licenses and (ii) research and development activities. Payments pursuant to these arrangements may include non-refundable payments, payments upon the achievement of significant regulatory, development and commercial milestones, sales of product at certain agreed-upon amounts, and royalties on product sales.

The Group applies IFRS 15, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, to revenue transactions within its scope. Pursuant to IFRS 15, the Group recognizes revenue when a customer, or licensee, obtains control of promised goods or services. The Group records the amount of revenue that reflects the consideration that it expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services. The Group applies the following five-steps in order to determine this amount: (i) identify the contract(s) with a customer; (ii) identify the performance obligations in the contract; (iii) determine the measurement of the transaction price, including the constraint on variable consideration; (iv) allocation of the transaction price to the performance obligations; and (v) recognition of revenue when (or as) the Group satisfies each performance obligation.

The Group applies the five-steps to contracts when it is probable that it will collect the consideration to which it is entitled in exchange for the goods or services that it transfers to the customer. Once a contract is determined to be within the scope of IFRS 15 at contract inception, the Group reviews the contract to determine which performance obligations it must deliver and which of these performance obligations are distinct. The Group recognizes as revenue the amount of the transaction price that is allocated to each performance obligation when that performance obligation is satisfied or as it is satisfied.

(b) Contract assets

A contract asset is the right to consideration in exchange for goods or services transferred to the customer. If the Group transfers goods or services to a customer before the customer pays consideration or before payment is due, a contract asset is recognized for the earned consideration that is conditional, and evaluated for impairment at each reporting period.

(c) Contract liabilities

A contract liability is recognized when a payment is received from a customer before the Group transfers the related goods or services. Contract liabilities are recognized as revenue when the Group completes its performance obligations under the contract.

2.12 Research and development expenses

The Group incurs costs and efforts on research and development activities. Research expenditures are recorded as an expense in the period the expenditure is incurred. Elements of research and development expenses primarily include (1) expenses related to preclinical testing of the Group's technologies under development and clinical trials such as payments to Contract Research Organizations ("CRO") investigators and clinical trial sites that conduct the clinical studies; (2) consultant service related to the design of clinical trials and data analysis, (3) payroll and other related expenses of personnel engaged in research and development activities, (4) manufacturing expenses for payments to Contract Manufacturing Organizations ("CMO") to manufacture the product candidates, including raw materials, supplies, drug substance and drug product expenses, and (5) other research and development expenses.

The Group estimates preclinical research, clinical study and manufacturing expenses based on the services performed, pursuant to contracts with vendors that conduct and manage such services on its behalf. The Group estimates these expenses based on discussions with internal management personnel and external service providers as to the progress or stage of completion of services and the contracted fees to be paid for such services. If the actual timing of the performance of services or the level of effort varies from the original estimates, the Group will adjust the accrual accordingly. Payments made in advance for the related services are recorded as prepayments in the consolidated balance sheets until the services are rendered.

Development costs are recognized as assets if they can be directly attributable to a newly developed service or product and all the following criteria are met or exist:

- the technical feasibility to complete the development project so that it will be available for use or sale;
- the intention to complete the development project to use or sell the product;
- the ability to use or sell the product;
- the manner in which the development project will generate probable future economic benefits for the Group;
- the availability of adequate technical, financial and other resources to complete the development project and use or sell the product; and
- the expenditure attributable to the asset during its development can be reliably measured.

Research and development expenses are charged to expense as incurred for all periods presented because they have not met all of the criteria stated above.

2.13 Interest income

Interest income from financial assets at FVTPL is included in the investment income or losses under gains/(losses) on these assets, see Note 9. Interest income is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to the gross carrying amount of a financial asset except for financial assets that subsequently become credit-impaired. For credit-impaired financial assets, the effective interest rate is applied to the net carrying amount of the financial asset (after deduction of the loss allowance).

2.14 Government grants

Grants from the government are recognized at their fair value when there is a reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and the Group is expected to comply with all required conditions. Government grants received in advance of costs

being incurred are deferred until the associated costs are recognized. Grants that compensate the Group for the cost of an asset initially are presented as deferred income and are recognized as income in consolidated statements of loss on a straight-line basis over the useful life of the associated asset.

3. Financial Instruments and Risk Management

3.1 Financial risk factors

The Group's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk (including interest rate risk and exchange risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The Group's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimize potential adverse effects on the Group's financial performance. Risk management is carried out by the senior management of the Group.

(a) Market risk

(i) Interest rate risk

The Group's interest rate risk primarily arises from investments in wealth management products, investments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income, investments measured at fair value through profit or loss (Note 18) and cash (Note 19). Those carried at variable rates expose the Group to cash flow interest rate risk whereas those at fixed rates expose the Group to fair value interest rate risk. The Group currently does not hold any debt or other borrowing facilities that would subject the Group to risk from interest rate fluctuations.

(ii) Exchange risk

The Group operates internationally and is exposed to foreign exchange risk, primarily the RMB to USD exchange rate. Foreign exchange risk arises from future commercial transactions and recognized assets and liabilities denominated in a currency that is not the functional currency of the relevant group entity. The Group's exposure to foreign currency risk at the end of the reporting periods was as follows:

(In thousands)	As of December 31,	
	2022	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 472	\$ 806

The aggregate net foreign exchange (losses)/gains recognized in profit or loss were:

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Net foreign exchange (losses)/gains included in other (losses)/gains—net	\$ (516)	\$ 1,469	\$ 367

Most foreign exchange transactions were denominated in USD for the subsidiary that has functional currency in RMB. For the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023, if the USD strengthened/weakened by 5% against the RMB with all other variables held constant, net loss for the years then ended would have been USD 0.5 million higher/lower, USD 0.4 million lower/higher and USD 0.7 million lower/higher, respectively.

(b) Credit risk

Credit risk primarily arises from cash and cash equivalents, financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income, and other receivables. The maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying amount of each financial asset in the balance sheets.

The credit risk of cash and cash equivalents, financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, and financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income, is limited because the counterparties are reputable commercial institutions located in the Cayman Islands, the U.S., PRC and Australia. Additionally, there may be credit risk with deposit accounts at banking institutions in which balances exceed each country's insurance limits for such accounts.

For other receivables, management makes periodic as well as individual assessments on the recoverability based on historical settlement records and past experience and adjusts for forward looking information based on macroeconomic factors affecting the ability of the debtors to settle the receivables.

The Group applies the expected credit loss model to financial assets measured at amortized cost. Impairment on other receivables is measured as either 12-month expected credit losses or lifetime expected credit losses, depending on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition. To assess whether there is a significant increase in credit risk, the Group compares the risk of default occurring on the asset as of the reporting date with the risk of default as of the date of initial recognition by considering available, reasonable and supportive forwarding-looking information.

(c) *Liquidity risk*

The Group aims to maintain sufficient cash to meet obligations coming due as well as operating and capital requirements.

The table below analyzes the Group's financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at each year-end date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts disclosed in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

	As of December 31, 2022				
	Less Than 1 Year	Between 1 and 2 Years	Between 2 and 5 Years	More Than 5 Years	Total
<i>(In thousands)</i>					
Trade payables	\$ 11,937	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 11,937
Other payables	1,353	—	—	—	1,353
Lease liabilities	225	203	34	—	462
Total	\$ 13,515	\$ 203	\$ 34	\$ —	\$ 13,752

	As of December 31, 2023				
	Less Than 1 Year	Between 1 and 2 Years	Between 2 and 5 Years	More Than 5 Years	Total
<i>(In thousands)</i>					
Trade payables	\$ 7,660	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 7,660
Other payables	1,083	—	—	—	1,083
Lease liabilities	301	160	25	—	486
Total	\$ 9,044	\$ 160	\$ 25	\$ —	\$ 9,229

3.2 Capital management

The Group's objectives when managing capital are to safeguard the Group's ability to continue as a going concern in order to provide returns for shareholders and benefits for other stakeholders and to maintain an optimal capital structure to reduce the cost of capital.

The Group monitors capital by regularly reviewing the capital structure and the overall capital markets. The Group may seek additional financing or debt at terms satisfactory to the Group in order to maintain adequate resources.

As of December 31, 2022 and 2023, the Group had no debt outstanding.

3.3 Fair value estimation

The table below analyzes the Group's financial instruments carried at fair value as of December 31, 2023 by level of the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. Such valuation inputs are categorized into three levels within a fair value hierarchy as follows:

- (i) Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1).
- (ii) Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (that is, as prices) or indirectly (that is, derived from prices) (Level 2).
- (iii) Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (that is, unobservable inputs) (Level 3).

<i>(In thousands)</i>	As of December 31, 2022			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets				
Cash equivalents	\$ 18,368	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 18,368
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	40,668	42,179	—	82,847
Total assets	<u>\$ 59,036</u>	<u>\$ 42,179</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>\$ 101,215</u>

<i>(In thousands)</i>	As of December 31, 2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets				
Cash equivalents	\$ 78,317	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 78,317
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	1,750	10,896	—	12,646
Total assets	<u>\$ 80,067</u>	<u>\$ 10,896</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 90,963</u>

There were no transfers between Levels 1, 2 and 3 during the periods.

Financial instruments in Level 1

The fair value of financial instruments identified as Level 1 are supported by quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that can be accessed at the measurement date.

Financial instruments in Level 2

The fair value of financial instruments identified as Level 2 is determined by the use of valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable market data and rely as little as possible on entity-specific measures. For these financial instruments, all significant inputs required as inputs to fair value are observable.

Financial instruments in Level 3

If one or more of the significant inputs are not based on observable market data, the instrument is included in Level 3. Level 3 instruments within the Group's assets and liabilities include short-term investment in wealth management products measured at fair value through profit or loss and financial instruments with preferred rights.

Specific valuation techniques used to value financial instruments include:

- Quoted market prices or dealer quotes for similar instruments
- Comparison of accreted purchase price at trade date to face value at maturity and comparison to prices of subsequent similar transactions; and
- A combination of observable and unobservable inputs, including expected rate of return, risk-free rate, expected volatility, discount rate for lack of marketability ("DLOM"), bond terms and conditions, current performance data, etc.,.

Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss and financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income are categorized into Levels 1, 2 and 3 accordingly (see Note 18).

4. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of accounting estimates which, by definition, may not equal the actual results. Management also needs to exercise judgment in applying the Group's accounting policies. Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated. They are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Group and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

(a) Research and development expenses

Research expenditures are recorded as an expense in the period the expenditure is incurred. The Group estimates preclinical research and clinical study and manufacturing expenses based on the services performed, pursuant to contracts with research institutions, CROs, and CMOs that conduct and manage such services on its behalf. The Group estimates these expenses based on discussions or confirmations with internal management personnel and external service providers as to the progress or stage of completion of services and the contracted fees to be paid for such services. Payments made in advance for the related services are recorded as prepayments in the consolidated balance sheets until the services are rendered.

Research and development expenses are charged to expense as incurred for all periods presented because these expenditures have not met the technical feasibility to complete the development project so that it will be available for use or sale and have no alternative future uses.

(b) Revenue recognition

The Group may enter into collaboration and licensing arrangements for research and development, manufacturing, and commercialization activities with counterparties for the development and commercialization of its product candidates. These arrangements may contain multiple components, such as (i) licenses and (ii) research and development activities. Payments pursuant to these arrangements may include non-refundable payments, payments upon the achievement of significant regulatory, development and commercial milestones, sales of product at certain agreed-upon amounts, and royalties on product sales.

