

STEMCELLS INC
Form PRE 14A
May 16, 2008

Table of Contents

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
SCHEDULE 14A**

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

STEMCELLS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

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

2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

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

4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

1) Amount Previously Paid:

2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

3) Filing Party:

4) Date Filed:

SEC 1913 (02-02) **Persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

Table of Contents

**STEMCELLS, INC.
3155 Porter Drive
Palo Alto, CA 94304**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
To be Held on July 22, 2008**

To the Stockholders of STEMCELLS, INC.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of StemCells, Inc. (StemCells or the company) will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2008 at 2 P.M., local time, at 3155 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94304 for the following purposes:

1. To elect Class II directors to serve until the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders;
2. To consider and vote upon a proposal to ratify the selection of Grant Thornton LLP as independent public accountants for the company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008;
3. To consider and vote upon a proposal to amend the company's restated certificate of incorporation to increase the company's authorized capital by one hundred twenty-five million shares of common stock; and
4. To transact any and all other business that may properly come before the meeting.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on Monday, June 2, 2008, as the record date for determining those stockholders who are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting of stockholders and any postponements or adjournments thereof. The stock transfer books will not be closed between the record date and the date of the meeting.

Representation of at least a majority of all outstanding shares of common stock of StemCells is required to constitute a quorum. Accordingly, it is important that your shares be represented at the meeting. **WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE SIGN AND DATE THE ENCLOSED PROXY AND RETURN IT PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.** You may revoke your proxy at any time prior to the time it is voted.

Please read the proxy materials carefully. Your vote is important, and the company appreciates your cooperation in considering and acting on the matters presented.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Kenneth B. Stratton
Secretary

June 4, 2008
Palo Alto, California

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF STEMCELLS, INC.

QUORUM, REQUIRED VOTES AND METHOD OF TABULATION

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND
RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

INFORMATION CONCERNING DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY

Director Compensation Table

INFORMATION CONCERNING EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Executive Officer Compensation Tables

Summary Compensation Table for 2007

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

PROPOSAL NUMBER 1 Election of Directors

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AS CLASS II DIRECTORS -- TERMS EXPIRE 2011

INCUMBENT CLASS III DIRECTORS -- TERMS EXPIRE 2009

INCUMBENT CLASS I DIRECTORS -- TERMS EXPIRE 2010

PROPOSAL NUMBER 2 Ratification of Selection of Independent Public Accountants

PROPOSAL NUMBER 3 Amendment to Restated Certificate of Incorporation to Increase Authorized
Shares of Common Stock

OTHER MATTERS

Table of Contents

PROXY STATEMENT
ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
OF
STEMCELLS, INC.

The enclosed form of proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors of StemCells, Inc. (the "company") for use at its annual meeting of stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") to be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2008, at 2 p.m., local time, at the company's headquarters at 3155 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, California 94304. The company has engaged The Altman Group as its proxy solicitor in connection with the Annual Meeting. The company will bear the cost of solicitation of proxies, including a fee of approximately \$7,500 payable to The Altman Group. Directors, officers and employees of the company may solicit proxies by telephone, facsimile or in person for no additional compensation. The company will reimburse banks, brokerage firms, proxy solicitors, and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for reasonable expenses incurred by them in sending proxy materials to the beneficial owners of shares.

The Board has fixed the close of business on Monday, June 2, 2008 as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting or at any postponement or adjournment thereof. There were _____ shares of our common stock, \$.01 par value, outstanding on June 2, 2008, each of which is entitled to one vote for each share on the matters to be voted upon.

Shares of our common stock represented by proxies in the form enclosed that are properly executed and returned to us and not revoked will be voted as specified in the proxy by the stockholder. In the absence of contrary instructions, or in instances where no specifications are made, the shares will be voted:

- (i) FOR the election as directors of the nominees as described herein under Proposal Number 1 Election of Directors;
- (ii) FOR ratification of the selection of accountants as described herein under Proposal Number 2 Ratification of Selection of Independent Public Accountants;
- (iii) FOR adoption of the proposed amendment to the company's restated certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock by one hundred twenty-five million (125,000,000) shares, as described herein under Proposal 3 Increase in Authorized Shares of Common Stock; and
- (iv) in the discretion of the named proxies, as to any other matter that may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

Any stockholder signing and delivering a proxy may revoke it at any time before it is voted by delivering to the company's corporate secretary a written revocation or a duly executed proxy bearing a date later than the date of the proxy being revoked. Any stockholder attending the Annual Meeting in person may revoke his or her proxy and vote his or her shares at the Annual Meeting.

A copy of the company's annual report to stockholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 will be mailed, along with this proxy statement, on or about June 4, 2008 to all stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Table of Contents**QUORUM, REQUIRED VOTES AND METHOD OF TABULATION**

Consistent with Delaware law and the company's amended and restated by-laws, a majority of the shares entitled to be cast on a particular matter, present in person or represented by proxy, constitutes a quorum as to such matter. The company will appoint one or more election inspectors for the meeting to count votes cast by proxy or in person at the Annual Meeting.

Election of directors by stockholders will be determined by a plurality of the votes cast by the stockholders entitled to vote at the election that are either present in person or represented by proxy. The approval of the proposal to ratify the selection of accountants will require a majority of the votes properly cast to be affirmative. The approval of the proposal to increase the Company's authorized capital will require the affirmative vote of a majority of shares outstanding.

The election inspectors will count shares represented by proxies that withhold authority to vote for a nominee for election as a director or that reflect abstentions and broker non-votes (i.e., shares represented at the meeting held by brokers or nominees as to which (i) instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or persons entitled to vote and (ii) the broker or nominee does not have discretionary voting power on a particular matter) only as shares that are present and entitled to vote on the matter for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum, but neither abstentions nor broker non-votes have any effect on the outcome of voting on the election of directors or the selection of accountants. In contrast, abstentions and broker non-votes have the same effect as voting against charter amendments, such as Proposal Number 3.

Management does not know of any matters to be presented at this Annual Meeting other than those set forth in this proxy statement and in the notice accompanying this proxy statement. If other matters should properly come before the meeting, the proxy holders will vote such matters in their discretion. Any stockholder has the right to revoke his or her proxy at any time before it is voted.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The following table shows the number of shares of our common stock beneficially owned, as of March 1, 2008, by (i) each shareholder known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our outstanding common stock, (ii) each of our directors, (iii) each of our executive officers, and (iv) our directors and executive officers as a group. In general,

Beneficial Ownership refers to shares that an individual or entity has the power to vote or dispose of, and any rights to acquire common stock that are currently exercisable or will become exercisable with 60 days of March 1, 2008. Unless otherwise indicated, we believe that each person named below, based on information furnished by such owners, holds sole investment and voting power with respect to such shares, subject to community property laws where applicable, and that there are no other affiliations among the stockholders listed in the table. We calculated percentage ownership using the total number of shares outstanding as of March 1, 2008, 80,732,542 shares.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner*	Shares Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Class Beneficially Owned***
Eric H. Bjerkholt(1)	50,000	**
Ricardo Levy(2)	102,165	**

Edgar Filing: STEMCELLS INC - Form PRE 14A

Martin McGlynn(3)	1,218,539	1.5%
Desmond O Connell(4)	17,166	**
Roger M. Perlmutter(5)	123,503	**
John J. Schwartz(6)	290,958	**
Ann Tsukamoto(7)	484,841	**
Irving Weissman(8)	1,198,541	1.5%
Rodney K.B. Young(9)	344,216	**
All directors and executive officers as a group	3,829,929	4.7%

* The address of all persons listed in the table is c/o StemCells, Inc., 3155 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, California 94304.

Table of Contents

** Less than 1%

- (1) Includes 50,000 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2008.
- (2) Includes 102,165 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2008.
- (3) Includes 1,189,831 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2008. Includes 28,708 shares included in Mr. McGlynn's 401(k) plan.
- (4) Includes 6,666 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2008. Includes 500 shares owned by a family member, as to which Mr. O'Connell disclaims beneficial ownership.
- (5) Includes 123,503 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2008.
- (6) Includes 290,958 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2008.
- (7) Includes 424,489 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2008. Includes 33,518 shares included in Dr. Tsukamoto's 401(k) plan. Includes a total of 26,834 shares held in trusts for the benefit of Dr. Tsukamoto and her family members, including 4,000 shares owned by Dr. Tsukamoto's parents as to which she disclaims beneficial ownership.
- (8) Includes 200,292 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2008. Includes 24,187 shares held in trust for Dr. Weissman's children as to which he disclaims beneficial ownership.
- (9) Includes 335,519 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 1, 2008. Includes 8,697 shares included in Mr. Young's 401(k) plan.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) requires our executive officers, directors, and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities, to file with the SEC reports of ownership of our securities and changes in reported ownership. Executive officers, directors and greater than 10% stockholders are required by SEC rules to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) reports they file.

Based solely on a review of the copies of such forms furnished to us, or written representations from the reporting persons that no Form 5 was required, we believe that, during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to our officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners have been met.

INFORMATION CONCERNING DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY

Board of Directors; Committees

We currently have seven directors serving on our Board of Directors. Since January 2007, our Board has been composed of Messrs. Eric Bjerkholt, Desmond O'Connell, Jr. and Martin McGlynn and Drs. Ricardo Levy, Roger Perlmutter, John Schwartz, and Irving Weissman. Because we have a classified board, with each of our directors serving a staggered three-year term, only two of our directors are expected to stand for reelection at our 2008 annual stockholder meeting. On April 25, 2008, Mr. O'Connell informed our Board of Directors that he has decided, for

personal reasons, not to stand for reelection as a director at our 2008 annual stockholder meeting. The following table shows the composition of the three classes of our Board:

Class I Directors (terms scheduled to expire in 2010):

Eric Bjerkholt
John J. Schwartz, Ph.D.

Class II Directors (terms scheduled to expire in 2008):

Ricardo B. Levy, Ph.D.
Desmond H. O'Connell, Jr.
Irving Weissman, M.D.

Table of Contents

Class III Directors (terms scheduled to expire in 2009):

Martin M. McGlynn
Roger Perlmutter, M.D., Ph.D.

The independent members of our Board, as determined by the Board of Directors in accordance with the existing Nasdaq Marketplace rules, are Messrs. Bjerkholt and O'Connell and Drs. Levy, Perlmutter and Schwartz. The Board of Directors held four regular meetings and three special meetings during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007; the non-employee directors met in executive session at each of the regular meetings of the Board. Each of the directors attended more than 75% of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the committees on which they served.

During 2007, the Board had three standing committees – the Compensation and Stock Option Committee (the Compensation Committee), the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee (the Corporate Governance Committee), and the Audit Committee – as well as a single-member committee established under the company's 2001, 2004 and 2006 equity incentive plans. All members of the Compensation Committee, the Corporate Governance Committee and the Audit Committee are, and are required by the charters of the respective committees to be, independent as determined under Nasdaq Marketplace rules.

Since January 2007, the Compensation Committee has been composed of Dr. Schwartz and Messrs. Bjerkholt and O'Connell. The Compensation Committee held two meetings in 2007. The Compensation Committee makes recommendations to our Board and management concerning salaries in general, determines executive compensation and, except to the extent that such decisions have been delegated to, and made by, the single-member committee, approves incentive compensation for our employees and consultants. The Compensation Committee acts pursuant to a written charter which is available through our website at www.stemcellsinc.com.

The Corporate Governance Committee is composed of Drs. Levy, Perlmutter and Schwartz. The Corporate Governance Committee held no meetings in 2007. It oversees nominations to the Board and considers the experience, ability and character of potential nominees to serve as directors, as well as particular skills or knowledge that may be desirable in light of the company's position at any time. The Corporate Governance Committee may identify potential candidates through any reliable means available, including identification by a search firm and recommendations of past or current members of the Board from their knowledge of the industry and of the company. Potential candidates recommended by security holders will be considered as provided in the company's Policy Regarding Shareholder Candidates for Nomination as a Director, which sets forth the procedures and conditions for such recommendations. This policy is available through our website at www.stemcellsinc.com. The Corporate Governance Committee operates pursuant to a written charter, a copy of which is also available through our website at www.stemcellsinc.com.

The Audit Committee is composed of Mr. Bjerkholt and Drs. Schwartz and Levy. The Audit Committee held four meetings in 2007. The primary function of the Audit Committee is to assist our Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The committee does this primarily by reviewing our financial reports and other financial information as well as the company's systems of internal controls regarding finance, accounting, legal compliance, and ethics that management and the Board have established. The committee also assesses our auditing, accounting and financial processes more generally. The Audit Committee meets quarterly, and at such other times as it finds necessary. It recommends to our Board of Directors the appointment of a firm of independent auditors to audit the financial statements of the company and meets with such personnel of the company to review the scope and the results of the annual audit, the amount of audit fees, the company's internal accounting controls, the company's financial statements contained in this proxy statement and other related matters. Each of the members of the Audit Committee is independent, and the Board has determined that Mr. Bjerkholt is an audit committee financial expert, as defined in SEC and Nasdaq Marketplace rules. The Audit Committee acts pursuant to a written charter which is available

through our website at www.stemcellsinc.com.

Table of Contents

The following table shows the members of our three standing Board committees:

Director	Independent	Compensation Committee	Corporate Governance Committee	Audit Committee
Eric H. Bjerkholt	Yes	ü		Chair
Ricardo B. Levy, Ph.D.	Yes		Chair	ü
Martin M. McGlynn	No			
Desmond H. O'Connell, Jr.	Yes	ü		
Roger Perlmutter, M.D., Ph.D.	Yes		ü	
John J. Schwartz, Ph.D.	Yes	Chair	ü	ü
Irving Weissman, M.D.	No			

Stockholders who wish to communicate with our Board of Directors or with a particular director may send a letter to our corporate secretary at the following address: StemCells, Inc., 3155 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, California 94304 (c/o Legal Department). Any communication should clearly specify that it is intended to be made to the entire Board of Directors or to one or more particular director(s). Our corporate secretary will review all such correspondence and forward to our Board of Directors a summary of all such correspondence and copies of all correspondence that, in the opinion of the secretary, deals with the functions of the Board of Directors or committees thereof or that he otherwise determines requires their attention. The secretary maintains a log of all correspondence received by us that is addressed to members of the Board of Directors, and any director may at any time review and request copies of any such correspondence.

Concerns relating to accounting, internal controls or auditing matters will immediately be brought to the attention of the chairman of the Audit Committee and handled in accordance with established procedures, which are set out in the Audit Committee's Policy on Receipt, Retention and Treatment of Complaints Regarding Accounting, Internal Controls and Auditing Matters. A copy of this policy is available through our website at www.stemcellsinc.com.

Table of Contents

Directors

The following table provides our directors' names, ages and principal occupations for at least the last five years:

Eric H. Bjerkholt	48	Eric H. Bjerkholt joined our Board of Directors in March 2004. Since February 2007, Mr. Bjerkholt has served as the chief financial officer and the senior vice president of corporate development and finance of Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. From 2004 until February 2007, he served as its senior vice president and chief financial officer. From 2002 to 2004, Mr. Bjerkholt was the chief financial officer and a senior vice president of IntraBiotics Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Ricardo B. Levy, Ph.D.	63	Ricardo B. Levy, Ph.D. joined our Board of Directors in September 2001. Dr. Levy currently serves on several boards of directors and is the lead director of Renegy Holdings, Inc. He served as the chief operating officer of Catalytica, Inc., from 1974 until 1991, and then as its chief executive officer until 2000.
Martin M. McGlynn	62	Martin M. McGlynn joined our Board of Directors in February 2001. Mr. McGlynn has been our president and chief executive officer since January 2001.
Desmond H. O'Connell, Jr.	72	Desmond H. O'Connell, Jr. joined our Board of Directors in January 2007. Mr. O'Connell has been an independent management consultant and private investor since 1990.
Roger M. Perlmutter, M.D., Ph.D.	55	Roger M. Perlmutter, M.D., Ph.D., joined our Board of Directors in December 2000. Dr. Perlmutter currently serves as the executive vice president of research and development of Amgen, Inc., a position he has held since January 2001.
John J. Schwartz, Ph.D.	73	John J. Schwartz, Ph.D., joined our Board of Directors in December 1998. He has been the chairman of our Board ever since then. He is currently the president of Quantum Strategies Management Company, a position he has held since 1998. Prior to this, he served as the chief executive officer of SyStemix, Inc.
Irving L. Weissman, M.D.	68	Irving L. Weissman, M.D., joined our Board of Directors in September 1997. He is the director of the Institute of Cancer/Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine at Stanford University, a position he has held since 2003. He is also the Virginia and Daniel K. Ludwig Professor of Cancer Research, Professor of Pathology and Professor of Developmental Biology at Stanford, a position he has held since 1989.

Director Compensation

Edgar Filing: STEMCELLS INC - Form PRE 14A

Non-employee directors receive quarterly retainers of \$4,500 (\$8,750 for the chairman); the chairs of the standing committees receive quarterly stipends of \$1,000 (Audit Committee) or \$500 (Compensation and Corporate Governance Committees). Non-employee directors also receive \$1,500 for each board meeting, and \$1,000 for each

Table of Contents

standing committee meeting, attended in person or by videoconference (\$500 for each meeting attended by telephone). All dollar amounts are paid in cash. Non-employee directors receive an initial option to purchase 20,000 shares, with one third of these option shares vesting on each of the three anniversaries following the grant, and an option to purchase 10,000 shares upon each anniversary of their appointments, vesting one year after issuance, each exercisable at the fair market value of the stock on the date of the respective grant. Directors are reimbursed for their expenses in attending meetings of the Board of Directors and meetings of committees of the Board of Directors.

Director Compensation Table

The following table summarizes compensation paid to our non-employee directors, including annual Board and committee retainer fees and meeting attendance fees, for the year ended December 31, 2007:

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Option Awards(1) (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Eric Bjerkholt	34,000(2)	34,932(3)		66,655
Ricardo Levy, Ph.D.	31,000(4)	17,267(5)		48,267
Desmond O Connell	26,833(6)	15,836(7)		42,669
Roger Perlmutter, M.D., Ph.D.	25,500(8)	24,521(9)		50,021
John Schwartz, Ph.D.	50,500(10)	27,308(11)		77,808
Irving Weissman, M.D.	25,500(12)	16,173(13)	50,000(14)	91,673

- (1) These amounts reflect expense recognized by us in 2007 for a portion of the current and prior year option awards to directors. Reference is made to Note 6 Stock-Based Compensation in our Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2007, filed with the SEC on March 14, 2008, which identifies assumptions made in the valuation of option awards in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards No. 123R (SFAS 123R). The company's stock-based compensation expense recognized under SFAS 123R reflects an estimated forfeiture rate of 13.06% in 2007. The values recognized in the Option Awards column above do not reflect such expected forfeitures. Since September 2004, each non-employee director is granted, after an initial grant of an option to purchase 20,000 shares upon appointment, with one third of these option shares vesting on each of the three anniversaries following the grant, and an option to purchase 10,000 shares upon each anniversary of their appointments, vesting one year after issuance. The exercise price is the closing price of the stock on the grant date or, if the Nasdaq market is not open on that date, the closing price on the last preceding market day. Prior to September 2004, each non-employee director was granted, after an initial grant of an option to purchase 20,000 shares upon appointment, an option for 15,000 shares upon each three-year re-election to the Board. Each of these options vest in equal portions over three years on the anniversaries of the respective grants.
- (2) Includes an annual retainer of \$18,000, a fee for Mr. Bjerkholt's role on the Audit Committee of \$4,000, a fee for Mr. Bjerkholt's role on the Compensation Committee of \$2,000, and additional fees of \$10,000 for Board and committee meetings attended. Also, includes \$9,500 earned in 2007 but paid in 2008.
- (3) Mr. Bjerkholt was granted an option to purchase 10,000 shares of common stock on March 1, 2007. The fair value of this option computed in accordance with SFAS 123R was \$20,917. As of December 31, 2007,

Mr. Bjerkholt had options outstanding for the purchase of 50,000 shares.