Application of IFRS 15 requires significant judgment and estimates and results in changes to, but not limited to: (i) the determination of performance obligations, (ii) determination of the transaction price, including estimates of variable consideration, (iii) the allocation of the transaction price, including the determination of estimated selling price and allocating variable consideration to one or more performance obligations but not all performance obligations, and (iv) the timing and pattern of revenue recognition, including the application of proportional performance as a measure of progress on service-related promises and application of point-in-time recognition for supply-related promises.

Significant judgment is required: (i) in determining which promises within the agreement are distinct within the context of the contract. For example, when licenses that are bundled with other promises, we utilize judgment to assess whether the bundled promises should be a combined or separate performance obligation, (ii) estimating the transaction price, including constraining variable consideration and methods to estimate the amount of variable consideration, depending on which method is expected to better predict the amount of consideration to which the Group will be entitled. Milestone payments that are not within our control or the licensee, such as those dependent upon receipt of regulatory approval, are not considered to be highly probable of achievement until the triggering event occurs. At the end of each reporting period, we re-evaluate the probability of achievement of each milestone and any related constraint, and if necessary, adjust our estimate of the overall transaction price. Significant management judgment is required in determining the level of effort required under an arrangement and the period over which we are expected to complete our performance obligations under an arrangement.

(c) Recognition of share-based compensation expenses

The equity-settled share-based compensation options was granted to employees and consultants. The Group has used the Binomial option-pricing model and the Black-Scholes option-pricing model for the employee stock options and employee share purchase plan, respectively, to determine the total fair value of the awarded options, which is to be expensed over the vesting period. Significant estimates on assumptions, such as the fair value of underlying shares, risk-free interest rate, expected volatility and dividend yield, are required to be made by the management.

For the details of the key assumptions and estimates used by management in determining the fair values of share based compensation, refer to Note 23.

5. Revenue Recognition

On November 21, 2023 (the “Effective Date”), the Group announced that two of its wholly owned subsidiaries, Connect HK and Connect SZ (together as the “Licensor”), entered into an exclusive license and collaboration agreement (the “License Agreement”) with Simcere Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (the “Licensee” or “Simcere”), a subsidiary of Simcere Pharmaceutical Group Ltd. to develop and commercialize Connect Biopharma’s rademikibart in Greater China.

The Licensee has been granted exclusive rights to develop, manufacture and commercialize rademikibart for all indications in Greater China, including mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan (the “Territory”), while the Licensor retains rights in all other markets. Under the License Agreement, Licensor will complete all of rademikibart’s ongoing clinical trials and related analysis in the Territory in atopic dermatitis (“AD”), while the Licensee will be responsible for rademikibart’s new drug application for AD in China and will also conduct and be responsible for the costs of all future clinical studies in all additional disease indications for rademikibart in Greater China.

The License Agreement includes upfront license fees, reimbursement of research and development costs and contingent consideration payments based on the achievement of collaboration objectives and milestones. According to the terms of the License Agreement, the Licensor will receive a 150 million RMB (approximately USD 21 million) upfront payment, up to 875 million RMB (approximately USD 123 million) upon achieving certain development and commercial milestones, in addition to royalties up to low double-digit percentages of net sales. Additionally, under the terms of the License Agreement, the Licensor will receive 30 million RMB (approximately USD 4 million) of cost reimbursements for the development activities for the ongoing AD clinical trials. As of December 31, 2023, 100 million RMB, less VAT of 5.6 million RMB (approximately USD 13.3 million) of the upfront payment has been received, while the remainder of 50 million RMB, less VAT of 2.8 million RMB (approximately USD 6.7 million) has been received in the first quarter of 2024.

Simcere License Agreement

The Group concluded that the License Agreement is in the scope of IFRS 15.

Under IFRS 15, the Group evaluated whether the goods or services promised to the Licensee in the License Agreement represent separate or combined performance obligations. The Group determines goods or service promised under a contract as material performance obligations under the contract only if such good or service is distinct; or series of distinct goods or services that are substantially the same and that have the same pattern of transfer to the customer (i.e. each distinct good or service in the series is satisfied over time and the same method is used to measure progress). The Group has determined that the following goods or services within the License-out Agreement represent separate material performance obligations:

1. the grant of license to the intellectual property (“IP”)
2. the performance of development services to continue and complete the ongoing trials

Contract Term

The term of the License Agreement is coterminous with the period up to which sales-based royalty payments shall be made, which is approximately 12 years after commercialization of the licensed compound. After this period, the license is considered fully paid and Simcere can continue to exploit the rights in the license in the Territory.

Transaction Price

At the Effective Date, the Group determined the transaction price to be 180 million RMB (approximately USD 25 million), which is comprised of (i) a 150 million RMB (approximately USD 21 million) upfront payment for the grant of license to the Licensee and (ii) 30 million RMB (approximately USD 4 million) of cost reimbursement upon delivery of certain clinical trial reports.

The Group considers future development and regulatory milestone payments under the arrangement, to the extent that the inclusion of such variable consideration could result in a significant reversal of cumulative revenue in future periods, to be constrained at the Effective Date and as of December 31, 2023 because these milestones are not within the control of the Group.

Sales-based milestone payments and royalties are payable when annual sales of a covered product reach specified levels and sales occur. When an intellectual property license is determined to be a predominant promise in the arrangement, sales-based milestone payments and royalties are recognized at the later of when the associated performance obligation has been satisfied or when the sales occur.

Allocation of the Transaction Price

The transaction price is generally allocated to the identified performance obligations based on the relative standalone selling price (“SSP”) of each distinct performance obligation. However the Group has allocated certain regulatory and development milestone payments only to certain specific performance obligation(s) where the terms of such payments relate specifically to the Group’s efforts to satisfy the respective performance obligation, and provided that such allocation is consistent with the objective that transaction price is allocated to each performance obligation in order to reflect the consideration to which the Group expects to be entitled to receive in exchange for satisfying those performance obligations.

Recognition

The Group utilizes judgment to assess when control of the goods and services transfers to the licensee, to determine whether the performance obligation is satisfied over time or at a point in time and, if over time, the appropriate method of measuring progress for purposes of recognizing revenue. When recognizing revenue over time, the Group evaluates the measure of progress each reporting period and, if necessary, adjusts the progress of performance and related revenue recognition.

The Group expects to recognize the transaction price of 180 million RMB (approximately USD 25 million), at a point in time or over the expected performance period of each respective performance obligation described above. No revenue was recognized during the year ended December 31, 2023. The Group expects to commence recognition of revenue from this License Agreement starting when the Company substantially completes the transfer of the IP and know-how to Simcere.

Contract Assets

As of December 31, 2023, there were no contract assets under the License-out Agreement.

Contract Liabilities

As of December 31, 2023, the Group had a contract liability for the upfront fee received of 100 million RMB, less VAT of 5.6 million RMB (approximately USD 13.3 million).

6. Expenses by Nature

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Clinical trials related expenses	\$ 66,005	\$ 81,586	\$ 40,616
Employee benefit expenses (Note 7)	18,669	21,573	15,438
Professional service fees ¹	10,787	10,314	7,545
R&D materials and consumable supplies	2,131	1,178	527
Depreciation and amortization	634	1,031	988
Office expenses	567	745	716
Others	717	1,009	598
	<u>\$ 99,510</u>	<u>\$ 117,436</u>	<u>\$ 66,428</u>

- (i) The Group exclusively licenses CBP-174 from a third-party licensor. Such license is worldwide and royalty-bearing. As of December 31, 2023, CBP-174 has not yet been commercialized, and the Company is only subject to a non-refundable, non-creditable license maintenance fee, which is paid to the third-party licensor on an annual basis and recorded as a consultancy fee within research and development expense.

Pursuant to the this license-in agreement, the Group has the right to terminate the license-in agreement without cause upon 60 days’ prior written notice to the third-party licensor. As of March 2024, the Group has sent such notice to the third-party licensor to terminate the license-in agreement Agreement without cause, and such termination will take effect 60 days after the date of the notice. No material obligation arose from such termination.

7. Employee Benefit Expenses

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Share-based compensation expenses (Note 23)	\$ 8,986	\$ 6,907	\$ 3,259
Wages, salaries and bonuses	8,451	12,593	10,409
Welfare expenses	1,022	1,823	1,559
Housing funds	210	250	211
	<u>\$ 18,669</u>	<u>\$ 21,573</u>	<u>\$ 15,438</u>

Employee benefit expenses were charged in the following line items in the consolidated statements of loss:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Research and development expenses	\$ 10,598	\$ 12,015	\$ 8,177
Administrative expenses	8,071	9,558	7,261
	<u>\$ 18,669</u>	<u>\$ 21,573</u>	<u>\$ 15,438</u>

8. Other Income

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Government grants ⁱ	\$ 2,950	\$ 929	\$ 1,580

- (i) Government grants are mainly related to cash incentives from the PRC government based on specific milestones or operating expenses incurred in China and tax incentives from the Australian government for conducting clinical research and development activities in Australia. In 2021, the Group received a one-time award of USD 1.7 million for its successful IPO listing, and received other subsidies of USD 1.0 million from the Chinese local government and USD 0.3 million from the Australian government as an incentive for research and development activities. In 2022, the Group received subsidies of USD 0.9 million from the Chinese local government. In 2023, the Group received subsidies of USD 0.7 million from the Chinese local government and USD 0.9 million from the Australian government as an incentive for research and development activities.

9. Other (Losses)/Gains—net

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Net foreign exchange (losses)/gains	\$ (516)	\$ 1,469	\$ 367
Investment income from investments at fair value through profit and loss ⁱ	—	248	2,503
Investment income from wealth management products	68	22	5
Other (losses)/gains ⁱⁱ	(1,099)	150	(101)
	<u>\$ (1,547)</u>	<u>\$ 1,889</u>	<u>\$ 2,774</u>

- (i) Investment income from investments at fair value through profit and loss represent investment gains from money market investments included in cash equivalents (see Notes 3.3 and 18(b)).
- (ii) The Group incurred a loss of USD 1.1 million due to a phishing incident experienced in May 2021 which resulted in the Group remitting such amount to an account set up by the phishers rather than to one of the Group's vendors. No loss of company data nor any loss or compromise of third-party information has been discovered. The Group filed an insurance claim during the year ended December 31, 2022 and recovered USD 0.2 million from its cyber insurance provider.

10. Finance Income—net

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Finance income			
Interest from bank, term, and other deposits	\$ 97	\$ 192	\$ 684
Interest income from investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	—	1,352	2,030
	97	1,544	2,714
Finance cost			
Interest for lease liabilities	(7)	(21)	(23)
	(7)	(21)	(23)
Finance income—net	\$ 90	\$ 1,523	\$ 2,691

11. Income Taxes

Income tax expense is recognized based on the income tax rates in the following main tax jurisdictions where the Group operates.

(a) Cayman Islands

The Company is incorporated in the Cayman Islands as an exempted company with limited liabilities under the Companies Law of the Cayman Islands and accordingly, is exempted from Cayman Islands income tax.