- (4) Includes an annual retainer of \$18,000, a fee for Dr. Levy's role on the Audit Committee of \$4,000, a fee for Dr. Levy's role on the Corporate Governance Committee of \$2,000, and additional fees of \$7,000 for Board and committee meetings attended. Also includes \$9,000 earned in 2007 but paid in 2008.
- (5) Dr. Levy was granted an option to purchase 10,000 shares of common stock on September 26, 2007. The fair value of this option computed in accordance with SFAS 123R was \$16,927. As of December 31, 2007, Dr. Levy had options outstanding for the purchase of 112,165 shares.

Table of Contents

- (6) Includes an annual retainer of \$18,000, a fee for Mr. O'Connell's role on the Compensation Committee of \$1,833, and additional fees of \$7,000 for Board and committee meetings attended. Also includes \$13,000 earned in 2007 but paid in 2008.
- (7) Mr. O'Connell was granted an option to purchase 20,000 shares of common stock on January 10, 2007. The fair value of this option computed in accordance with SFAS 123R was \$56,000. As of December 31, 2007, Mr. O'Connell had options outstanding for the purchase of 20,000 shares.
- (8) Includes an annual retainer of \$18,000, a fee for Dr. Perlmutter's role on the Corporate Governance Committee of \$2,000, and additional fees of \$5,500 for Board and committee meetings attended. Also includes \$5,500 earned in 2007 but paid in 2008.
- (9) Dr. Perlmutter was granted an option to purchase 10,000 shares of common stock on December 14, 2007. The fair value of this option computed in accordance with SFAS 123R was \$13,483. As of December 31, 2007, Dr. Perlmutter had options outstanding for the purchase of 133,503 shares.
- (10) Includes an annual retainer of \$35,000, a fee for Dr. Schwartz's role on the Audit Committee of \$4,000, a fee for Dr. Schwartz's role on the Corporate Governance Committee of \$2,000, a fee for Dr. Schwartz's role on the Compensation Committee of \$2,000, and additional fees of \$7,500 for Board and committee meetings attended. Also includes \$13,250 earned in 2007 but paid in 2008.
- (11) Dr. Schwartz was granted an option to purchase 10,000 shares of common stock on April 18, 2007. The fair value of this option computed in accordance with SFAS 123R was \$22,083. As of December 31, 2007, Dr. Schwartz had options outstanding for the purchase of 290,958 shares.
- (12) Includes an annual retainer of \$18,000 and additional fees of \$7,500 for Board and committee meetings attended. Also includes \$6,000 earned in 2007 but paid in 2008.
- (13) Dr. Weissman was granted an option to purchase 10,000 shares of common stock on October 1, 2007. The fair value of this option computed in accordance with SFAS 123R was \$16,088. As of December 31, 2007, Dr. Weissman had options outstanding for the purchase of 210,292 shares.
- (14) Dr. Weissman receives \$50,000 per year for his services as a consultant and as the chairman of our Scientific Advisory Board.

Family Relationships

There are no family relationships between our directors and executive officers.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have adopted a Code of Ethics and Conduct that applies to all of our directors, officers, employees, and consultants. A copy of our code of ethics is posted on our website at www.stemcellsinc.com. We intend to disclose any substantive amendment or waivers to this code on our website. There were no amendments or waivers to this code in 2007.

Table of Contents

INFORMATION CONCERNING EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY

Executive Officers

The following table provides our executive officers' names, ages and principal occupations for at least the last five years:

Martin M. McGlynn, President and Chief Executive Officer	62	Martin M. McGlynn joined StemCells in January 2001 as our president and chief executive officer. In this capacity, he also serves as the president of our wholly-owned subsidiary, StemCells California, Inc. Mr. McGlynn became a director in February 2001. As our president and chief executive officer, Mr. McGlynn has overall responsibility for leading the management of the company and our operations.
Ann Tsukamoto, Ph.D., Chief Operating Officer	55	Ann Tsukamoto, Ph.D., joined StemCells in November 1997 as our senior director of scientific operations. In June 1998 she became our vice president of scientific operations. In February 2002 she became our vice president of research and development. In November 2006, she became our chief operating officer. As our chief operating officer, Dr. Tsukamoto continues to be responsible for our research and development efforts.
Rodney K.B. Young, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President, Finance and Administration	45	Rodney K.B. Young joined StemCells in September 2005 as our chief financial officer and vice president of finance. In November 2006 he became our chief financial officer and vice president of finance and administration. From 2003 to 2005, Mr. Young was the chief financial officer and a director of Extropy Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a private biopharmaceutical company focused on developing drugs for pediatric indications. As our chief financial officer, Mr. Young has responsibility for the financial functions of our company, including reporting and controls.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Our compensation programs are designed to attract and retain employees and reward them for their efforts toward helping us achieve our short-term and long-term goals, including leading us toward profitability and developing stockholder value. Compensation programs in which our executive officers participate are designed to be equitable and competitive with the compensation programs of companies with whom we compete for high-level scientific and executive personnel, and to link pay to performance.

In seeking to accomplish the objectives of our compensation policy, the Compensation Committee follows a compensation program designed, ultimately, to reward increasing stockholder value. Because achievement of our mission to develop and commercialize cell-based therapeutics to treat damage to, or degeneration of, major organ

systems is a long and challenging process, we use the following as, in effect, surrogate endpoints:

the achievement of stated corporate goals adopted from time to time by the Board;

the effectiveness of leadership an executive officer has shown in inspiring and marshalling excellent performances in his or her direct reports;

Table of Contents

the anticipation, identification and successful disposition of issues and problems that, if not addressed timely and effectively, might have a deleterious effect on the company; and

the speed and effectiveness with which an executive officer discovers, assesses and, where appropriate, pursues promising opportunities for the company.

Compensation elements: We use, like most biotechnology companies, a combination of base salary, bonuses and equity awards to compensate our employees, including our executive officers. As a small company we have approximately 60 employees in total and only three executive officers we feel that having so few people in each cohort makes it inefficient to establish a formulaic allocation of total compensation among its various elements; we rely, instead, on our experience and judgment.

In exercising this judgment, we evaluate the range of each element paid by comparable companies for each position. Each year, the Compensation Committee considers the performance of the executive officers during the prior year and determines their salary and target bonus. Equity compensation is generally determined by the Board on the recommendation of the Compensation Committee and awarded at one of the company's regular Board meetings. We collect information from the Radford Biotechnology Survey Executive Report, which we review regularly; from the proxies of other similar biotechnology companies, including Nektar Therapeutics, Maxygen, Inc., Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Affymax, Inc., Exelixis, Inc., CV Therapeutics, Inc., Geron Corporation, PDL BioPharma, Inc., Gilead Sciences, Inc., and Genzyme Corporation, which we also review; and from the reports of experts whom we consult from time to time. In the case of the chief operating officer and chief financial officer, we also take the recommendation of the chief executive officer into account in setting compensation. We integrate all of this information with our evaluation of the performance of each of our executive officers but while we believe our officers and other employees are outstanding, we prefer to keep compensation of our senior management at around the 50th percentile at this point, given that the company is at a relatively early stage of development.

Interaction of compensation elements: The basic compensation elements base salary, bonuses and equity awards are, as noted, standard in our industry; we pay each element because we would not otherwise be competitive and because we feel that together they are the proper components of a balanced compensation package:

base salary is compensation for current efforts;

bonuses, whether in cash or equity, are typically paid for achievements in meeting stated corporate goals; and

equity awards are inducements to remain with the company and to build future value.

Other compensation elements and benefits: We offer all employees various health and welfare benefit plans. Our executive officers may participate in these on the same terms as other employees. We do not have a pension plan nor do we use non-qualified deferred compensation.¹We offer employees (again, including executive officers on the same terms as others) a 401(k) defined contribution plan, and match employee contributions on a 1:2 basis to a maximum of 3% of the employee's salary, subject to legal limitations; at this time, our match is made in the form of registered shares of common stock in the company.

Compensation of Named Executive Officers

Salary and bonus compensation. We consider base salary to be a critical component of our executive officers' overall compensation packages. We endeavor to set base compensation levels so that their salaries are competitive with salaries paid by similarly situated companies to employees with similar experience, taking into account the cost of

living in the San Francisco Bay Area. We also intend the salaries of our executive officers to reflect their actual responsibilities and job scope.

Meanwhile, we view periodic bonuses, whether paid in cash or equity, as an important element of compensation for several reasons. Each full-time employee of the company is given a personal target bonus (calculated as a percentage of base salary), based upon factors such as seniority, job title and the existing targets of co-workers with comparable job responsibilities within the company. Bonuses help align individual employee efforts with overall corporate strategies and objectives. Bonuses also help us manage salary expense, while still allowing us to reward

¹ Accordingly, we omit tables showing pension benefits and non-qualified deferred compensation.

Table of Contents

successes. By using bonuses as part of the compensation mix, we have greater flexibility in managing the timing and amounts of compensation. Over the past few years, we have awarded bonuses on an annual basis, after reviewing the company's accomplishments against stated corporate goals adopted by the Board the prior year. These goals are designed to be challenging, so that one would not expect consistent achievement of 100% of the goals. In both 2006 and 2007, the company adopted annual corporate goals covering such things as advancement of our clinical strategies for our HuCNS-SC cells, effort towards fundraising, advancement in cell manufacturing practices, and development in our Liver Program. The Board may grant more than 100% of the target bonus in exceptional circumstances. Bonus levels are generally adjusted based upon the realization of these corporate goals, however the grant of bonuses is not formulaic. The number and nature of these goals are taken into consideration, with more important corporate goals typically weighing more heavily in the consideration process. The Compensation Committee and the Board as a whole use the corporate goals as a measure of success, but the amount of any bonus grant is completely within the Board's sole discretion.

Keeping these various principles in mind, we increased the annual base salary of our chief executive officer, Mr. McGlynn, from \$365,000 to \$385,000, effective March 2007. In 2007, we also increased Mr. McGlynn's target bonus from 35 percent to 40 percent of his base salary, effective with respect to 2007 corporate goals, to reflect our view that his leadership is a major factor in the achievement of our corporate goals.

We increased the annual base salary of our chief operating officer, Dr. Tsukamoto, from \$275,000 to \$300,000, effective March 2007, in recognition of her promotion in November 2006 to the position of chief operating officer. Her target bonus rate is 25 percent of her base salary.

We increased the annual base salary of our chief financial officer, Mr. Young, from \$250,000 to \$275,000, effective March 2007, in recognition of his assuming additional duties in November 2006, becoming responsible for administrative functions including information technology in addition to his financial responsibilities. His target bonus rate is 25 percent of his base salary.

In January 2007, after reviewing the company's successes measured against its 2006 corporate goals, the Board and management awarded all employees of the company, including our executive officers, 80 percent of their target bonuses for 2006. The bonuses were calculated using each employee's base wage rate as of January 1, 2006, and paid in February 2007. In Mr. McGlynn's case, because his base salary on January 1, 2006 was \$324,000 and because his target bonus was 35%, his 2006 bonus was \$90,720. In Dr. Tsukamoto's case, because her base salary on January 1, 2006 was \$275,000 and because her target bonus was 25%, her 2006 bonus was \$50,000. In Mr. Young's case, because his base salary on January 1, 2006 was \$250,000 and because his target bonus was 25%, his 2006 bonus was \$50,000.

In January 2008, after reviewing the company's successes measured against its 2007 corporate goals, the Board and management awarded all employees of the company, including our executive officers, 80 percent of their target bonuses for 2007. The bonuses were calculated using each employee's base wage rate as of January 1, 2007, and paid in February 2008. In Mr. McGlynn's case, because his base salary on January 1, 2007 was \$365,000 and because his target bonus rate was 40%, his 2007 bonus was \$116,800. In Dr. Tsukamoto's case, because her base salary on January 1, 2007 was \$275,000 and because her target bonus was 25%, her 2007 bonus was \$55,000. In Mr. Young's case, because his base salary on January 1, 2007 was \$250,000 and because his target bonus was 25%, his 2007 bonus was \$50,000.

Table of Contents

Keeping in mind that salary increases for 2006 and 2007 were effective in the first payroll period in March of those years, and that bonuses are not paid until the February following the year to which they apply, the base salary and target bonus information presented above may be summarized as follows:

	Fiscal 2006	Fiscal 2007	Fiscal 2008
	Base Salary/Target Bonus	Base Salary/Target Bonus	Base Salary/Target Bonus
Martin M. McGlynn President and CEO	\$365,000/ 35% of \$324,000	\$385,000/ 40% of \$365,000	\$385,000/ 40% of \$385,000
Ann Tsukamoto, Ph.D. COO	\$275,000/ 25% of \$275,000	\$300,000/ 25% of \$275,000	\$300,000/ 25% of \$300,000
Rodney K.B. Young CFO	\$250,000/ 25% of \$250,000	\$275,000/ 25% of \$250,000	\$275,000/ 25% of \$275,000

Other compensation of note: In the case of our chief executive officer, who moved to California to join the company, we also pay certain housing and transportation expenses. The Compensation Committee has taken this into account in deciding on his base salary. These reimbursements for housing and transportation expenses which, when grossed up for taxes, amount to approximately \$200,000 per year.

Equity Compensation general practices:

We typically grant company-wide stock option awards to full-time employees once every year or two. In addition, we typically grant stock option awards to newly hired employees, effective as of their date of hire, and to existing employees upon their promotion. Both on-hire awards to non-executive officers and awards upon their promotion are usually made by either Mr. McGlynn, acting as the Board's single-member committee, or by the Compensation Committee. Awards to executive officers are made only by either the Compensation Committee or by the full Board. Company-wide awards have usually been made at either a regularly scheduled Board or Compensation Committee meeting. The Compensation Committee has, however, expressed an interest in considering a change to a system whereby company-wide option awards would be made on a fixed date each year, and has requested a report from management on this topic.

In August 2007, we awarded our employees stock options, on a company-wide basis, to purchase up to approximately 1.4 million shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$2.21 per share. The company's executive officers received, in the aggregate, options to purchase up to 750,000 shares. We may grant additional options to current employees in 2008.

Unless otherwise specifically noted in the tables herein, all option awards:

to our employees, including our executive officers, are intended to be qualified incentive stock options (ISOs) to the fullest extent permitted by law;

have an exercise price set at the closing market price of our common stock on the grant date or on an adjacent market trading date if the market on which we are listed (now the Nasdaq Global Market) is not open on the grant date; and

vest over four years, with one quarter of the shares included in any grant vesting on the anniversary of the grant and the remainder vesting at 1/48 per month thereafter, always provided that the grantee remains in the

company's employ on the vesting dates. These awards are time-vesting and do not depend on performance factors.

Of course, the Board or its committees have authority to make different provisions, but this seldom occurs and, in the case of executive officers, this has not occurred for at least five years, except as described below. All unvested options now held by executive officers are time-vesting rather than performance based.

Special note on 2006 equity compensation: As of 2006, employee ownership of the company, including ownership by executive officers, had been for a number of years well below the norm for comparable biotechnology companies, and well below what the Compensation Committee considered desirable. Because biotechnology companies and especially those pursuing truly novel therapeutics, as in our case can face many challenges

Table of Contents

and potential delays before they can expect to become profitable, company ownership in the form of stock options or other stock-based awards such as stock appreciation rights (SARs) is a powerful incentive to employees to remain with us. Even though we have been fortunate in securing the loyalty of our most valuable employees, including our executive officers, we think it desirable both to reinforce that loyalty with incentives to stay on and to demonstrate a reciprocal loyalty on the part of the Board.

The Board and the Compensation Committee had for some time been considering ways to address this sub-optimal degree of employee ownership (which we referred to as the Historical Issue), and in 2006, after reviewing data, including reports from two independent consultants, we took action to remedy the Historical Issue by increasing ownership levels and creating long-term compensation incentives for our employees, including our executive officers. The results of these two reports proved similar. One of the reports, by Radford Consultants (the CEO Compensation Assessment), evaluated our chief executive officer's compensation against some 19 other companies approved by the Compensation Committee based upon criteria such as stage of development, employee size and market capitalization. (The company's Schedule 14A for 2007 lists these companies and provides additional discussion.) We also considered the table of ratios from the 2005 Stock Options as a percentage of Outstanding Shares Report BIO published by Radford (the Radford Ratios) which showed typical ownership levels of various officers and employees of biotech companies relative to the ownership of the chief executive officer.

Using the CEO Compensation Assessment and the Radford Ratios as a guideline for remedying the Historical Issue, the Compensation Committee recommended to the full Board that employee ownership be keyed to 2.8 percent ownership (of fully diluted outstanding stock) by the chief executive officer. The Board unanimously adopted this recommendation at its July 21, 2006 meeting, at which the Board granted employees a total of 1,389,600 cash-settled stock appreciation rights plus options to purchase up to 1,909,451 shares. The Compensation Committee further recommended that an additional grant of 175,000 SARs be made to Mr. McGlynn, bringing his percentage ownership to 3 percent, reflecting its view of his outstanding performance; this brought his equity ownership to a point between the 50th and the 75th percentile among the companies considered in the CEO Compensation Assessment Report. Again, the Board concurred unanimously (with the exception of Mr. McGlynn, who was not present for the discussion or vote).

The effect of these decisions on the executive officers in July 2006 was as follows:

Name & Principal Position	Number of SARs Granted	Number of Shares Underlying Options Granted
Martin M. McGlynn President and CEO	762,335	672,665
Ann Tsukamoto, Ph.D. COO	145,874	184,976
Rodney K.B. Young CFO		80,000

Special note on 2008 equity compensation: In January 2008 and then again in March 2008, the Compensation Committee, having noted the significant decline in market prices for biotechnology companies generally and the poor economic and market conditions in the United States, met to discuss how best to provide long-term incentives to key employees of the company. In particular, the Compensation Committee noted that most (approximately 90%) of the outstanding employee options at the end of 2007 had a strike price significantly higher than the trading price of the company's common stock and that these options were therefore not likely to provide a strong retention incentive. The weighted average exercise price of outstanding employee options at the end of 2007 was \$2.36 and the average closing price for January 2008 was \$1.31.

After discussing this with management, the Compensation Committee determined it was in the company's interest to grant additional long-term equity compensation to a limited number of employees considered important to our long-term success. Consequently, in March 2008, the Compensation Committee approved the award of 1,650,000 restricted stock units to certain employees of the company. Each of the restricted stock grants vests over three years, with one-third vesting on each of the three anniversaries following the grant. Of this amount, the executive officers of the company received, in the aggregate, 825,000 restricted stock units. These restricted stock units were intended to augment the existing outstanding options held by employees, including our executive

Table of Contents

officers, to provide additional retention incentives and to encourage actions designed to increase long-term stockholder value.

The following table summarizes the restricted stock units awarded to our executive officers in March 2008:

Name & Principal Position	Number of Restricted Stock Units Granted
Martin M. McGlynn President and CEO	412,500
Ann Tsukamoto, Ph.D. COO	206,250
Rodney K.B. Young CFO	206,250

Employment, Severance and Change-in-Control Agreements

Employment agreements: Mr. Martin McGlynn joined the company as our president and chief executive officer on January 15, 2001. Under the terms of an employment agreement between Mr. McGlynn and the company, dated January 2, 2001, as amended, Mr. McGlynn received an initial annual base salary of \$275,000 per year, reviewable annually by the Board of Directors, and a bonus, in the Board's sole discretion, of up to 25% of his base salary. Over time, however, the Board has increased his base salary and target bonus so that they are, as of March 2008, \$385,000 and 40% of his base salary, respectively. By virtue of his January 2001 employment agreement, Mr. McGlynn was granted an option to purchase 400,000 shares of our common stock with an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the common stock on the initial date of his employment, one fourth to vest on the first anniversary of his employment and the remaining three-fourths to vest in equal monthly installments during his second through fourth years of employment. The employment agreement also provided that the Board could, in its sole discretion, grant Mr. McGlynn a bonus option to purchase up to an additional 25,000 shares, which it did. We also agreed to pay Mr. McGlynn a \$50,000 relocation bonus and to reimburse him for relocation expenses, and have done so.