(b) Hong Kong

Hong Kong profits tax rate was 16.5% as of April 1, 2018, when the two-tiered profits tax regime took effect, under which the tax rate is 8.25% for assessable profits on the first HK\$ 2 million and 16.5% for any assessable profits in excess. No Hong Kong profit tax was provided for as there was no estimated assessable profit that was subject to Hong Kong profits tax during the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 or 2023.

(c) United States

Connect US is organized in the U.S. and is a single member limited liability company that is disregarded for U.S. income tax purposes. During the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023 from a U.S. tax perspective, Connect HK is subject to US federal corporate income tax at a rate of 21% and state income tax in California at a rate of 8.84% to the extent of the income apportionable to Connect US. The provision for income taxes for the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023 was USD 0.3 million, USD 0.3 million and USD 0.1 million, respectively.

(d) Australia

Connect AU is incorporated in Australia. Companies registered in Australia are subject to Australia profits tax on the taxable income as reported in their respective statutory financial statements adjusted in accordance with the relevant Australia tax laws. The applicable tax rate in Australia is 30%. Connect AU has no taxable income for all periods presented, therefore, no provision for income taxes has been provided.

(e) PRC

Provision for PRC corporate income tax is calculated based on the statutory income tax rate of 25% on the assessable income of respective PRC entities during the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 or 2023 in accordance with relevant PRC enterprise income tax rules and regulations.

No provision for PRC corporate income tax has been made for the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 or 2023 as the Group had no such taxable profit for the years then ended.

The reconciliation between the Group's actual tax charge and the amount that is calculated based on the statutory income tax rate of 25% in the PRC is as follows:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Loss from operations in the PRC	\$ (35,420)	\$ (41,445)	\$ (27,321)
Loss from overseas entities	(166,580)	(76,348)	(32,062)
Loss before income tax	(202,000)	(117,793)	(59,383)
Tax expense at PRC enterprise income tax rate of 25%	(50,714)	(28,538)	(14,846)
Expenses not deductible for income tax purpose	2,124	2,563	354
Super deduction of research and development expenses ⁱ	(5,521)	(6,171)	(5,945)
Tax losses and deductible temporary differences for which no deferred income tax assets were recognized	17,738	24,747	22,827
Effect of income tax in jurisdictions other than the PRC	36,639	7,697	(2,270)
Income tax expense	\$ 266	\$ 298	\$ 120

- (i) According to policies promulgated by the State Tax Bureau of the PRC, certain of the Company's subsidiaries are entitled to tax incentives for research and development expenses. From January 2021 to October 2022, and from November 2022 to December 2023, the PRC entities calculated the tax incentives using 175% and 200%, respectively, of tax-deductible research and development expenses.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Group's income tax expense of USD 0.1 million is due primarily to income tax expense for Connect US, which is treated for income tax purposes as a service provider for Connect HK and earns service fee income on a cost-plus basis.

The Group did not recognize deferred income tax assets for the cumulative tax losses and deductible temporary differences that amounted to approximately USD 208.1 million, USD 316.4 million and USD 366.8 million as of December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023, respectively, that can be carried forward against future taxable income. The balance of research and development tax credits for Connect US as of December 31, 2023 is USD 5.9 million, which can be carried forward against future tax liabilities.

As of December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023, the Group did not have any significant unrecognized uncertain tax positions.

12. Net Loss Per Share

Upon approval of shareholders of the Company on March 12, 2021, every 1.74 ordinary shares were consolidated into one ordinary share (the "Share Consolidation") (Note 20).

Basic net loss per share is calculated by dividing the net loss attributable to owners of the Company by the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding. Basic and diluted net losses per share reflecting the effect of the issuance of ordinary shares by the Company are presented as follows.

<i>(In thousands, except per share data)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Net loss attributable to owners of the Company	\$ (202,266)	\$ (118,091)	\$ (59,503)
Weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding	52,177	55,044	55,067
Basic and diluted net loss per share (USD)	\$ (3.88)	\$ (2.15)	\$ (1.08)

Options, preferred shares and Employee Share Purchase Plan ("ESPP") shares are considered potentially dilutive throughout the reporting period. However, since the Group had incurred losses for the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023, the potential dilutive shares have an anti-dilutive effect on net loss per share if they are converted to ordinary shares. Thus, diluted net loss per share is equivalent to the basic net loss per share.

13. Property, Plant and Equipment

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Laboratory equipment	Leasehold improvements	Office equipment, furniture and others	Assets under construction ⁱ	Total
As of January 1, 2021					
Cost	\$ 869	\$ 224	\$ 90	\$ 292	\$ 1,475
Accumulated depreciation	(224)	(124)	(64)	—	(412)
Net book value	\$ 645	\$ 100	\$ 26	\$ 292	\$ 1,063
Year ended December 31, 2021					
Opening net book value	\$ 645	\$ 100	\$ 26	\$ 292	\$ 1,063
Exchange difference	82	9	3	5	99
Additions	4,636	122	133	3,779	8,670
Transfers	—	378	—	(378)	—
Disposals	(34)	—	(5)	—	(39)
Depreciation	(304)	(126)	(56)	—	(486)
Closing net book value	\$ 5,025	\$ 483	\$ 101	\$ 3,698	\$ 9,307
As of December 31, 2021					
Cost	\$ 5,553	\$ 733	\$ 221	\$ 3,698	\$ 10,205
Accumulated depreciation	(528)	(250)	(120)	—	(898)
Net book value	\$ 5,025	\$ 483	\$ 101	\$ 3,698	\$ 9,307
Year ended December 31, 2022					
Opening net book value	\$ 5,025	\$ 483	\$ 101	\$ 3,698	\$ 9,307
Exchange difference	(414)	(36)	1	(412)	(861)
Additions	312	65	119	1,455	1,951
Transfers	43	—	—	(43)	—
Depreciation	(494)	(151)	(78)	—	(723)
Impairment loss ⁱ	—	—	—	(4,698)	(4,698)
Closing net book value	\$ 4,472	\$ 361	\$ 143	\$ —	\$ 4,976
As of December 31, 2022					
Cost	\$ 5,494	\$ 762	\$ 341	\$ —	\$ 6,597
Accumulated depreciation	(1,022)	(401)	(198)	—	(1,621)
Net book value	\$ 4,472	\$ 361	\$ 143	\$ —	\$ 4,976
Year ended December 31, 2023					
Opening net book value	\$ 4,472	\$ 361	\$ 143	\$ —	\$ 4,976
Exchange difference	(73)	(3)	—	—	(76)
Additions	83	—	—	—	83
Disposals	(1)	—	(1)	—	(2)
Depreciation	(494)	(131)	(82)	—	(707)
Closing net book value	\$ 3,987	\$ 227	\$ 60	\$ —	\$ 4,274
As of December 31, 2023					
Cost	\$ 5,503	\$ 759	\$ 340	\$ —	\$ 6,602
Accumulated depreciation	(1,516)	(532)	(280)	—	(2,328)
Net book value	\$ 3,987	\$ 227	\$ 60	\$ —	\$ 4,274

- (i) The Group terminated a plan to build a facility for research and development laboratory, manufacturing and office use in the Taicang High-Tech Industrial Development Zone and recognized net impairment losses on the construction in process of USD 4.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2022.

14. Other Non-Current Assets

	As of December 31,	
	2022	2023
<i>(In thousands)</i>		
Deductible value-added tax	\$ 159	\$ 108
Prepayments for purchase of non-current assets	59	—
Others	34	24
	<u>\$ 252</u>	<u>\$ 132</u>

15. Right-of-Use Assets and Leases

Amounts recognized in the consolidated balance sheets was as follows:

(a) Right-of-use assets

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Land use rights ⁱ	Office rent	Total
Net book amount as of January 1, 2021	\$ —	\$ 142	\$ 142
Additions	3,442	80	3,522
Depreciation	(46)	(95)	(141)
Exchange difference	53	4	57
Net book amount as of December 31, 2021	<u>3,449</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>3,580</u>
Additions	—	514	514
Depreciation	(66)	(233)	(299)
Exchange difference	(290)	(11)	(301)
Net book amount as of December 31, 2022	<u>3,093</u>	<u>401</u>	<u>3,494</u>
Additions	—	305	305
Depreciation	(22)	(250)	(272)
Government repurchase	(3,108)	—	(3,108)
Exchange difference	37	(3)	34
Net book amount as of December 31, 2023	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 453</u>	<u>\$ 453</u>
As of December 31, 2023			
Cost	—	1,193	1,193
Accumulated depreciation	—	(740)	(740)
Net Book value	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 453</u>	<u>\$ 453</u>

- (i) During the year ended December 31, 2021, the addition of land use rights was related to payments to acquire long-term interest in the usage of land in Taicang, Jiangsu Province, PRC as stated in the land use right certificate. The Company paid an aggregate of USD 3.4 million for the land use rights during 2021. During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Group terminated its construction project to build facilities on the land.

In April 2023, the Jiangsu Taicang HIDC, and Connect SZ entered into an agreement for the Jiangsu Taicang HIDC to repurchase from Connect SZ the land use rights at the original purchase price and to terminate the Land Use Agreement and the relevant provisions of the Investment Agreement. The cancellation registration of the land use rights was completed in April 2023 and the Company received the repurchase price of USD 3.1 million in September 2023.

(b) *Lease liabilities*

We lease a research, development and administration facility in Taicang, Jiangsu Province, PRC, which expires on April 30, 2026, and lease an executive and administration office in San Diego, California, which expires in April 2025. The following tables provide information regarding these leases.

<i>(In thousands)</i>	As of December 31,	
	2022	2023
Non-current	\$ 245	\$ 180
Current	186	285
	<u>\$ 431</u>	<u>\$ 465</u>

Amounts recognized in the consolidated statements of loss in addition to the right-of-use asset depreciation expense are as follows:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	For the year ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Interest expense	\$ 7	\$ 21	\$ 23
Expense relating to short-term leases (included in administrative expenses and research and development expenses)	2	—	—
Expense relating to leases of low-value assets that are not shown above as short-term leases (included in administrative expenses and research and development expenses)	9	—	—
	<u>\$ 18</u>	<u>\$ 21</u>	<u>\$ 23</u>

The total cash outflow for leases for the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023 was USD 0.1 million, USD 0.2 million and USD 0.3 million, respectively.

16. Financial Instruments by Category

Financial assets	Financial assets at FVOCI	Financial assets at amortized cost	Financial assets at FVTPL	Total financial assets
As of December 31, 2022				
<i>(In thousands)</i>				
Other receivables	\$ —	\$ 283	\$ —	\$ 283
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	82,847	—	—	82,847
Cash and cash equivalents	—	60,642	18,368	79,010
	<u>\$ 82,847</u>	<u>\$ 60,925</u>	<u>\$ 18,368</u>	<u>\$ 162,140</u>
Financial assets	Financial assets at FVOCI	Financial assets at amortized cost	Financial assets at FVTPL	Total financial assets
As of December 31, 2023				
<i>(In thousands)</i>				
Other receivables	\$ —	\$ 229	\$ —	\$ 229
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	12,646	—	—	12,646
Cash and cash equivalents	—	27,690	78,317	106,007
	<u>\$ 12,646</u>	<u>\$ 27,919</u>	<u>\$ 78,317</u>	<u>\$ 118,882</u>

Financial Liabilities	Financial liabilities at amortized cost	
As of December 31, 2022		
<i>(In thousands)</i>		
Other payables	\$	1,353
Trade payables		11,937
Lease liabilities		431
	\$	<u>13,721</u>

Financial Liabilities	Financial liabilities at amortized cost	
As of December 31, 2023		
<i>(In thousands)</i>		
Other payables	\$	1,083
Trade payables		7,660
Lease liabilities		465
	\$	<u>9,208</u>

17. Other Receivables and Prepayments

<i>(In thousands)</i>	As of December 31,	
	2022	2023
Prepayment for clinical trials and drug manufacturing services	\$ 2,710	\$ 1,732
Prepaid expenses	369	357
Deposits	51	51
Others	232	178
	<u>\$ 3,362</u>	<u>\$ 2,318</u>

18. Financial Assets at Fair Value

(a) Financial Assets at Fair Value Through Other Comprehensive Income

Financial assets at FVOCI comprise of investments in debt securities where the contractual cash flows are solely principal and interest and the objective of the Group's business model is achieved by collecting contractual cash flows and selling financial assets. Financial assets at FVOCI consist of investments in the following:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	December 31,	
	2022	2023
Non-current assets		
U.S. Treasury bills	\$ 1,686	\$ —
Listed bonds	7,754	—
	9,440	—
Current assets		
U.S. Treasury bills	38,983	1,750
Government agency bond	1,201	3,953
Listed bonds	7,571	—
Unlisted debt securities ⁱ	25,652	6,943
	\$ 73,407	\$ 12,646

(i) Unlisted debt securities comprise of investments in commercial paper of financial institutions.

On disposal of debt investments, any related balance within the FVOCI reserve is reclassified to other (losses)/gains within profit or loss. Maturities of debt investments recorded at FVOCI totaled USD 92.9 million during the year ended December 31, 2023.

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,	
	2022	2023
Interest income recognized in profit and loss related to debt investments	\$ 1,352	\$ 2,030
(Losses)/gains recognized in other comprehensive income related to debt investments	\$ (365)	\$ 354

Financial assets at FVOCI are reflected as Level 1 and 2 instruments, as short-term and long-term investments. As of December 31, 2023, the Group had USD 12.6 million of FVOCI short-term investments. The following amounts table presents changes in Level 1 and 2 instruments of short-term and long-term investments for debt investments at FVOCI:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,	
	2022	2023
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income		
Opening balance	\$ —	\$ 82,847
Additions	109,608	31,028
Settlements (including coupon interest received)	(27,748)	(103,613)
Accrued interest	482	327
Discount accreted	870	1,703
Change in fair value debited to other comprehensive income ⁱ	(365)	354
Exchange difference		—
Closing balance	\$ 82,847	\$ 12,646

- (i). Includes unrealized gains / (losses) recognized in other comprehensive income attributable to balances held at the end of the reporting period.

Information about the methods and assumptions used in determining fair value is provided in Note 3. Impairment on financial assets at FVOCI is measured based on expected losses and changes in credit risk and recognized into profit and loss when determined. As of December 31, 2023, no impairment has been recognized on debt investments at FVOCI. All of the financial assets at FVOCI are denominated in USD.

(b) *Financial Assets at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss*

Financial assets at FVTPL comprise of investments in wealth management products and investments in money market funds.

Investments in wealth management products are reflected as Level 3 instruments, as short-term investments. The following table presents the changes in Level 3 instruments of short-term investments in wealth management products:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,	
	2022	2023
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		
Opening balance	\$ —	\$ —
Additions	6,456	1,573
Settlements	(6,478)	(1,578)
Fair value gains recognized in profit or loss (Note 9)	22	5
Closing balance	\$ —	\$ —

The fair value of wealth management products is based on discounted cash flows using their expected returns. The returns on these wealth management products were not guaranteed, hence their contractual cash flows did not qualify solely as payments of principal and interest. Changes in fair value of these financial assets are recorded in other (losses)/gains – net in the consolidated statements of loss.

Investments in money market funds are reflected as Level 1 instruments, as cash equivalents. As of December 31, 2023, the Group had USD 78.3 million of money market investments included in cash equivalents. The following table presents the changes in Level 1 instruments of money market funds included in cash equivalents for the year ended December 31, 2023.

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,	
	2022	2023
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		
Opening balance	\$ —	\$ 18,368
Additions	97,526	103,613
Settlements (including coupon interest received, net of fees)	(79,406)	(46,167)
Investment income credited to profit or loss	248	2,503
Closing balance	\$ 18,368	\$ 78,317

The carrying amounts of the Group's other financial assets and liabilities, including cash, other receivables, trade payable and other payables, approximate their fair values.

19. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	As of December 31,	
	2022	2023
<i>(In thousands)</i>		
Cash at bank		
- USD deposits	\$ 50,739	\$ 10,767
- RMB deposits	9,169	15,614
- Australian Dollar deposit	734	1,309
Cash equivalents ⁱ	18,368	78,317
	<u>\$ 79,010</u>	<u>\$ 106,007</u>

- (i) Due to their high liquidity, investments in money market funds and short-term investments, with original maturities of 90 days or less and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value, are classified as cash equivalents. Accordingly, these cash equivalents are recorded at their fair value, with their changes in fair value reflected in profit or loss (see Note 18(b)).

Cash equivalents denominated in USD are held with banks in the U.S.

Cash at bank located in the PRC earns interest at floating rates based on daily bank deposit rates, while deposits in banks outside the PRC are placed in sweep accounts that earn annualized yields up to 4.2%.

Cash at banks denominated in RMB are deposited with banks in the PRC. The conversion of these RMB-denominated balances into foreign currencies and the remittance of funds out of China are subject to the rules and regulations of foreign exchange control promulgated by the PRC Government.

20. Share Capital

Upon approval of shareholders of the Company on March 12, 2021, every 1.74 ordinary shares with a par value of USD 0.0001 each in the authorized share capital of the Company (including all issued and unissued shares) were consolidated into one share with a par value of USD 0.000174 each. Therefore, the authorized share capital of the Company was changed from USD 50,000 to USD 76,560. The authorized share capital of the Company as of December 31, 2023 was USD 76,560.

	Number of Ordinary Shares	Share Capital	Share Premium	Total
<i>(In thousands, except share data)</i>				
As of January 1, 2021	19,653,791	\$ 3	\$ 6,012	\$ 6,015
Issuance of ordinary shares ⁱ	12,937,500	2	200,630	200,632
Conversion from preferred shares to ordinary shares (Note 25)	24,791,804	5	421,456	421,461
Repurchase of ordinary shares ⁱⁱ	(20,765)	—	—	—
Issuance of shares to Co-Founders ⁱⁱⁱ	121,080	—	218	218
Exercise of stock options	—	—	327	327
As of December 31, 2021	57,483,410	10	628,643	628,653
Issuance of ordinary shares ^v	25,468	—	18	18
Shares surrendered and cancelled ^{iv}	(60,540)	—	—	—
As of December 31, 2022	57,448,338	10	628,661	628,671
Issuance of ordinary shares ^v	60,207	—	44	44
Exercise of stock options	—	—	2	2
As of December 31, 2023	<u>57,508,545</u>	<u>\$ 10</u>	<u>\$ 628,707</u>	<u>\$ 628,717</u>

- (i) In March 2021, 12,937,500 ADSs (representing 12,937,500 ordinary shares, including the exercise of the option by the underwriters in full to purchase additional ADSs) were offered by the Company in connection with its

listing on Nasdaq, and the proceeds received were USD 219.9 million. The Company incurred issuance costs of USD 19.3 million in connection with this offering.

- (ii) In March 2021, at the request of one co-founder, the Company repurchased 20,765 ordinary shares from him for a consideration of USD 0.4 million for the payment of employee withholding taxes related to share-based awards, then such shares were cancelled accordingly.
- (iii) Pursuant to the Company's shareholder agreement in effect as of the completion of the Series C financing (see Note 23), each of the Company's founders was entitled to two or more votes to ensure the Co-Founders control the majority of the votes under certain circumstances.
- (iv) In May 2022, a related party surrendered 60,540 ordinary shares for no consideration. The surrendered shares were cancelled. In relation to the share surrender, the Company did not enter into any agreement or commitment for future consideration or compensation.
- (v) On November 1, 2022, the 25,468 shares were issued under the 2021 ESPP Plan. On May 1, 2023 and November 1, 2023, 30,312 and 29,895, respectively, shares were issued under the 2021 ESPP Plan.

21. Treasury Shares

Treasury shares were previously held by Connect Union for the purpose of issuing shares under 2019 Stock Incentive Plan in 2019 and 2020. All the Company's ordinary shares held by Connect Union were surrendered to the Company in September 2021. As of December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023, there were 2,407,091, 2,407,091 and 2,405,591 treasury shares, respectively.

22. Reserves

(a) Share-based compensation reserves

The share-based compensation reserves represent the fair value of unexercised options granted to employees recognized in accordance with the accounting policy adopted for equity-settled share-based payments described in Note 2.10 to the financial statements.

(b) Other reserves

Other reserves mainly represent the reserve transferred from share-based compensation reserve upon exercise of share options and foreign currency translation reserve described in Note 2.5(c).

(c) Statutory reserves

In accordance with the PRC regulations and the articles of association of the PRC companies now included in the Group, before annual profit distribution, companies registered in the PRC are required to set aside 10% of their net profit for the year after offsetting any prior year losses as determined under relevant PRC accounting standards to the statutory surplus reserve fund. When the balance of such reserve reaches 50% of the entity's registered capital, any further appropriation is optional. No profit appropriation to the reserve fund was made for those entities for the reporting periods as they were in accumulated loss positions.

Under PRC laws and regulations, there are restrictions on the Company's PRC subsidiaries with respect to transferring certain of their net assets to the Company either in the form of dividends, loans, or advances. Restricted net assets including paid-in capital and statutory reserve funds of the Company's PRC subsidiaries was USD 33.2 million as of December 31, 2022 and USD 14.2 million as of December 31, 2023.

23. Share-Based Compensation

2019 Stock Incentive Plan

The Group adopted the 2019 stock incentive plan ("2019 Plan") and obtained Board's approval on November 1, 2019, under which the Group may grant various awards such as options, restricted shares or restricted share units to employees, directors, and consultants for services rendered.

Pursuant to the plan, a grantee has the right to subscribe for the ordinary shares at a price determined by the Board. The options granted can only vest if the service conditions are met. Options granted under the plan are valid and effective for 10 years from the date of grant and vest over a service period which is generally four years; 25% of the granted options vest on the first anniversary of the grant date and the remaining options vest in equal monthly installments over next 36 months. Some options are vested in equal monthly installments or annual installments over the entire service period or vested immediately upon the grant date in instances where services had already been performed in their entirety.

The grant date of certain grantees occurred after the date they had begun rendering services to satisfy the condition attached to the share option award, the management estimated the grant date fair value in each reporting period for the purpose of recognizing the expense during the period between the service commencement date and the grant date. Once the grant date has been established, the recognized expense is based on the actual grant date fair value of the share option in the period of change.

Grantees who leave the Group other than for certain causes will lose their entitlement to the vested options if not exercised within three months of their termination date (or within three months after the IPO kick-off date for certain option holders).