Dr. Ann Tsukamoto joined the company in November 1997 and has served as our chief operating officer since November 2006. Under the terms of an employment agreement between Dr. Tsukamoto and the company, dated February 2, 1998, Dr. Tsukamoto received an annual base salary of \$130,000 per year and a discretionary target bonus of up to 10% of her base salary. Over time, however, the Board has increased her base salary and target bonus so that they are, as of March 2008, \$300,000 and 25% of her base salary, respectively. Also pursuant to her employment agreement, we provide Dr. Tsukamoto with \$750,000 of term life insurance on an annual basis during her employment.

Mr. Rodney Young joined the company in September 2005 as our chief financial officer and vice president of finance. Under the terms of his agreement with the company, dated August 16, 2005, Mr. Young received an initial annual base salary of \$250,000 per year, with a target bonus of up to 25% of his base salary. Over time, however, the Board has increased his base salary so that they are, as of March 2008, \$275,000 and 25% of his base salary, respectively. By virtue of his August 2005 employment agreement, Mr. Young was granted an option to purchase 450,000 shares of our common stock. This option will vest over 48 months; with one-quarter of the shares vesting on the first anniversary of the date on which Mr. Young's employment began and the remaining shares vest, subject to his continued employment by the company, vesting at the rate of 1/48th per month on the last day of each month during the ensuing 36 months. In addition, the employment agreement provided for an option to acquire no less than 25,000 shares of our common stock at the closing price of the stock on the date of grant, the first anniversary of his

employment. The grant of 25,000 shares was duly made, and will vest in the same manner as his earlier option grant over 48 months, subject to his continued employment by the company.

Severance arrangements: Each of the executive officers would receive payments upon termination of his or her employment by us without cause² or consequent to a change of control or, in the case of Mr. McGlynn, by virtue of disability. In the case of Mr. McGlynn, upon termination without cause, we would continue to pay salary and provide benefits for one year, at the base wage rate wage rate then in effect. If the termination were associated with a

² Or termination by the executive officer for good reason, as defined in the agreement.

Table of Contents

change of control, the company would pay (in a lump sum) (i) two years of salary and the reasonably projected cost of healthcare benefits, (ii) a bonus with respect to the termination year at 25% of the base salary, pro-rated for the portion of the year served, and (iii) a tax gross up; in addition, all unvested stock options would vest and all stock options would be exercisable for two years after termination. If Mr. McGlynn's employment were terminated on account of disability, we would continue to pay his salary for up to six months (or until he obtained other employment or became eligible for disability income under a company plan, if sooner).

In the case of Dr. Tsukamoto, upon termination without cause whether or not associated with a change of control, we would continue to pay Dr. Tsukamoto's salary and provide benefits for 12 months, at the rate then in effect.

Dr. Tsukamoto's agreement provides that if the termination were associated with a change of control, any unvested options granted pursuant to the company's 1992 Equity Incentive Plan would vest upon termination.

In the case of Mr. Young, upon termination without cause, we would continue to pay salary and provide benefits for six months, at the rate then in effect. If the termination were associated with a change of control, we would continue to pay Mr. Young's salary and provide benefits (including his share of COBRA, grossing up for the tax effects, if any) for 12 months; in this event, any unvested options and any other stock awards held by him would vest upon termination.

If we terminate the employment of any executive officer for cause or if the officer resigns without good cause, he or she would not be entitled to any severance or other benefits.

Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control

The following table displays the value of what the executive officers would have received from us had their employment been terminated on December 31, 2007:

Officer	Salary	Bonus	Health	Early Vesting of Options	Total
CEO					
Terminated without cause	\$ 385,000	0	\$ 19,439	0	\$ 404,439
Terminated, change of control	\$ 770,000	\$ 96,250	\$ 56,665(1)	\$ 1,969(2)	\$ 924,884
Disability(3)	\$ 192,500	0	0	0	\$ 192,500
Other	0	0	0	0	0
COO					
Terminated without cause	\$ 300,000	0	\$ 10,298	0	\$ 310,298
Terminated, change of control	\$ 300,000	0	\$ 10,298	\$ 1,266(4)	\$ 311,564
Other	0	0	0	0	0
CFO					
Terminated without cause	\$ 137,500	0	\$ 6,196	0	\$ 143,696
Terminated, change of control	\$ 275,000	0	\$ 12,392	\$ 0(5)	\$ 287,392
Other	0	0	0	0	0

(1) Includes tax gross-up on 2 years of healthcare costs.

(2) By agreement, all options vest and remain exercisable for 2 years.

- (3) Payments stop before 6 months if individual obtains other full-time employment or qualifies for payments under any disability income plan provided by the company.
- (4) An agreement with Dr. Tsukamoto provided for vesting of her options issued under an equity incentive plan that did not provide for 100% automatic vesting on change of control, but those options have all vested. All of our other equity incentive plans provide for accelerated vesting of outstanding unvested options upon a change of control.
- (5) All unvested options issued under the applicable equity incentive plans vest upon a change of control under the terms of those plans.

Table of Contents**Compensation Committee Report**

The Compensation and Stock Option Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of SEC Regulation S-K with management. Based on this review and these discussions, the Compensation Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in the company's proxy statement for 2008.

COMPENSATION AND STOCK OPTION COMMITTEE

John J. Schwartz, Ph.D., Chairman
Eric Bjerkholt
Desmond O. Connell

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in any of our previous filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act that incorporate future filings, in whole or in part, the foregoing Compensation and Stock Option Committee Report shall not be incorporated by reference into any such filings.

Executive Officer Compensation Tables

The following tables set forth information with respect to the compensation of our executive officers for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007.

Because the Option awards column in the table below reflects the dollar amounts recognized for financial statement reporting purposes for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 in accordance with SFAS 123(R), these imputed values include amounts from awards granted from 2002 through 2007.

Summary Compensation Table for 2007

Name & Position	Year	Salary \$(1)	Bonus \$(2)	Option Awards (3)(\$)	All other Compensation \$(4)	Total \$
Martin McGlynn, President and CEO	2007	383,019	116,800	748,547	213,927(5)	1,462,293
	2006	357,115	90,720	497,604	213,110	1,158,549
Ann Tsukamoto, Ph.D., COO	2007	296,827	55,000	228,721	23,562(6)	604,110
	2006	270,192	50,000	155,008	13,650	488,850
Rodney Young, CFO	2007	271,731	50,000	518,908	21,668(7)	862,307
	2006	250,000	50,000	468,974	8,911	777,885

(1) Includes amounts earned but deferred at the election of the named executive officers, such as salary deferrals under the company's 401(k) plan established under Section 401(k) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

(2) Each employee's target bonus is based on his or her salary as of January 1 of the year to which it applies. Salary increases for 2007 went into effect for the first pay period in March 2007, so bonuses were based on the salaries

in effect before those increases. The Board awarded 80% of the target bonus for all company employees. For further description of the non-equity incentive plan see discussion in Compensation Discussion and Analysis and Compensation of Named Executive Officers, above.

- (3) Reference is made to Note 6 Stock-Based Compensation in our Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2007, filed with the SEC on March 14, 2008, which identifies assumptions made in the valuation of option awards in accordance with SFAS 123R. The company's stock-based compensation expense recognized under SFAS 123R reflects an estimated forfeiture rate of 13.06% in 2007. The values recognized in the Option Awards column above do not reflect such expected forfeitures.
- (4) Amounts include employer contributions credited under our 410(k) plan. Under the 401(k) plan, which is open to substantially all of our employees, we make matching contributions based on each participant's voluntary salary deferrals, subject to plan and Code limits in the form of company common stock. We match participant

Table of Contents

contributions on a 1:2 basis up to a maximum of 3% of the employee's salary. Registered stock is valued and transferred to the employee's 401(k) account at the end of calendar each quarter.

- (5) Includes \$10,609 in company contributions under the 401(k) plan, as well as an allowance for housing and transportation costs plus a tax gross-up on that allowance (\$201,406).
- (6) Includes \$10,250 in company contributions under the 401(k) plan, as well as life insurance in addition to the group life coverage (\$1,180).
- (7) Includes \$7,750 in company contributions under the 401(k) plan.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards

The following table shows grants of plan-based awards made to our named executive officers during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007:

Name & Principal Position	Grant Date	All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Share)	Grant Date Fair Value of Option Awards (\$)
Martin McGlynn President and CEO	8/23/07	450,000	2.21	783,000
Ann Tsukamoto, Ph.D. COO	8/23/07	150,000	2.21	261,000
Rodney K.B. Young CFO	8/23/07	150,000	2.21	261,000

With respect to non-equity incentive plan awards for fiscal year 2007, the Compensation Committee set specific corporate targets and goals as described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis above.

The options granted in 2007 to our named executive officers were made pursuant to our 2004 and 2006 equity incentive plans. Generally, stock options granted to employees have a maximum term of 10 years, and vest over a four year period from the date of grant: 25% vest at the end of the first year, and 75% vest monthly in equal increments over the remaining three years. We may grant options with different vesting terms from time to time. However, the options granted in 2007 to our named executive officers have our standard vesting terms. Unless an employee's termination of service is due to retirement, disability or death, upon termination of service, any unexercised vested options will be forfeited at the end of three months or the expiration of the option, whichever is earlier.