2021 Stock Incentive Plan

The Group adopted 2021 Stock Incentive Plan (“2021 Plan”) effective on the day of effectiveness of its IPO. Awards granted under the 2021 Plan may be either stock options, stock appreciation rights (“SARs”), restricted stock units (“RSUs”), restricted stock awards (“RSA”) or dividend equivalent right (“DER”). The maximum aggregate number of ordinary shares which may be issued pursuant to all awards under the 2021 Plan is (1) 6,000,000 ordinary shares, plus (2) any ordinary shares that were, as of the effective date of the 2021 Plan, (i) available for issuance under the 2019 Plan or (ii) subject to outstanding awards under the 2019 Plan that become available for issuance under the 2021 Plan thereafter in accordance with its terms. The number of ordinary shares initially available for issuance will be increased on the first day of each of our fiscal years during the term of the 2021 Plan commencing with the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021, by an amount equal to the least of (i) 5.0% of the total number of ordinary shares issued and outstanding on the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal year; or (ii) such lesser number of shares as may be determined by the Company’s board of directors. Our board of directors determined that the increase under the 2021 Plan for the fiscal years beginning January 1, 2023 and 2024, to be 2.5% and 5.0%, respectively, of our outstanding shares as determined on December 31, 2022 and 2023, respectively. In no event will more than 60,000,000 shares be issuable upon the exercise of incentive share options (within the meaning of Section 422 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code) under the 2021 Plan.

Pursuant to the plan, a grantee has the right to subscribe for the ordinary shares at a price determined by the Board. The options granted can only vest if the service conditions are met. Options granted under the plan are valid and effective for 10 years from the date of grant and vest over a service period which is generally four years; 25% of the granted options vest on the first anniversary of the grant date and the remaining options vest in equal monthly installments over next 36 months.

Grantees who leave the Group other than for certain causes will lose their entitlement to the vested options if not exercised within three months of their termination date.

During the year ended December 31, 2021, the Company granted a total of 2,403,660 options which contain 897,660 options from the 2019 Plan and 1,506,000 options from the 2021 Plan. During the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023, the Company granted 2,986,547 and 2,324,087, respectively, options from the 2021 Plan.

As of December 31, 2023, the Group has reserved 5,278,658 shares available to grant under the 2021 Plan.

2021 Employee Share Purchase Plan

The Group adopted the 2021 Employee Share Purchase Plan (“2021 ESPP”) and began implementation in May 2022. A total of 600,000 ordinary shares were initially reserved for issuance under the 2021 ESPP Plan. On the first day of each calendar year beginning on January 1, 2022 and ending on and including January 1, 2031, the number of shares available for issuance under the 2021 ESPP Plan shall be increased by that number of shares equal to the lesser of 1.0% of the aggregate number of ordinary shares of the Group outstanding on the final day of the immediately preceding calendar year or such smaller number of shares as determined by the Groups board of directors. Our board of directors did not approve any increases to the number of shares available for 2021 ESPP issuances for the fiscal years beginning January 1, 2023 and 2024.

An offering was made under the 2021 ESPP starting May 1, 2022, for the Section 423 component of the plan with the following key provisions: eligible employees are granted rights to purchase ordinary shares, which can be funded through payroll deductions that cannot exceed 15% of each employee's compensation. The 2021 ESPP generally provides for a 24-month offering period, which includes four six-month purchase periods. At the end of each purchase period, eligible employees are permitted to purchase ordinary shares at 85% of the lower of fair market value at the beginning of the offering period or fair market value at the end of the purchase period. The first offering period began on May 1, 2022, followed by the next offering period every six months. During the year ended December 31, 2022, employees purchased 25,468 shares at a weighted average discounted price of \$0.74 and the Group recorded share-based compensation expense of USD 39 thousand with respect to the 2021 ESPP. During the year ended December 31, 2023, employees purchased 60,207 shares at a weighted average discounted price of \$0.73 and the Group recorded share-based compensation expense of USD 14 thousand with respect to the 2021 ESPP.

The options activities under 2019 and 2021 Plans (after the Share Consolidation) for the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023 were as follows:

	Number of options	Weighted average exercise price per share option
Options outstanding as of January 1, 2021	1,665,883	
Granted	2,403,660	\$ 13.76
Exercised	(163,773)	\$ 0.96
Forfeited ⁱ	(157,381)	\$ 14.76
Options outstanding as of December 31, 2021	<u>3,748,389</u>	
Granted	2,986,547	\$ 3.44
Forfeited ⁱ	(1,631,309)	\$ 9.61
Options outstanding as of December 31, 2022	<u>5,103,627</u>	
Granted	2,324,087	\$ 1.12
Exercised	(1,500)	\$ 0.75
Forfeited ⁱ	(878,593)	\$ 5.31
Options outstanding as of December 31, 2023	<u>6,547,621</u>	
Options exercisable as of December 31, 2023	<u>3,019,701</u>	

The weighted average remaining contractual life of options outstanding as of December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023 was 9.2, 8.7 and 8.2 years, respectively.

- (i) The options were forfeited when the employment terminated.

Fair value of options granted under stock incentive plans and shares under 2021 ESPP

Prior to the completion of the IPO, the Company determined its equity value which was estimated using the hybrid method and adopted the allocation model to determine the fair value of its underlying ordinary shares. After the completion of the IPO, the fair value of the share options is estimated based on the fair market value of the Company's underlying ordinary shares at the grant date.

Based on the fair value of underlying ordinary shares, the Group used the Binomial option-pricing model to determine the fair value of options as of the grant date. Separately, the Group used the Black-Scholes option-pricing model to determine the fair value of ESPP compensation expense calculation as of the grant date. As of December 31, 2023, the amounts

withheld from employees' paychecks totaled USD 14 thousand, which is recorded in Other payables and accruals within Current liabilities. Key assumptions for the options granted for the periods and ESPP compensation are set forth below:

	Stock Incentive Plan			ESPP	
	Year Ended December 31,			Year Ended December 31,	
	2021	2022	2023	2022	2023
Weighted average exercise price during the year	\$13.80	\$3.44	\$1.12	(i)	(ii)
Grant date share price	\$4.30~\$23.30	\$0.75~\$4.91	\$0.77~\$1.29	\$0.86~\$1.86	\$1.05
Risk-free interest rate	1.2%~1.7%	1.9%~3.4%	3.6%~4.4%	1.5%~4.8%	4.1%~5.1%
Expected volatility	60.5%~62.2%	61.4%~62.0%	59.3%~60.1%	51.1%~60.2%	47.0%~52.3%
Option life	10 years	10 years	10 years	0.5~2.0 years	0.5~2.0 years
Expected early exercise multiple	2.2	2.2~2.8	2.2~2.8	N/A	N/A
Dividend yield	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Forfeiture rate	3.0%-9.6%	3.0%-10.8%	*8.3%-12.3%	3.0%	3.0%-5.0%
Weighted average fair value granted during the year	\$10.60	\$1.98	\$0.64	\$0.71	\$0.40

* During the year ended December 31, 2023, the forfeiture rates for executives ranged from 8.3% to 12.3% and for all other employees ranged between 9.5% to 11.7%.

- (i) Discounted ESPP price for issued shares during the year ended December 31, 2022 was \$0.74.
- (ii) Discounted ESPP prices for issued shares during the year ended December 31, 2023 was \$0.73 and \$0.89.

The Group adopted the average volatility of the comparable companies as the proxy of the expected volatility of the underlying share. The volatility of each comparable company was based on the historical daily stock prices for a period with length commensurate to the remaining maturity life of the share options.

Share-based compensation to Co-Founders

Pursuant to the shareholders agreement entered into between the Company and its shareholders, the Company issued a total of 702,278 ordinary shares to its Co-Founders for the achievement of certain R&D milestones up to the completion of the IPO in March 2021. As part of the Share Consolidation during the IPO, these shares have become 403,606 ordinary shares.

Additionally, after the IPO and pursuant to the shareholders agreement, upon achievement of certain R&D milestones, the Company issued 210,682 ordinary shares to its Co-Founders for the year ended December 31, 2021. After the Share Consolidation, these shares have become 121,080 ordinary shares.

In March 2021, based on the anti-dilutive obligation of the Company to issue additional Series C preferred shares, the Company also issued additional 80,457 Series C preferred shares. After the Share Consolidation, these have become 46,232 preferred shares. Upon completion of the IPO, such preferred shares were converted to ordinary shares on a one-for-one basis.

The Group determined its equity value which was estimated using the hybrid method and adopted the allocation model to determine the fair value of this share-based payment as USD 0.9 per share before the Share Consolidation (USD 1.57 after the Share Consolidation) on the grant date. Key assumptions included risk-free interest rate of 2.5%, expected volatility of 60.0%, dividend yield of nil and were based on the management's best estimates.

Share-based compensation to additional Series C preferred shareholder

In conjunction with the additional 3,162,894 Series C preferred shares issued to the final Series C preferred shareholder in December 2020 for a cash consideration of USD 20.0 million, the Group recognized the difference between the cash consideration received from and the fair value of the Additional Series C Preferred Shares on the issuance date as a share-based compensation in the amount of approximately USD 3.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Share-based compensation expense classification

Share-based compensation expenses included in the consolidated statements of loss for the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023 is as follows:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Research and development expenses (Note 7)	\$ 4,120	\$ 3,073	\$ 1,437
Administrative expenses (Note 6(ii), Note 7)	4,866	3,834	1,822
	<u>\$ 8,986</u>	<u>\$ 6,907</u>	<u>\$ 3,259</u>

Upon completion of the IPO, all issued and outstanding Additional Series C Preferred Shares were converted to ordinary shares on a one-for-one basis (see Note 25).

24. Other Payables and Accruals

<i>(In thousands)</i>	As of December 31,	
	2022	2023
Construction payables	\$ 201	\$ 4
Payroll, welfare and bonus payables	2,148	1,916
Accrued professional service fee	816	645
Others	336	434
	<u>\$ 3,501</u>	<u>\$ 2,999</u>

25. Financial Instruments with Preferred Rights

The Group has completed a series of financings by issuing preferred shares with the following details:

Date of subscription	Round	Number of preferred shares	Subscription consideration
<i>(In thousands)</i>			
March 3, 2016	Series Pre-A	3,109	\$ 5,000
January 3, 2017	Series A	8,471	20,000
December 20, 2018	Series B	10,128	55,000
August 21, 2020/December 1, 2020	Series C	21,350	135,000
		<u>43,058</u>	<u>\$ 215,000</u>

After the Share Consolidation, the above number of preferred shares were changed to 24,745,572 and together with additional 46,232 preferred shares as disclosed in the Note 23, the Company's issued and outstanding preferred shares were 24,791,804 prior to March 19, 2021.

Movements of financial instruments with preferred rights during the year ended December 31, 2021 was as follows:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Fair value
As of January 1, 2021	\$ 317,473
Change in fair value recognized in profit or loss	103,983
Change in fair value due to foreign currency translation recognized in other comprehensive income	—
Converted to ordinary shares upon IPO	(421,456)
As of December 31, 2021	<u>\$ —</u>

The Group used the IPO price (USD 17) to determine the fair value of the financial instruments with preferred rights on March 19, 2021. Upon completion of the IPO in March 2021, such preferred shares were converted to ordinary share on a one-for-one basis.