Table of Contents**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal 2007 Year-End**

The following table shows equity awards held by our named executive officers as of December 31, 2007:

Option Grant Date	Option Awards			Option Expiration Date	Date of Award	SARs Awards			SAR Exercise Price (2)	Exp
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable(1)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable(1)	Option Exercise Price (\$/sh)(1)			Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised SARs (#) Exercisable(2)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised SARs (#) Unexercisable(2)	SAR Exercise Price (2)		
1/15/2001	400,000		\$ 2.87	1/15/2011						
10/2/2001	75,000		\$ 2.09	10/2/2011						
2/12/2002	25,000		\$ 2.96	2/12/2012						
5/2/2002	25,000		\$ 2.01	5/2/2012						
2/5/2003	57,000		\$ 0.94	2/5/2013						
9/2/2004	284,374	65,626	\$ 1.53	9/2/2014						
7/21/2006	434,430	238,235	\$ 2.00	7/21/2016	7/21/2006	269,993	492,342	\$ 2.00	7/21/2006	
8/23/2007		450,000	\$ 2.21	8/23/2017						
2/2/1998	60,000		\$ 2.94	2/2/2008						
7/10/1998	22,500		\$ 1.28	7/10/2008						
9/1/1999	25,000		\$ 1.19	9/1/2009						
10/19/1999	3,750		\$ 1.28	10/19/2019						
6/26/2001(3)	12,000		\$ 3.10	6/26/2011						
10/22/2001	30,000		\$ 2.62	10/22/2011						
10/7/2002	60,000		\$ 0.61	10/7/2012						
9/3/2004	182,812	42,188	\$ 1.53	9/3/2014						
7/21/2006	65,512	119,464	\$ 2.00	7/21/2016	7/21/2006	51,663	94,211	\$ 2.00	7/21/2006	
8/23/2007		150,000	\$ 2.21	8/23/2017						
9/6/2005	253,124	196,876	\$ 5.43	9/6/2015						
7/21/2006	28,333	51,667	\$ 2.00	7/21/2016						
9/6/2006	7,812	17,188	\$ 2.28	9/6/2016						
8/23/2007		150,000	\$ 2.21	8/23/2017						

(1) Unless otherwise noted, options are granted at the close of market price on the grant date (or on an adjacent market trading day if the Nasdaq is closed on the grant date); they vest over a period of four years as follows: twenty-five percent (25%) of the option vests on the first anniversary of the grant date and 1/48 of the original grant vests each additional month of service.

(2) SARs were granted to certain employees on July 21, 2006 to redress certain perceived inequities as described in the in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, above. The terms of the SARs are essentially identical to

those of the options granted on the same date; they have the same vesting schedule and same exercise price.

- (3) This was one of eight non-qualified, performance-based options granted by the Compensation Committee on June 26, 2001 to employees who had been given year-long goals in January 2001. The exercise price was set at \$3.10, which the committee determined to be approximately equal to the average market value during January 2001. The grants vested on December 31, 2001 to the extent that the individual goals had been achieved by the respective employees. It was determined that 12,000 of the 12,500 shares originally covered by the option issued to Dr. Tsukamoto had been earned, and the remaining 500 shares were cancelled. In accordance with APB 25, the company recorded \$19,375 of compensation expense in 2001 in respect of this award.

Table of Contents**Option Exercises**

The following table shows option and stock exercises during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 by our named executive officers:

Name & Principal Position	Option Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized on Exercise (\$)
Martin McGlynn President and CEO	146,000	\$ 376,680(1)
Ann Tsukamoto, Ph.D. COO		
Rodney K.B. Young CFO		

(1) Represent the excess of the fair market value of the shares exercised on the exercise date over the aggregate exercise price of such shares.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Related parties can include any of our directors or executive officers, certain of our stockholders and their immediate family members. Each year, we prepare and require our directors and executive officers to complete Director and Officer Questionnaires identifying any transactions with us in which the officer or director or their family members have an interest. This helps us identify potential conflicts of interest. A conflict of interest occurs when an individual's private interest interferes, or appears to interfere, in any way with the interests of the company as a whole. Our code of ethics requires all directors, officers and employees who may have a potential or apparent conflict of interest to immediately notify our general counsel, who serves as our compliance officer; in addition, the Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors is responsible for considering and reporting to the Board any questions of possible conflicts of interest of Board members. Our ethics code further requires pre-clearance before any employee, officer or director engages in any personal or business activity that may raise concerns about conflict, potential conflict or apparent conflict of interest. Copies of our code of ethics and the Corporate Governance Committee charter are posted on the corporate governance section of our website at www.stemcellsinc.com.

In evaluating related party transactions and potential conflicts of interest, our compliance officer and independent directors apply the same standards of good faith and fiduciary duty they apply to their general responsibilities. They will approve a related party transaction only when, in their good faith judgment, the transaction is in the best interest of the company.

Dr. Weissman, a member of the Board of Directors, was retained in September 1997 to serve as a consultant to us. Pursuant to his consulting agreement, Dr. Weissman provides consulting services to us and serves on our Scientific Advisory Board. In return, we pay Dr. Weissman \$50,000 per year for his services and we granted him, in 1997, an option to purchase 500,000 shares of common stock for \$5.25 per share. This option expired in 2007 on the ten-year anniversary of its grant without being exercised. We also agreed to nominate Dr. Weissman for a position on the Board of Directors, and he agreed to serve if elected. Since October 1, 2000, he has been compensated for this service in the same manner and amount as other non-employee members of the Board. The consulting agreement with

Dr. Weissman contains confidentiality, non-competition, and assignment of invention provisions and is for a term of fifteen years, subject to earlier termination by either party.

In 2007, Dr. Weissman was a member of the board of directors and co-chairman of the scientific advisory board of Cellerant Therapeutics, Inc. (Cellerant), a privately-owned biotechnology company that was a tenant in the building in which we are located. (Cellerant was formerly known as Celtrans, LLC, and Dr. Weissman was at one time its interim chief executive officer and a member of its board of managers.) We have also provided Cellerant use of part of our animal facility and access to our irradiator under space-sharing and other agreements. The last of these agreements expired as of June 30, 2006. Dr. Weissman resigned from Cellerant s board of directors and its scientific advisory board in January 2008.

Table of Contents**PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES****Audit and Tax Fees**

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Audit Committee, has selected the independent accounting firm of Grant Thornton LLP to audit the accounts of the company for the year ending December 31, 2008.

The Audit Committee considered the tax compliance services provided by Grant Thornton LLP, concluded that provision of such services is compatible with maintaining the independence of the independent accountants, and approved the provision by Grant Thornton LLP of tax compliance services with respect to the year ending December 31, 2007.

The Audit Committee received the following information concerning the fees of the independent accountants for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2007, has considered whether the provision of these services is compatible with independence of the independent accountants, and concluded that it is:

	Year Ended	
	12/31/07	12/31/06
Audit fees(1)	\$ 480,029	\$ 425,630
Tax fees	\$ 31,376	\$ 21,000

- (1) Audit fees represents fees for the integrated audit of our annual consolidated financial statements and reviews of the interim consolidated financial statements, and review of audit-related SEC filings; also includes fees related to issuing comfort letter(s) in 2007 and fees for auditing management's assessment of internal controls in 2006. Audit and tax fees include administrative overhead charges and reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses.

Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

The Audit Committee has adopted policies and procedures for pre-approving all services (audit and non-audit) performed by our independent auditors. In accordance with such policies and procedures, the Audit Committee is required to pre-approve all audit and non-audit services to be performed by the independent auditors in order to assure that the provision of such services is in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC and does not impair the auditors' independence. Under the policy, pre-approval is generally provided up to one year and any pre-approval is detailed as to the particular service or category of services and is subject to a specific budget. In addition, the Audit Committee may pre-approve additional services on a case-by-case basis. During 2007 and 2006, all services performed by our independent auditors were pre-approved.

Table of Contents

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee oversees our accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of our financial statements on behalf of the Board, and selects an independent public accounting firm to perform these audits. Management has the primary responsibility for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, preparing the financial statements, and establishing and maintaining adequate controls over public reporting. Our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2007, Grant Thornton LLP, had responsibility for conducting an audit of our annual financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and expressing an opinion on the conformity of those audited financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles.

The Audit Committee oversaw the independent public accounting firm's qualifications and independence, as well as its performance. The Audit Committee assisted the Board in overseeing the preparation of the company's financial statements, the company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and the performance of the company's internal audit function. The Audit Committee met with personnel of the company and Grant Thornton LLP to review the scope and the results of the annual audit, the amount of audit fees, the company's internal accounting controls, the company's financial statements contained in the company's Annual Report to Stockholders and other related matters.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the financial statements for fiscal year 2007 audited by Grant Thornton LLP, as well as management's report on internal control over financial reporting, using the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in Internal Control - Integrated Framework. The Audit Committee has discussed with Grant Thornton LLP various matters related to the financial statements, including those matters required to be discussed by SAS 114 (The Auditor's Communication with Those Charged with Governance). The Audit Committee has also discussed with Grant Thornton LLP its report on internal control over financial reporting, has received the written disclosures and the letter from Grant Thornton LLP required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, Independence Discussions with Audit Committees), and has discussed with Grant Thornton LLP its independence.

Based upon such review and discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors, and the Board approved the recommendation, that the audited financial statements be included in the company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2007 for filing with the SEC.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Eric Bjerkholt, Chairman
Ricardo B. Levy, Ph.D.
John J. Schwartz, Ph.D.

Table of Contents**PROPOSAL NUMBER 1****Election of Directors**

The number of directors is currently fixed at seven. Both our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended to date, and our amended and restated by-laws provide for the classification of the Board of Directors into three classes (Class I, Class II and Class III), as nearly equal in number as possible, with the term of office of one class expiring each year. Unless otherwise instructed, the enclosed proxy will be voted to elect the nominees named below, who are now Class II directors, as Class II directors for a term of three years expiring at the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Proxies cannot be voted for a greater number of persons than the number of nominees named below. It is expected that the nominees will be able to serve, but if any are unable to serve, the proxy will be voted for a substitute nominee or nominees designated by the Board of Directors.