26. Cash Flow Information

(a) Cash used in operations

(In thousands)	Notes	Year Ended December 31,		
		2021	2022	2023
Net loss before income tax		\$ (202,000)	\$ (117,793)	\$ (59,383)
Adjustments for:				
Interest for lease liabilities	10	7	21	23
Investment income from investments in wealth management products	18(b)	(68)	(22)	(5)
Interest income from investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	18(a)	—	(1,352)	(2,030)
Amortization of intangible assets		7	9	9
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	13	486	723	707
Depreciation of rights-of-use assets	15	141	299	272
Net impairment losses	13	—	4,698	—
Share-based compensation expenses	23	8,986	6,907	3,259
Net foreign exchange differences	9	516	(1,469)	(367)
Fair value changes of financial instruments with preferred rights	25	103,983	—	—
Loss on disposal of land use rights		—	—	100
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment		39	—	—
Changes in working capital				
Other receivables and prepayments		(2,306)	4,050	1,044
Other non-current assets		(1,358)	2,698	120
Other payables and accruals		(1,723)	487	(475)
Deferred government grants		—	—	(247)
Contract liabilities	5	—	—	13,320
Trade payables		8,966	(776)	(4,277)
Net cash used in operations		\$ (84,324)	\$ (101,520)	\$ (47,930)

Supplemental Cash Flow Information:

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Interest received	\$ 97	\$ 419	\$ 3,204
Income taxes paid	—	462	120

(b) *Non-cash investing and financing activities*

(In thousands)	Notes	Year Ended December 31,		
		2021	2022	2023
Construction payables		\$ 2,631	\$ 201	\$ 4
Fair value changes of financial instruments with preferred rights	25	103,983	—	—
		<u>\$ 106,614</u>	<u>\$ 201</u>	<u>\$ 4</u>

(c) *Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities*

(In thousands)	Financial instruments with preferred rights	Lease liability
At January 1, 2021	\$ 317,477	\$ 140
Cash flows	—	(126)
New leases	—	104
Interest expenses	—	7
Differences of foreign currency translation	(4)	—
Changes in fair value	103,983	—
Conversion to ordinary shares	(421,456)	—
At December 31, 2021	—	125
Cash flows	—	(222)
New leases	—	507
Interest expenses	—	21
Conversion to ordinary shares	—	—
At December 31, 2022	—	431
Cash flows	—	(290)
New leases	—	301
Interest expenses	—	23
At December 31, 2023	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 465</u>

27. Commitments

Capital commitments

During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Group terminated a plan to build a facility for research and development laboratory, manufacturing and office use in the Taicang High-Tech Industrial Development Zone and recognized net impairment losses on the construction in process of USD 4.7 million (see Note 12). As of December 31, 2022 and 2023, respectively, we have no capital commitments.

28. Related Party Transactions

Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability, directly or indirectly, to control or exercise significant influence over the other party. Parties are also considered to be related if they are subject to common control. Members of key management of the Group and their close family members are also considered as related parties.

Names of related parties	Nature of relationship
Hangzhou Simo Company Limited	Entity controlled by a former director of the Company
Frontage Laboratories (Suzhou) Company Limited	Entity controlled by a former director of the Company
Shanghai Tigermed Consulting Company Limited	Entity controlled by a former director of the Company
Hangzhou Tigermed Consulting Company Limited	Entity controlled by a former director of the Company
Beijing Medical Development (Suzhou) Company Limited	Entity controlled by a former director of the Company

As the former director Xiaoping Ye resigned on February 2, 2021, the above companies were no longer considered as related parties for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023.

In addition to other related party transactions and balances disclosed elsewhere in this financial information, the following is a summary of significant transactions and balances with related parties during the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and at December 31, 2022 and 2023.

(a) *Interests in subsidiaries of the Company are set out in Note 1.1.*

(b) *Significant transactions with related parties*

The Group had no transactions with related parties for the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 or 2023.

(c) *Balances with related parties*

The Group had no balances with related parties at December 31, 2022 or 2023.

(d) *Key management personnel compensation*

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Wages, salaries and bonuses	\$ 2,872	\$ 2,621	\$ 2,262
Share-based compensation expenses	4,486	2,627	1,410
Welfare, housing funds and other	49	70	57
	<u>\$ 7,407</u>	<u>\$ 5,318</u>	<u>\$ 3,729</u>

The Group accrued USD 0.5 million and USD 0.6 million, as of December 31, 2022 and 2023, respectively, in Other payables and accruals for the annual bonus earned in those years.

(e) *Shares repurchase from key management personnel*

In March 2021, the Group repurchased 20,765 ordinary shares from one of the co-founders (see Note 20).

(f) *Share surrender from key management personnel*

In May 2022, a related party surrendered 60,540 ordinary shares for no consideration. The surrendered shares were cancelled. In relation to the share surrender, the Group did not enter into any agreement or commitment for future consideration or compensation (see Note 20).

29. Events After the Reporting Period

In addition to those disclosed elsewhere in these financial statements, the following events occurring after the reporting periods are noted.

From January to April 1, 2024, the Group granted 1,419,667 ordinary share options to its employees and directors with service based vesting conditions and weighted average exercise price of USD 1.18.

Under the License Agreement with Simcere, the Group received the remainder of the upfront fee of 50 million RMB, less VAT of 2.8 million RMB (approximately USD 6.7 million) in the first quarter of 2024 (see Note 5).

30. Restricted net Assets and Parent Company only Condensed Financial Information

The Company's ability to pay dividends is primarily dependent on the Company receiving distributions of funds from its subsidiaries. Relevant PRC statutory laws and regulations permit payments of dividends by the Company's subsidiaries in the PRC only out of their retained earnings, if any, as determined in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations.

In accordance with the PRC laws and regulations, statutory reserve funds shall be made and can only be used for specific purposes and are not distributable as cash dividends. As a result of these PRC laws and regulations that require annual appropriation of 10% of net after-tax profits to be set aside prior to payment of dividends as statutory surplus fund, unless such reserve fund reaches 50% of the entity's registered capital, the Group's PRC subsidiaries are restricted in their ability to transfer a portion of their net assets to the Company.

The Company performs a test on the restricted net assets of its consolidated subsidiaries (the "Restricted Net Assets") in accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-X Section 4-08 (e) (3) "General Notes to Financial Statements" and concluded that the condensed financial information for the parent company is required to be presented as of December 31, 2022 and 2023 and for the years ended December 31, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Furthermore, cash transfers from the Company's PRC subsidiaries to their parent companies outside of China are subject to PRC government control of currency conversion. Shortages in the availability of foreign currency may restrict the ability of the PRC subsidiaries and consolidated affiliated entities to remit sufficient foreign currency to pay dividends or other payments to the Company, or otherwise satisfy their foreign currency denominated obligations.

(a) Condensed balance sheets

<i>(In thousands)</i>	As of December 31,	
	2022	2023
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Interest in a subsidiary	\$ 287,878	\$ 330,947
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	9,440	—
Total non-current assets	297,318	330,947
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	47,972	79,597
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	73,407	12,646
Other receivables	12,951	12,997
Other current assets	369	356
Total current assets	134,699	105,596
Total assets	\$ 432,017	\$ 436,543
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Deferred income	\$ —	\$ 250
Total non-current liabilities	—	250
Current liabilities		
Trade payables	—	—
Other payables and accruals	7,330	8,453
Total current liabilities	7,330	8,453
Total liabilities	7,330	8,703
Net assets	424,687	427,840
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Share capital	10	10
Share premium	628,661	628,707
Treasury shares	(180)	(180)
Share-based compensation reserves	16,473	19,731
Other reserves	(4,271)	(3,917)
Accumulated losses	(216,006)	(216,511)
Total shareholders' equity	\$ 424,687	\$ 427,840

(b) Condensed statements of loss

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Administrative expenses	\$ (6,790)	\$ (6,035)	\$ (5,112)
Other gain - net	—	248	2,503
Operating loss	(6,790)	(5,787)	(2,609)
Finance (costs)/income - net	—	1,352	2,104
Fair value loss of financial instruments with preferred rights	(103,983)	—	—
Net loss before income tax	(110,773)	(4,435)	(505)
Income tax expense	—	—	—
Net loss for the year	\$ (110,773)	\$ (4,435)	\$ (505)

(c) Condensed statements of cash flows

<i>(In thousands)</i>	Year Ended December 31,		
	2021	2022	2023
Net cash used in operating activities	\$ (4,352)	\$ (3,437)	\$ (876)
Net cash (used in)/from investing activities	(104,000)	(178,432)	32,501
Net cash generated from financing activities	202,346	119	—
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	93,994	(181,750)	31,625
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of year	135,728	229,722	47,972
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	—	—	—
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 229,722	\$ 47,972	\$ 79,597

31. Summary of Other Potentially Material Accounting Policies

This note provides a list of other potentially material accounting policies adopted in the presentation of these consolidated financial statements to the extent they have not already been disclosed in the other notes above. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

31.1 Separate financial statements

Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost less impairment. Cost includes direct attributable costs of investment. The results of subsidiaries are accounted for by the Company on the basis of dividends received and receivable.

Impairment testing of the investments in subsidiaries is required upon receiving a dividend from these investments if the dividend exceeds the total comprehensive income of the subsidiary in the period the dividend is declared or if the carrying amount of the investment in the separate financial statements exceeds the carrying amount in the consolidated financial statements of the investee's net assets.

31.2 Share capital

Ordinary shares are classified as equity. Incremental costs directly attributable to the issue of new shares or options are shown in equity as a deduction, net of tax, from the proceeds.

Where any Group company purchases the Company's equity instruments, for example as the result of a share buy-back or a share-based payment plan, the consideration paid, including any directly attributable incremental costs (net of income taxes), is deducted from equity attributable to the owners of the Group as treasury shares until the shares are cancelled or reissued. Where such ordinary shares are subsequently reissued, any consideration received, net of any directly attributable incremental transaction costs and the related income tax effects, is included in equity attributable to the owners of the Group.

Shares previously held by Connect Union, which was established for the purpose of holding shares for the share incentive plans, are disclosed as treasury shares.

31.3 Current and deferred income tax

The income tax expense or credit for the period is the tax payable on the taxable income of current period based on the applicable income tax rate for each jurisdiction adjusted by changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences and to unused tax losses.

Current and deferred tax is recognized in profit or loss, except to the extent that it relates to items recognized in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case, the tax is also recognized in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, respectively.

(a) Current income tax

The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of the tax laws enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period in the countries where the Company and its subsidiaries operate and generate taxable income. Management periodically evaluates positions taken in tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulation is subject to interpretation and considers whether it is probable that a taxation authority will accept an uncertain tax treatment. The Group measures its tax balances either based on the most likely amount or the expected value, depending on which method provides a better prediction of the resolution of the uncertainty.

Current tax assets and tax liabilities are offset where the entity has a legally enforceable right to offset and intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

(b) Deferred income tax

Deferred income tax is provided in full, using the liability method, on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements. However, deferred tax liabilities are not recognized if they arise from the initial recognition of goodwill. Deferred income tax is also not accounted for if it arises from initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction other than a business combination that at the time of the transaction affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss and does not give rise to equal taxable and deductible temporary differences. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realized or the deferred income tax liability is settled.

Deferred tax assets are recognized only if it is probable that future taxable amounts will be available to utilize those temporary differences and losses.

Deferred tax liabilities and assets are not recognized for temporary differences between the carrying amount and tax bases of investments in foreign operations where the Group is able to control the timing of the reversal of the temporary differences and it is probable that the differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset when there is a legally enforceable right to offset current tax assets and liabilities and when the deferred tax balances relate to the same taxation authority.

Investment allowances and similar tax incentives

Companies within the Group may be entitled to claim special tax deductions for investments in qualifying assets or in relation to qualifying expenditure (e.g., the research and development tax incentive or other investment allowances). The Group accounts for such allowances as tax credits, which means that the allowance reduces income tax payable and current tax expense. Tax credits that are unused are recognized as deferred tax assets to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the unused tax credit can be utilized.

31.4 Employee benefits

(a) Short-term obligations

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits and accumulating sick leave that are expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service are recognized in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liabilities are presented as current employee benefit obligations in other payables and accruals in the balance sheet.

(b) Defined contribution plans

For defined contribution plans, including those under Section 401(k) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, the Group pays contributions to publicly administered pension insurance plans on a mandatory, contractual or voluntary basis. The Group has no further payment obligations once the contributions have been paid. The contributions are

recognized as employee benefit expense when they are due. Prepaid contributions are recognized as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

The subsidiaries of the Group incorporated in the PRC contribute based on a certain percentage of the salaries of their employees to a defined contribution retirement benefit plan organized by relevant government authorities in the PRC on a monthly basis. The government authorities undertake to assume the retirement benefit obligations payable to all existing and further retired employees under these plans and the Group has no further obligation for post-retirement benefits beyond the contributions made. Contributions to these plans are expensed as incurred. Assets of the plans are held and managed by government authorities and are separate from those of the Group.

(c) *Housing funds and medical insurance*

The PRC employees of the Group are entitled to participate in various government-supervised housing funds and medical insurance. The Group contributes on a monthly basis to these funds based on a certain percentage of the salaries of the employees, subject to certain ceilings. The Group's liability in respect of these funds is limited to the contribution payable in each period and recognized as employee benefit expense when they are due.

31.5 Right-of-use Assets and Leases

Right-of-use assets comprise of land use rights and office leases.

All land in the PRC is owned by the mainland PRC government. The PRC government may sell land use rights for a specified period of time. The purchase price of land use rights represents lease prepayments to the PRC government and is recorded as right-of-use assets on the balance sheet. The right-of-use assets are amortized over the remaining lease term. In 2021, the Group acquired a land use right in Taicang, Suzhou, China from the PRC government. Subsequently in 2023, the Group terminated its construction project and sold the land use rights back to the PRC government.

The Group leases offices and the rental contracts are typically made for fixed periods of approximately 2 to 4 years. Contracts may contain both lease and non-lease components. The Group allocates the consideration in the contract to the lease and non-lease components based on their relative stand-alone prices. However, for leases of real estate for which the Group is a lessee, it has elected not to separate lease and non-lease components and instead accounts for these as a single lease component.

Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis. The lease agreements do not impose any covenants other than the security interests in the leased assets that are held by the lessor. Leased assets may not be used as security for borrowing purposes.

Assets and liabilities arising from a lease are initially measured on a present value basis. Lease liabilities include the net present value of the following lease payments:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments), less any lease incentives receivable;
- variable lease payment that are based on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as of the commencement date;
- amounts expected to be payable by the Group under residual value guarantees;
- the exercise price of a purchase option if the Group is reasonably certain to exercise that option; and
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the Group exercising that option.

Lease payments to be made under reasonably certain extension options are also included in the measurement of the liability.

The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, which is generally the case for leases in the Group, the lessee's incremental borrowing rate is used, being the rate that the individual lessee would have to pay to borrow the funds necessary to obtain an asset of similar value to the right-of-use asset in a similar economic environment with similar terms, security and conditions.

Lease payments are allocated between principal and finance cost. The finance cost is charged to profit or loss over the lease period so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period.

Right-of-use assets are measured at cost comprising the following:

- the amount of the initial measurement of lease liability;
- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received;
- any initial direct costs; and
- restoration costs.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term on a straight-line basis. If the Group is reasonably certain to exercise a purchase option, the right-of-use asset is depreciated over the underlying asset's useful life.

Payments associated with short-term leases and all leases of low-value assets are recognized on a straight-line basis as an expense in profit or loss. Short-term leases are leases with a lease term of 12 months or less without a purchase option.

31.6 Segment information

Identification of segments is based on internal reporting to the chief operating decision maker ("CODM"). The CODM for the Group are the Co-Founders of the Group. The Group does not divide its operations into different segments and the CODM operates and manages the Group's entire operations as one segment, which is consistent with the Group's internal organization and reporting system. The Group does not have any revenue and substantially all non-current assets outside of the country of domicile are located in the PRC.

31.7 Net loss per share

(a) Basic net loss per share

Basic loss per share is calculated by dividing:

- the loss attributable to owners of the Group, excluding any costs of servicing equity other than ordinary shares;
- by the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the financial year and excluding treasury shares

(b) Diluted net loss per share

Diluted loss per share adjusts the figures used in the determination of basic loss per share to take into account:

- the after income tax effect of interest and other financing costs associated with dilutive potential ordinary shares, and
- the weighted average number of additional ordinary shares that would have been outstanding assuming the conversion of all dilutive potential ordinary shares.

Non-Employee Director Compensation Program

CONNECT BIOPHARMA HOLDINGS LIMITED NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Eligible Directors (as defined below) on the board of directors (the “*Board*”) of Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited (the “*Company*”) shall be eligible to receive cash and equity compensation as set forth in this Non-Employee Director Compensation Program (this “*Program*”). The cash and equity compensation described in this Program shall be paid or be made, as applicable, automatically as set forth herein and without further action of the Board, to each member of the Board who is not an employee of the Company or any of its parents or subsidiaries and who is determined by the Board to be eligible to receive compensation under this Program (each, an “*Eligible Director*”), unless such Eligible Director declines the receipt of such cash or equity compensation by written notice to the Company. Notwithstanding the foregoing, unless otherwise determined by the Board, any member of the Board who is representing, designated by or affiliated with an investor or a group of investors that owns beneficially 5% or more of outstanding ordinary shares of the Company shall not be an Eligible Director for purposes of this Program.

This Program shall become effective January 1, 2022 (the “*Effective Date*”), amended as of January 30, 2024, and shall remain in effect until it is further revised or rescinded by further action of the Board. This Program may be amended, modified or terminated by the Board at any time in its sole discretion. No Eligible Director shall have any rights hereunder, except with respect to equity awards granted pursuant to Section 2 of this Program.

1. Cash Compensation.

- a. Annual Retainers. Each Eligible Director shall be eligible to receive an annual cash retainer of \$35,000 for service on the Board each calendar year beginning with calendar year 2022, and of \$40,000 for service on the Board each calendar year beginning with calendar year 2024.
- b. Additional Annual Retainers. An Eligible Director shall be eligible to receive the following additional annual retainers, as applicable:
 - (i) Lead Independent Director. An Eligible Director serving as Lead Independent Director of the Board shall be eligible to receive an additional annual retainer of \$17,500 for such service.
 - (ii) Audit Committee. An Eligible Director serving as Chairperson of the Audit Committee shall be eligible to receive an additional annual retainer of \$15,000 for such service. An Eligible Director serving as a member of the Audit Committee (other than the Chairperson) shall be eligible to receive an additional annual retainer of \$7,500 for such service.
 - (iii) Compensation Committee. An Eligible Director serving as Chairperson of the Compensation Committee shall be eligible to receive an additional annual retainer of

\$10,000 for such service. An Eligible Director serving as a member of the Compensation Committee (other than the Chairperson) shall be eligible to receive an additional annual retainer of \$7,500 for such service.

(iv) Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. An Eligible Director serving as Chairperson of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee shall be eligible to receive an additional annual retainer of \$10,000 for such service. An Eligible Director serving as a member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (other than the Chairperson) shall be eligible to receive an additional annual retainer of \$7,500 for such service.

c. Payment of Retainers. The annual cash retainers described in Sections 1(a) and 1(b) shall be earned on a quarterly basis based on a calendar quarter and shall be paid by the Company in arrears not later than 30 days following the end of each calendar quarter. In the event an Eligible Director does not serve as a director, or in the applicable positions described in Section 1(b), for an entire calendar quarter, the retainer paid to such Eligible Director shall be prorated for the portion of such calendar quarter actually served as a director, or in such position, as applicable.

2. Equity Compensation.

a. General. Eligible Directors shall be granted the equity awards described below. The awards described below shall be granted under and shall be subject to the terms and provisions of the Company's 2021 Stock Incentive Plan or any other applicable Company equity incentive plan then-maintained by the Company (such plan, as may be amended from time to time, the "**Equity Plan**") and may be granted subject to the execution and delivery of award agreements, including attached exhibits, in substantially the forms approved by the Board prior to or in connection with such grants. All applicable terms of the Equity Plan apply to this Program as if fully set forth herein, and all grants of equity awards hereby are subject in all respects to the terms of the Equity Plan. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Equity Plan.

b. Initial Awards. Each Eligible Director who is initially elected or appointed to serve on the Board after the Effective Date shall be granted such equity awards as determined by the Board at the time of such initial election or appointment.

c. Annual Awards. An Eligible Director who is serving on the Board as of the first trading day of March each calendar year beginning with calendar year 2022 shall be automatically granted on such date a stock option to purchase 21,269 ordinary shares of the Company (an "**Annual Award**"), and such Annual Awards shall be 26,450 ordinary shares of the Company beginning with calendar year 2024. Each Annual Award shall vest in full on the one-year anniversary of the applicable grant date, subject to continued service through the applicable vesting date. In addition, each Annual Award shall vest upon a Change in Control (as defined in the Equity Plan).

d. Annual Award for Lead Independent Director. An Eligible Director who is serving as Lead Independent Director of the Board as of the first trading day of March each calendar

year beginning with calendar year 2022 shall be automatically granted on such date an additional stock option to purchase 7,090 ordinary shares of the Company (a “**Lead Independent Director Annual Award**”). Each Lead Independent Director Annual Award shall vest in full on the one-year anniversary of the applicable grant date, subject to continued service through the applicable vesting date. In addition, each Lead Independent Director Annual Award shall vest upon a Change in Control (as defined in the Equity Plan).

e. Terms of Awards Granted to Eligible Directors.

(i) Purchase Price. The per share exercise price of each stock option granted to an Eligible Director shall equal the Fair Market Value (as defined in the Equity Plan) of an ordinary share on the date the option is granted.

(ii) Term. The term of each stock option granted to an Eligible Director shall be ten years from the date the option is granted.

3. Compensation Limits. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Program, all compensation payable under this Program will be subject to any limits on the maximum amount of non-employee Director compensation set forth in the Equity Plan, as in effect from time to time.