On April 25, 2008, Mr. O Connell informed our Board that he had decided, for personal reasons, not to stand for reelections as a director at our 2008 annual stockholder meeting. Accordingly, the nominees for election as Class II directors, and the incumbent and continuing Class III and Class I directors, are as follows:

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AS CLASS II DIRECTORS TERMS EXPIRE 2011

Name	Principal Occupation	Age	Position
Ricardo B. Levy, Ph.D.	Chairman of the Board, Catalytica Energy Systems, Inc.	63	Director
Irving Weissman, M.D.	Professor, Stanford University	68	Director

Ricardo B. Levy, Ph.D. was elected to the company's Board of Directors in September 2001. Dr. Levy is the lead director of Renegy Holdings, Inc. and has been a member of its board of directors since October 2007. Dr. Levy served as chairman of the board of Catalytica Energy Systems, Inc., between 1995 and 2007 when the company merged to form Renegy. He also served as director of Catalytica Pharmaceuticals Inc. from 1995 to 2000. Prior to this, in 1974, Dr. Levy cofounded Catalytica, Inc., a manufacturing technology and components company. He served as Catalytica's chief operating officer from 1974 until 1991 and as its president and chief executive officer until December 2000, when Catalytica and Catalytica Pharmaceuticals were both sold to DSM N.V. Before founding Catalytica, Dr. Levy was a founding member of Exxon's chemical physics research team, and prior to that he served as the chief executive officer of Sudamericana C.A. in Quito, Ecuador. He currently also serves on the board of directors of Accelrys Inc. (formerly Pharmacopeia, Inc.) and NovoDynamics, Inc. Dr. Levy holds an M.S. from Princeton University and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Stanford University.

Irving L. Weissman, M.D. was elected to the Board of Directors of the company in September 1997 and has served as the chairman of the company's Scientific Advisory Board since that time. Dr. Weissman is the Virginia and Daniel K. Ludwig Professor of Cancer Research, Professor of Pathology and Professor of Developmental Biology at Stanford University. He is also the director of the Stanford Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine and the director of the Stanford Comprehensive Cancer Center. Previously, Dr. Weissman was a cofounder of SyStemix, Inc. and cofounder and a director of Cellerant Therapeutics, Inc., both stem cell sciences companies. He has also served on the scientific advisory boards of several biotechnology companies, including Amgen, DNAX and T-Cell Sciences. Dr. Weissman is a member of the National Academy of Science, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Society of Microbiology, and several other societies.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES DESCRIBED ABOVE.

Table of Contents**INCUMBENT CLASS III DIRECTORS TERMS EXPIRE 2009**

Name	Principal Occupation	Age	Position
Martin McGlynn	President and Chief Executive Officer, StemCells, Inc.	62	Director, Executive Officer
Roger Perlmutter, M.D., Ph.D.	Executive Vice President, Research and Development, Amgen, Inc.	55	Director

Martin M. McGlynn joined the company on January 15, 2001, when he was appointed president and chief executive officer of the company and of its wholly-owned subsidiary, StemCells California, Inc. He was elected to the Board of Directors in February 2001. Mr. McGlynn began his career with Becton Dickinson, Ireland Ltd., and spent 8 years in manufacturing operations. He joined Abbott Labs in 1977 where he held positions as the general manager of Abbott Ireland Ltd., the president and general manager of Abbott Canada Ltd. and the vice president of Abbott International Ltd. In 1990, he joined the BOC Group as the president of Anaquest, Inc., a company focused on anesthesia and acute care pharmaceuticals. From 1994 until he joined StemCells, Mr. McGlynn was the president and chief executive officer of Pharmadigm, Inc., a privately held company in Salt Lake City, Utah, engaged in research and development in the fields of inflammation and genetic immunization. Mr. McGlynn is a native of Dublin, Ireland. He received a Bachelor of Commerce degree from University College, Dublin, Ireland in 1968, a diploma in industrial engineering from the Irish Institute of Industrial Engineering in 1970, and a diploma in production planning from the University of Birmingham, England in 1971. He is a former member of the board of directors of the Confederation of Irish Industries and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Canada.

Roger M. Perlmutter, M.D., Ph.D., was elected to the company's Board of Directors in December 2000. Dr. Perlmutter is the executive vice president of research and development of Amgen, Inc., a position he has held since January 2001. Prior to joining Amgen, he was the executive vice president of worldwide basic research and preclinical development of Merck Research Laboratories, a division of Merck & Co., Inc., a position he had held since August 1999. He joined Merck in February 1997 as the senior vice president of Merck Research Laboratories, from February 1997 to December 1998 and as its executive vice president from February 1999 to January 2001. Prior to joining Merck, Dr. Perlmutter was a professor in the Departments of Immunology, Biochemistry and Medicine at the University of Washington from January 1991 to January 1997 and served as chairman of the Department of Immunology at the University of Washington from May 1989 to January 1997. He also was an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute from October 1991 to January 1997. Dr. Perlmutter was a member of the board of directors of The Irvington Institute for Immunological Research from 1997 to 2001 and of the Institute for Systems Biology, where he has been its chairman of the board since 1999. Dr. Perlmutter is licensed to practice medicine in the State of Washington. He graduated from Reed College in 1973 and received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri in 1979.

Table of Contents**INCUMBENT CLASS I DIRECTORS TERMS EXPIRE 2010**

Name	Principal Occupation	Age	Position
Eric H. Bjerkholt	Senior Vice President and CFO, Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	48	Director
John J. Schwartz, Ph.D.	President, Quantum Strategies Management Company	73	Director, Chairman of the Board

Eric H. Bjerkholt was elected to the Board of Directors of the company in March 2004. He is senior vice president and chief financial officer of Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a small molecule biopharmaceutical company in South San Francisco, CA. Before joining Sunesis, Mr. Bjerkholt served as the senior vice president and chief financial officer of IntraBiotics Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Previously, Mr. Bjerkholt co-founded LifeSpring Nutrition, Inc., a privately held nutraceutical company, and served as its chief financial officer, and later as its president and chief executive officer. From 1990 to 1997, Mr. Bjerkholt was an investment banker at J.P. Morgan & Co., Inc. Mr. Bjerkholt holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a Cand. Oecon degree in economics and econometrics from the University of Oslo, Norway. He is a member of the board of directors of Round Table Pizza, Inc.

John J. Schwartz, Ph.D., was elected to the Board of Directors of the company in December 1998 and was elected the chairman of the Board at the same time. He is the former president and chief executive officer of SyStemix, Inc. Dr. Schwartz is currently the president of Quantum Strategies Management Company, a registered investment advisor located in Palo Alto, California. Prior to his positions at SyStemix, he served as assistant professor, vice president and general counsel at Stanford University in California. Dr. Schwartz graduated from Harvard Law School in 1958 and received his Ph.D. degree in physics from the University of Rochester in 1965.

PROPOSAL NUMBER 2**Ratification of Selection of Independent Public Accountants**

The company is asking the stockholders to ratify the selection of Grant Thornton LLP as the company's independent public accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares represented and voting at the Annual Meeting will be required to ratify the selection of Grant Thornton LLP.

In the event the stockholders fail to ratify the appointment, the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors will consider it as a direction to select other auditors for the subsequent year. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee of the Board at its discretion could decide to terminate the engagement of Grant Thornton LLP and engage another firm at any time if the Audit Committee determines that such a change would be necessary or desirable in the best interests of the company and its stockholders.

A representative of Grant Thornton LLP is expected to attend the Annual Meeting and is not expected to make a statement, but will be available to respond to appropriate questions and may make a statement if such representative desires to do so.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE SELECTION OF GRANT THORNTON LLP AS THE COMPANY'S

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL NUMBER 3

**Amendment to Restated Certificate of Incorporation to
Increase Authorized Shares of Common Stock**

The Board of Directors expects that the company will need to raise significant additional funds in order to advance the company's various development programs, including the continued clinical testing of its HuCNS-S[®] product candidate (purified human neural stem cells). Accordingly, the Board of Directors approved, by unanimous resolution, an amendment to the company's restated certificate of incorporation to increase the company's authorized capital by an additional one hundred twenty-five million (125,000,000) shares of common stock, subject to obtaining requisite stockholder approval.

These shares may be used to raise additional capital to fund the company's working capital and other corporate needs, for future acquisitions of assets, programs or businesses, and for other corporate purposes. However, as of the mailing date of these proxy materials, the company has no immediate plans to use these additional one hundred twenty-five million shares of common stock, whether to raise additional capital, to acquire additional businesses or assets, or otherwise.

If our stockholders approve this proposal, our Board of Director may, in its discretion, proceed to amend and restate the portions of Article III of our restated certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of capital stock from 126,000,000 total shares to 251,000,000 total shares.

At present, the company has 125,000,000 shares designated as common stock. If the company's stockholders approve the increase in the number of authorized shares to 251,000,000, the Board will have authority to file with the Secretary of State of Delaware an amendment to the company's restated certificate of incorporation to designate an additional 125,000,000 shares of common stock, bringing the total number of authorized shares of common stock to 250,000,000. Upon approval and following this filing with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, the amendment will become effective on the date it is filed. The amendment proposed by the Company to the Article III of our restated certificate of incorporation (assuming approval of proposal 3) is attached to this proxy statement as Schedule 1.

At the time of any future capital raising transactions or in connection with any future share issuance, the company will evaluate the applicable requirements for such action. We intend to comply with all requirements for the issuance of these shares, including all disclosure and other requirements pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the Exchange Act.

The following chart summarizes the company's outstanding shares of common stock and rights convertible or exercisable as of the date of this proxy statement (not giving effect to this proposal number 3 to increase the company's authorized capital by one hundred million shares):

	Authorized, not Outstanding but Reserved for Issuance Pursuant to Convertible Securities, Equity Incentive Plans, and
Issued and	

Authorized Shares of Common Stock	Outstanding Shares of Common Stock	Other Reserve Accounts	Authorized and Unreserved
125,000,000	80,810,302	24,671,284	19,518,414

Upon issuance, the additional shares of authorized common stock would have rights identical to the currently outstanding shares of common stock. Adoption of the amendment to the restated certificate of incorporation would not have any immediate effect on the proportionate voting power or other rights of the existing stockholders.