List of Principal Subsidiaries of the Registrant

<u>Wholly Owned Subsidiary</u>	<u>Jurisdiction of Incorporation</u>
Connect Biopharma HongKong Limited	Hong Kong
Connect Biopharm LLC	United States
Connect Biopharma Australia PTY LTD	Australia
Suzhou Connect Biopharma Co., Ltd.	People's Republic of China
Connect Biopharma (Beijing), Ltd	People's Republic of China
Connect Biopharma (Shanghai), Ltd	People's Republic of China
Connect Biopharma (Shenzhen), Ltd	People's Republic of China

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER
PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Zheng Wei, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 20-F of Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited (the "Company");
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The Company's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the Company and have:
 - a. Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the Company, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b. Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c. Evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d. Disclosed in this report any change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by the annual report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The Company's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the Company's auditors and the audit committee of the Company's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a. All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Company's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b. Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: April 16, 2024

/s/ Zheng Wei

Zheng Wei

Chief Executive Officer and Director

(Principal Executive Officer)

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL OFFICER
PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Steven Chan, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 20-F of Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited (the "Company");
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The Company's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the Company and have:
 - a. Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the Company, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b. Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c. Evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d. Disclosed in this report any change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by the annual report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The Company's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the Company's auditors and the audit committee of the Company's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a. All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Company's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b. Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: April 16, 2024

/s/ Steven Chan

Steven Chan
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the annual report of Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited (the "Company") on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2023, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Zheng Wei, Chief Executive Officer and Director of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to my knowledge:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: April 16, 2024

/s/ Zheng Wei

Zheng Wei

Chief Executive Officer and Director
(Principal Executive Officer)

The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 and is not being filed as part of the Report and is not to be incorporated by reference into any filing of the Company, whether made before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing. A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the annual report of Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited (the "Company") on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2023, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Steven Chan, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to my knowledge:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: April 16, 2024

/s/ Steven Chan

Steven Chan
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 and is not being filed as part of the Report and is not to be incorporated by reference into any filing of the Company, whether made before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing. A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements on Form S-8 (No. 333-266006, No. 333-254524) and Form F-3 (No. 333-264340) of Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited of our report dated April 16, 2024 relating to the financial statements, which appears in this Form 20-F.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers Zhong Tian LLP
Beijing, the People's Republic of China
April 16, 2024

CONNECT BIOPHARMA HOLDINGS LIMITED

POLICY FOR RECOVERY OF ERRONEOUSLY AWARDED COMPENSATION

Connect Biopharma Holdings Limited (the “*Company*”) has adopted this Policy for Recovery of Erroneously Awarded Compensation (the “*Policy*”), effective as of October 2, 2023¹ (the “*Effective Date*”). Capitalized terms used in this Policy but not otherwise defined herein are defined in Section 11.

1. **Persons Subject to Policy**

This Policy shall apply to current and former Officers of the Company.

2. **Compensation Subject to Policy**

This Policy shall apply to Incentive-Based Compensation received on or after the Effective Date. For purposes of this Policy, the date on which Incentive-Based Compensation is “received” shall be determined under the Applicable Rules, which generally provide that Incentive-Based Compensation is “received” in the Company’s fiscal period during which the relevant Financial Reporting Measure is attained or satisfied, without regard to whether the grant, vesting or payment of the Incentive-Based Compensation occurs after the end of that period.

3. **Recovery of Compensation**

In the event that the Company is required to prepare a Restatement, the Company shall recover, reasonably promptly, the portion of any Incentive-Based Compensation that is Erroneously Awarded Compensation, unless the Committee has determined that recovery would be Impracticable. Recovery shall be required in accordance with the preceding sentence regardless of whether the applicable Officer engaged in misconduct or otherwise caused or contributed to the requirement for the Restatement and regardless of whether or when restated financial statements are filed by the Company. For clarity, the recovery of Erroneously Awarded Compensation under this Policy will not give rise to any person’s right to voluntarily terminate employment for “good reason,” or due to a “constructive termination” (or any similar term of like effect) under any plan, program or policy of or agreement with the Company or any of its affiliates.

4. **Manner of Recovery; Limitation on Duplicative Recovery**

The Committee shall, in its sole discretion, determine the manner of recovery of any Erroneously Awarded Compensation, which may include, without limitation, reduction or cancellation by the Company or an affiliate of the Company of Incentive-Based Compensation or Erroneously Awarded Compensation, reimbursement or repayment by any person subject to this

¹ Note: “Effective Date” will be the effective date of NASDAQ’s listing rules.

Policy of the Erroneously Awarded Compensation, and, to the extent permitted by law, an offset of the Erroneously Awarded Compensation against other compensation payable by the Company or an affiliate of the Company to such person. Notwithstanding the foregoing, unless otherwise prohibited by the Applicable Rules, to the extent this Policy provides for recovery of Erroneously Awarded Compensation already recovered by the Company pursuant to Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 or Other Recovery Arrangements, the amount of Erroneously Awarded Compensation already recovered by the Company from the recipient of such Erroneously Awarded Compensation may be credited to the amount of Erroneously Awarded Compensation required to be recovered pursuant to this Policy from such person.

5. Administration

This Policy shall be administered, interpreted and construed by the Committee, which is authorized to make all determinations necessary, appropriate or advisable for such purpose. The Board of Directors of the Company (the “**Board**”) may re-vest in itself the authority to administer, interpret and construe this Policy in accordance with applicable law, and in such event references herein to the “Committee” shall be deemed to be references to the Board. Subject to any permitted review by the applicable national securities exchange or association pursuant to the Applicable Rules, all determinations and decisions made by the Committee pursuant to the provisions of this Policy shall be final, conclusive and binding on all persons, including the Company and its affiliates, equityholders and employees. The Committee may delegate administrative duties with respect to this Policy to one or more directors or employees of the Company, as permitted under applicable law, including any Applicable Rules.

6. Interpretation

This Policy will be interpreted and applied in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the Applicable Rules, and to the extent this Policy is inconsistent with such Applicable Rules, it shall be deemed amended to the minimum extent necessary to ensure compliance therewith.

7. No Indemnification; No Liability

The Company shall not indemnify or insure any person against the loss of any Erroneously Awarded Compensation pursuant to this Policy, nor shall the Company directly or indirectly pay or reimburse any person for any premiums for third-party insurance policies that such person may elect to purchase to fund such person’s potential obligations under this Policy. None of the Company, an affiliate of the Company or any member of the Committee or the Board shall have any liability to any person as a result of actions taken under this Policy.

8. Application; Enforceability

Except as otherwise determined by the Committee or the Board, the adoption of this Policy does not limit, and is intended to apply in addition to, any other clawback, recoupment, forfeiture or similar policies or provisions of the Company or its affiliates, including any such policies or provisions of such effect contained in any employment agreement, bonus plan, incentive plan, equity-based plan or award agreement thereunder or similar plan, program or agreement of the Company or an affiliate or required under applicable law (the “*Other Recovery Arrangements*”). The remedy specified in this Policy shall not be exclusive and shall be in addition to every other right or remedy at law or in equity that may be available to the Company or an affiliate of the Company.

9. Severability

The provisions in this Policy are intended to be applied to the fullest extent of the law; provided, however, to the extent that any provision of this Policy is found to be unenforceable or invalid under any applicable law, such provision will be applied to the maximum extent permitted, and shall automatically be deemed amended in a manner consistent with its objectives to the extent necessary to conform to any limitations required under applicable law.

10. Amendment and Termination

The Board or the Committee may amend, modify or terminate this Policy in whole or in part at any time and from time to time in its sole discretion. This Policy will terminate automatically when the Company does not have a class of securities listed on a national securities exchange or association.

11. Definitions

“*Applicable Rules*” means Section 10D of the Exchange Act, Rule 10D-1 promulgated thereunder, the listing rules of the national securities exchange or association on which the Company’s securities are listed, and any applicable rules, standards or other guidance adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission or any national securities exchange or association on which the Company’s securities are listed.

“*Committee*” means the committee of the Board responsible for executive compensation decisions comprised solely of independent directors (as determined under the Applicable Rules), or in the absence of such a committee, a majority of the independent directors serving on the Board.

“*Erroneously Awarded Compensation*” means the amount of Incentive-Based Compensation received by a current or former Officer that exceeds the amount of Incentive-Based Compensation that would have been received by such current or former Officer based on a restated Financial Reporting Measure, as determined on a pre-tax basis in accordance with the Applicable Rules. For Incentive-Based Compensation based on share price or total equityholder

return, where the amount erroneously awarded is not subject to mathematical recalculation directly from the information in a Restatement: (a) the amount must be based on a reasonable estimate of the effect of the Restatement on the share price or total equityholder return upon which the Incentive-Based Compensation was received, and (b) the Company must maintain documentation of the determination of that reasonable estimate and provide such documentation to the relevant listing exchange or association.

“**Exchange Act**” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

“**Financial Reporting Measure**” means any measure determined and presented in accordance with the accounting principles used in preparing the Company’s financial statements, and any measures derived wholly or in part from such measures, including GAAP, IFRS and non-GAAP/IFRS financial measures, as well as share price and total equityholder return.

“**GAAP**” means United States generally accepted accounting principles.

“**IFRS**” means international financial reporting standards as adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board.

“**Impracticable**” means (a) the direct costs paid to third parties to assist in enforcing recovery would exceed the Erroneously Awarded Compensation; provided that the Company has (i) made reasonable attempt(s) to recover the Erroneously Awarded Compensation, (ii) documented such attempt(s), and (iii) provided such documentation to the relevant listing exchange or association, (b) to the extent permitted by the Applicable Rules, the recovery would violate the Company’s home country laws pursuant to an opinion of home country counsel; provided that the Company has (i) obtained an opinion of home country counsel, acceptable to the relevant listing exchange or association, that recovery would result in such violation, and (ii) provided such opinion to the relevant listing exchange or association, or (c) recovery would likely cause an otherwise tax-qualified retirement plan, under which benefits are broadly available to employees of the Company, to fail to meet the requirements of 26 U.S.C. 401(a)(13) or 26 U.S.C. 411(a) and the regulations thereunder.

“**Incentive-Based Compensation**” means, with respect to a Restatement, any compensation that is granted, earned, or vested based wholly or in part upon the attainment of one or more Financial Reporting Measures and received by a person: (a) after such person began service as an Officer; (b) who served as an Officer at any time during the performance period for that compensation; (c) while the Company has a class of its securities listed on a national securities exchange or association; and (d) during the applicable Three-Year Period.

“**Officer**” means each person who the Company determines serves as an executive officer of the Company, as defined in Rule 10D-1(d) under the Exchange Act.

“**Restatement**” means an accounting restatement to correct the Company’s material noncompliance with any financial reporting requirement under securities laws, including restatements that correct an error in previously issued financial statements (a) that is material to the previously issued financial statements or (b) that would result in a material misstatement if the error were corrected in the current period or left uncorrected in the current period.

“**Three-Year Period**” means, with respect to a Restatement, the three completed fiscal years immediately preceding the date that the Board, a committee of the Board, or the officer or officers of the Company authorized to take such action if Board action is not required, concludes, or reasonably should have concluded, that the Company is required to prepare such Restatement, or, if earlier, the date on which a court, regulator or other legally authorized body directs the Company to prepare such Restatement. The “Three-Year Period” also includes any transition period (that results from a change in the Company’s fiscal year) within or immediately following the three completed fiscal years identified in the preceding sentence. However, a transition period between the last day of the Company’s previous fiscal year end and the first day of its new fiscal year that comprises a period of nine to 12 months shall be deemed a completed fiscal year.