To the extent that the additional authorized shares of capital stock are issued in the future, they may decrease existing stockholders' percentage equity ownership in the company and, depending on the price at which they are issued, could be dilutive to the voting rights of existing stockholders and have a negative effect on the market price of the common stock. Current stockholders have no preemptive or similar rights, which means that current stockholders do not have a prior right to purchase any new issue of capital stock in order to maintain their proportionate ownership of the company.

Table of Contents

The company could also use the additional shares of capital stock for potential strategic transactions including, among other things, acquisitions, spin-offs, strategic partnerships, joint ventures, restructurings, divestitures, business combinations, and investments, although the company has no present plans to do so. The company cannot provide assurances that any such transactions will be consummated on favorable terms or at all, that they will enhance stockholder value or that they will not be adversely affect the company's business or the trading price of our stock.

Management is unaware of any specific effort to obtain control of the company, and has no present intention of using the proposed increase in the number of authorized shares of common stock as an anti-takeover device. However, the company's authorized, but unissued, capital stock could be used to make an attempt to effect a change in control more difficult.

Neither Delaware law, the company's restated certificate of incorporation, nor the Company's amended and restated by-laws provides for appraisal or other similar rights for dissenting stockholders in connection with this proposal. Accordingly, the company's stockholders will have no right to dissent and obtain payment for their shares.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Directors of the company has unanimously approved the proposal to adopt the amendment to the restated certificate of incorporation set forth above and has recommended that the proposed amendment be submitted to the company's stockholders for consideration and approval at the Annual Meeting. The proposal to authorize the Board to amend the company's restated certificate of incorporation to increase the authorized capital stock will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares outstanding entitled to vote thereon.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION AS SET FORTH HEREIN TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED NUMBER OF SHARES OF COMMON STOCK BY 125,000,000 SHARES.

OTHER MATTERS

Stockholder Proposals

Stockholders who wish to present proposals for inclusion in the company's proxy materials for the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders may do so by following the procedures prescribed in Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act. To be eligible, the stockholder proposals must be received by our corporate secretary on or before February 4, 2009.

Stockholders who wish to make a proposal at the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, other than one that will be included in our proxy materials, must notify us no later than April 10, 2009 (see Rule 14a-4 under the Exchange Act). If a stockholder who wishes to present a proposal fails to notify us by April 10, 2009, the proxies that management solicits for the meeting will confer discretionary authority to vote on the stockholder's proposal if it is properly brought before the meeting.

Stockholder Nominations of Directors

The Corporate Governance Committee will consider and evaluate up to two candidates recommended by stockholders or groups of stockholders that, individually or as a group, have beneficially owned at least 5% of the company's common stock for at least one year prior to the date the Nominating Stockholder submits a candidate (a Nominating Stockholder) for nomination for election as a director at any annual meeting of stockholders in accordance with Board policy. The submission must be in writing and delivered to StemCells, Inc., Attn: Secretary, Board of Directors, 3155

Porter Drive, Palo Alto, California 94304, no later than on or about February 4, 2009 for nominees to be considered for nomination at the 2009 Annual Meeting. Submissions must include the name, address and number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by the Nominating Stockholder, a representation the Nominating Stockholder meets the requirements described above and will continue to meet them through the date of the annual meeting, a description of all arrangements or understandings between or among the Nominating Stockholder (or any participant in a Nominating Stockholder group) and the candidate or any other person or entity regarding the candidate, all information regarding the candidate that the company would be required to disclose in a proxy statement under SEC rules, including whether the candidate is independent or if not,

Table of Contents

a description of the reasons why not, and representations by the candidate regarding his or her performance of the duties of a director. Full details may be obtained from the secretary of the Board of Directors at the address above or on our website at www.stemcellsinc.com. The Committee will consider and evaluate candidates recommended by stockholders on the same basis as candidates recommended by other sources.

In addition, the company's by-laws provide that a stockholder entitled to vote for the election of directors at a meeting may nominate persons for election as directors by giving timely notice thereof in proper written form to the Secretary accompanied by a petition signed by at least 100 record holders of capital stock of the corporation that shows the class and number of shares held by each person and that represent in the aggregate 1% of the outstanding shares entitled to vote in the election of directors. To be timely, notice by the stockholder must be received at the principal executive offices not later than the close of business on the tenth day following the day on which notice of the date of the meeting was mailed or public disclosure of such date was made. The requesting stockholder is required to provide information with respect to the nominee(s) for director similar to that described above, as more fully set forth in the company's by-laws.

Form 10-K

The company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, as filed with the SEC, is available without charge upon request by writing to StemCells, Inc. at 3155 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94304, Attention: Investor Relations.

Householding of Proxy Materials

The SEC has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries such as brokers to satisfy delivery requirements for proxy statements with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single proxy statement addressed to those stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as "householding," potentially provides extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for companies. The company and some brokers household proxy materials, delivering a single proxy statement to multiple stockholders sharing an address unless contrary instructions have been received from the affected stockholders. Once you have received notice from your broker or us that they or we will be householding materials to your address, householding will continue until you are notified otherwise or until you revoke your consent. If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in householding and would prefer to receive a separate proxy statement, or if you are receiving multiple copies of the proxy statement and wish to receive only one, please notify your broker if your shares are held in a brokerage account or us if you hold registered shares. You can notify us by sending a written request to StemCells, Inc., 3155 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94304, Attention: Investor Relations.

Other Business

The Board of Directors knows of no business that will come before the meeting for action except as described in the accompanying Notice of Meeting. However, as to any such business, the persons designated as proxies will have authority to act in their discretion.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Kenneth B. Stratton
Secretary

June 4, 2008

Table of Contents

**SCHEDULE 1
INCREASE TO AUTHORIZED CAPITAL**

RESOLVED that:

1. The stockholders of StemCells, Inc. (the company or Corporation) hereby ratify and approve the company s increase to its authorized capital of 125,000,000 shares of common stock, par value of \$0.01 per share;
 2. Further to the foregoing increase in the company s authorized capital, the stockholders ratify and approve the decision by the company s Board of Directors to effect an amendment to the first paragraph of section THREE of the company s Restated Certificate of Incorporation to amend and replace said paragraph entirely with the following:

The total number of shares of stock that this Corporation shall have authority to issue is 251,000,000, constituting of 250,000,000 shares of Common Stock, with a par value of \$0.01 per share (the Common Stock), and 1,000,000 shares of Undesignated Preferred Stock with a par value of \$0.01 per share (the Undesignated Preferred Stock).
 3. Notwithstanding that this resolution has been duly passed by the stockholders of the company and subject to the rights of any third parties, the directors of the company be, and they hereby are, authorized and empowered to revoke this resolution and/or postpone or terminate the corresponding amendment to the company s Restated Certificate of Incorporation at any time prior to the filing of a certificate and/or articles giving effect to the increase to the company s authorized capital approved by these resolutions, and may do so without further approval of the stockholder of the company; and
 4. Any one director or officer of the company be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to take all necessary steps and proceedings, and to execute, deliver and file all necessary or appropriate certificates, articles or other instruments, as well as any and all declarations, agreements, documents, and other instruments, and to do all such other acts and things (whether under corporate seal of the company or otherwise) that may be necessary or desirable to give effect to the provisions of these resolutions.
-

Table of Contents

DETACH HERE

ZSCS52

PROXY

STEMCELLS, INC.

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS, July 22, 2008

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The undersigned stockholder, by completing this card, hereby appoints Martin McGlynn and Kenneth Stratton, or either of them with power of substitution to each, proxies of the undersigned to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of StemCells, Inc. to be held on July 22, 2008 at 3155 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, California at 2:00 p.m., local time, or at any postponements or adjournments thereof, all of the shares of Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share, of StemCells, Inc. that the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present. The undersigned instructs such proxies or their substitutes to act on the following matters as specified by the undersigned, and to vote in such manner as they may determine on any other matter that may properly come before the meeting.

**SEE REVERSE
SIDE**

CONTINUED AND TO BE SIGNED ON REVERSE SIDE

**SEE REVERSE
SIDE**

Table of Contents

**STEMCELLS, INC.
C/O EQUISERVE TRUST COMPANY N.A.
P.O. BOX 8694
EDISON, NJ 08818-8694**

DETACH HERE IF YOU ARE RETURNING YOUR PROXY CARD BY MAIL

ZSCS51

Please mark
ý votes as in
this example.

#SCS

This proxy when properly executed will be voted in the manner specified by the undersigned stockholder(s). If no contrary direction is made, this proxy will be voted FOR the election of the nominees for director named below and FOR proposals 2 and 3, and in the discretion of the named proxies as to any other matter that may come before the meeting.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF STEMCELLS, INC. RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR LISTED BELOW AND A VOTE FOR PROPOSALS 2 AND 3.

1. To elect the following nominees as Class II directors:

Nominees: (01) Ricardo B. Levy, Ph.D.
(02) Irving Weissman, M.D.

FOR	WITHHELD	
ALL	FROM ALL	
	NOMINEES	
NOMINEES		ABSTAIN
o	o	o

(INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee, write that nominee's name in the space provided above.)

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
2. To ratify the selection of Grant Thornton LLP as independent public accountants of the company for the fiscal year	o	o	o

e n d i n g
December 31,
2008.

FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN

3. To amend the o o o
c o m p a n y s
r e s t a t e d
certificate of
incorporation to
increase the
n u m b e r o f
authorized shares
of common stock
by one hundred
t w e n t y - f i v e
m i l l i o n
(125,000,000)
shares.

4 . B y m y
signature below,
I confer to the
named proxies
discretionary
authority to vote
upon such other
business as may
properly come
b e f o r e t h e
meeting or any
postponements,
continuations and
adjournments
thereof.

MARK HERE FOR ADDRESS CHANGE AND NOTE AT LEFT o

Note: Please sign exactly as name appears on this card. All joint owners should sign. When signing as an executor, administrator, attorney, or guardian or as a custodian for a minor, please give full title as such. If a corporation, please sign in full corporate name and indicate the signer s title. If a partner, sign in partnership name.

Signature:

Date:

Signature:

Date: