

ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC
Form 424B5
June 16, 2014
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-196803

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to the notes has become effective under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. This preliminary prospectus supplement is not an offer to sell the notes and it is not soliciting an offer to buy the notes in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to completion, dated June 16, 2014

Preliminary prospectus supplement

(To prospectus dated June 16, 2014)

ACORDA THERAPEUTICS, INC.

\$300,000,000

% Convertible Senior Notes due 2021

Interest payable June 15 and December 15

We are offering \$300,000,000 principal amount of our % Convertible Senior Notes due 2021. The notes will bear interest at a rate of % per year, payable semiannually in arrears on June 15 and December 15 of each year, beginning on December 15, 2014. The notes will mature on June 15, 2021.

Holders may convert their notes at their option at any time prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding December 15, 2020 only under the following circumstances: (1) during any calendar quarter commencing after the calendar quarter ending on September 30, 2014 (and only during such calendar quarter), if the last reported sale price of the common stock for at least 20 trading days (whether or not consecutive) during a period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on, and including, the last trading day of the immediately preceding calendar quarter is greater than or equal to 130% of the conversion price on each applicable trading day; (2) during the five business day period after any five consecutive trading day period (the measurement period) in which the trading price (as defined below) per \$1,000 principal amount of notes for each trading day of the measurement period was less than 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of our common stock and the conversion rate on each such trading day; (3) if we call any or all of the notes for redemption, at any time prior to the close of business on the scheduled trading day immediately preceding the redemption date; or (4) upon the occurrence of specified corporate events. On or after December 15, 2020 until the close of business on the second scheduled trading day immediately preceding the maturity date, holders may convert their notes at any time, regardless of the foregoing circumstances. Upon conversion, we will pay or deliver, as the case may be, cash, shares of our common stock or a combination of cash and shares of our common stock, at our election, as described in this prospectus supplement.

The conversion rate will initially be shares of common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of notes (equivalent to an initial conversion price of approximately \$ per share of common stock). The conversion rate will be subject to adjustment in some events but will not be adjusted for any accrued and unpaid interest. In addition, following certain corporate events that occur prior to the maturity date, we will increase the conversion rate for a holder who elects to convert its notes in connection with such a corporate event in certain circumstances.

We may not redeem the notes prior to June 20, 2017. We may redeem for cash all or any portion of the notes, at our option, on or after June 20, 2017 if the last reported sale price of our common stock has been at least 130% of the conversion price then in effect for at least 20 trading days (whether or not consecutive) during any 30 consecutive trading day period (including the last trading day of such period) ending within five trading days prior to the date on which we provide

Edgar Filing: ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC - Form 424B5

notice of redemption at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, *plus* accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date. No sinking fund is provided for the notes.

If we undergo a fundamental change, holders may require us to repurchase for cash all or any portion of their notes at a fundamental change repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased, *plus* accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the fundamental change repurchase date.

The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and will rank senior in right of payment to any of our indebtedness that is expressly subordinated in right of payment to the notes; equal in right of payment to any of our unsecured indebtedness that is not so subordinated; effectively junior in right of payment to any of our secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness; and structurally junior to all indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables) of our subsidiaries.

We do not intend to apply to list the notes on any securities exchange or any automated dealer quotation system. Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol ACOR. The last reported sale price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market on June 13, 2014 was \$35.11 per share.

Investing in the notes involves a high degree of risk. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement.

	Per Note	Total
Public offering price(1)	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$	\$

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from June , 2014.

We have granted the underwriter the right to purchase, exercisable within a 30-day period, up to an additional \$45,000,000 principal amount of notes, solely to cover over-allotments.

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

We expect that delivery of the notes will be made to investors in book-entry form through The Depository Trust Company on or about June , 2014.

Sole book-running manager

J.P. Morgan

June , 2014

Table of Contents**Table of Contents****Prospectus supplement**

<u>Prospectus summary</u>	S-1
<u>The offering</u>	S-3
<u>Summary consolidated financial data</u>	S-7
<u>Risk factors</u>	S-9
<u>Ratio of earnings to fixed charges</u>	S-17
<u>Forward-looking statements</u>	S-18
<u>Use of proceeds</u>	S-19
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-20
<u>Price range of common stock and dividend policy</u>	S-21
<u>Description of notes</u>	S-22
<u>Description of capital stock</u>	S-55
<u>Material United States federal income tax considerations</u>	S-56
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-64
<u>Legal matters</u>	S-71
<u>Independent registered public accounting firm</u>	S-71
<u>Where you can find more information</u>	S-71
<u>Incorporation of information by reference</u>	S-72

Prospectus

<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Our Company</u>	2
<u>Forward-looking Statements</u>	4
<u>Risk Factors</u>	5
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	6
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	7
<u>Description of Securities</u>	8
<u>Delaware Law and Certain Charter and Bylaw Provisions</u>	15
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	17
<u>Legal Matters</u>	18
<u>Experts</u>	18
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	18
<u>Incorporation of Information by Reference</u>	19

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the terms of this offering of notes and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering of notes. To the extent the

Edgar Filing: ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC - Form 424B5

information contained in this prospectus supplement differs or varies from the information contained in the accompanying prospectus or any document incorporated by reference, the information in this prospectus supplement shall control.

Table of Contents

We are responsible for the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and in any related free-writing prospectus we prepare or authorize. Neither we nor the underwriter have authorized anyone to give you any other information, and we take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We are not, and the underwriter is not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and any free writing prospectus is accurate only as of the date of those respective documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. You should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and any free writing prospectus before making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents we have referred you to in the sections of this prospectus supplement entitled **Where You Can Find More Information and **Incorporation of Information by Reference**.**

We own several registered trademarks in the U.S. and in other countries. These registered trademarks include, in the U.S., the marks Acorda Therapeutics, our stylized Acorda Therapeutics logo, Ampyra, Zanaflex, Zanaflex Capsules, and Qutenza. Also, our mark Fampyra is a registered mark in the European Community Trademark Office and we have registrations or pending applications for this mark in other jurisdictions. Our trademark portfolio also includes several registered trademarks and pending trademark applications (e.g., Plumiaz) in the U.S. and worldwide for potential product names or for disease awareness activities. Third party trademarks, trade names, and service marks used in this report are the property of their respective owners.

Table of Contents

Prospectus summary

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and may not contain all of the information that is important to you. We encourage you to read this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus in its entirety, including the Risk Factors section in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein. As used in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, unless otherwise specified or the context requires otherwise, the terms Acorda, we, our, and us refer to Acorda Therapeutics, Inc and its consolidated subsidiaries.

Our business

We are a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the identification, development and commercialization of novel therapies that improve the lives of people with multiple sclerosis, or MS, epilepsy, and other neurological disorders. We have both marketed products, as well as developmental stage products, and we are working to bring important new therapies to people with nervous system disorders. Our goal is to help patients to a better future, while building a leading neurology company with a portfolio of innovative products. The first product for which we completed clinical development, Ampyra (dalfampridine) Extended Release Tablets, 10mg was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, in January 2010 as a treatment to improve walking in patients with MS. This was demonstrated by an increase in walking speed. Ampyra is an extended release tablet formulation of dalfampridine (4-aminopyridine, 4-AP), which was previously referred to as fampridine. Ampyra demonstrated efficacy in people with all four major types of MS (relapsing remitting, secondary progressive, progressive relapsing and primary progressive). To our knowledge, Ampyra is the first and only product indicated to improve walking in people with MS.

Ampyra was made commercially available in the U.S. in March 2010, and had net revenue of \$302.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. Since the March 2010 launch of Ampyra, more than 90,000 people with MS in the U.S. have tried Ampyra. Acorda now has five Orange Book patents providing protection up to 2027.

Ampyra is marketed as Fampyra outside the U.S. by Biogen Idec International GmbH, or Biogen Idec, under a license and collaboration agreement that we entered into in June 2009. Fampyra has been approved in a number of countries across Europe, Asia and the Americas. Biogen Idec anticipates making Fampyra commercially available in additional markets in 2014. We recorded \$9.3 million of royalty revenue and \$9.1 million of amortized license revenue in 2013 related to Fampyra.

We also sell Zanaflex Capsules and Zanaflex tablets, which contain tizanidine hydrochloride, a short-acting drug approved by the FDA for the management of spasticity. In 2012, we launched tizanidine hydrochloride capsules, an authorized generic version of Zanaflex Capsules, under our agreement with Watson Pharma, Inc., a subsidiary of Actavis, Inc. (formerly Watson Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), following the launch by Apotex, Inc. of its generic tizanidine hydrochloride capsules. In 2013, Mylan Laboratories Limited also launched generic tizanidine hydrochloride capsules. The commercial launch of generic tizanidine hydrochloride capsules has caused a significant decline in net revenue of Zanaflex Capsules, and the launch of generic versions and the potential launch of other generic versions are expected to continue to cause our net revenues from Zanaflex Capsules to further decline in 2014 and beyond.

We are developing what we believe is one of the industry's leading pipelines of novel neurological therapies. We are currently developing six clinical-stage therapies and one pre-clinical stage therapy that address a range of disorders including post-stroke deficits, epilepsy, stroke, peripheral nerve damage, spinal cord injury, neuropathic pain, and heart failure.

Table of Contents

We are developing Plumiaz (our trade name for Diazepam Nasal Spray), a proprietary nasal spray formulation of diazepam, for the treatment of people with epilepsy who experience cluster seizures, also known as acute repetitive seizures. In 2013, we submitted a New Drug Application, or NDA, filing for Plumiaz to the FDA. In May 2014, the FDA issued a Complete Response Letter, or CRL, for the Plumiaz NDA. A Complete Response Letter is a communication from the FDA that informs a company that their review of the NDA is complete and the application cannot be approved in its present form. We are evaluating the CRL, and expect to work closely with the FDA to address items outlined in the letter, which will include additional clinical work, and refile the NDA. Once we have refiled the NDA, we expect that the FDA will respond to our submission within six months. Based on the requirements for approval outlined in the letter, we do not expect Plumiaz to receive FDA approval in 2014. We anticipate that our current infrastructure can support sales and marketing of this product if it receives FDA approval. We believe this product, if approved, has the potential to generate peak annual sales significantly higher than \$100 million.

In July 2013, we acquired rights in the U.S., Canada, Latin America and certain other countries to two neuropathic pain management assets from NeurogesX, Inc., including: Qutenza, a dermal patch containing 8% prescription strength capsaicin which is approved by the FDA for the management of neuropathic pain associated with post-herpetic neuralgia, also known as post-shingles pain; and NP-1998, a Phase 3 ready, prescription strength capsaicin topical solution, being assessed for the treatment of neuropathic pain. NeurogesX had discontinued active promotion of Qutenza by the time of our purchase, but we re-launched the product in January 2014 using our existing commercial organization, including our specialty neurology sales force.

NP-1998 is a topical solution containing 20% prescription strength capsaicin. We believe this liquid formulation of the capsaicin-based therapy has key advantages over the patch, and we are currently designing a plan to expedite development of this product as both a stand-alone therapy and as an adjunct to existing systemic therapies for neuropathic pain. NP-1998 has the potential to treat multiple neuropathies. We are planning to pursue HIV-related neuropathy as the first indication for NP-1998, and we are also exploring the potential for additional indications, including painful diabetic neuropathy.

We are focused on continuing to grow as a fully-integrated biopharmaceutical company by commercializing our FDA approved products, developing our product candidates and advancing our research and development programs for underserved markets. We are seeking to leverage our financial strength to invest in our pipeline of research and development programs and potentially to acquire additional products that will fit with our commercial structure and expertise in both neurology and specialty pharmaceuticals. Our goal is to create a balanced portfolio that creates significant near-term value, as well as intermediate and longer-term opportunities for further value accretion.

Our corporate information

We were incorporated in 1995 as a Delaware corporation. Our principal executive offices are located at 420 Saw Mill River Road, Ardsley, New York 10502. Our telephone number is (914) 347-4300. Our website is www.acorda.com. Please note that all references to www.acorda.com in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and documents incorporated by reference herein are inactive textual references only and that the information contained on Acorda's website is neither incorporated by reference nor intended to be used in connection with this offering.

Table of Contents**The offering**

The following summary describes the principal terms of the notes. Certain of the terms and conditions described below are subject to important limitations and exceptions. The Description of the notes section of this prospectus contains a more detailed description of the terms and conditions of the notes. As used in this section, we, our, and us refer only to Acorda Therapeutics, Inc. and not to its consolidated subsidiaries.

Issuer	Acorda Therapeutics, Inc., a Delaware corporation.
Securities	\$300,000,000 principal amount of % Convertible Senior Notes due 2021 (plus up to an additional \$45,000,000 principal amount, solely to cover over-allotments).
Maturity	June 15, 2021, unless earlier repurchased, redeemed or converted.
Interest	% per year. Interest will accrue from June , 2014 and will be payable semiannually in arrears on June 15 and December 15 of each year, beginning on December 15, 2014. We will pay additional interest, if any, at our election as the sole remedy relating to the failure to comply with our reporting obligations as described under Description of notes Events of default.
Conversion rights	<p>Holders may convert all or any portion of their notes, in multiples of \$1,000 principal amount, at their option at any time prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding December 15, 2020 only under the following circumstances:</p> <p>during any calendar quarter commencing after the calendar quarter ending on September 30, 2014 (and only during such calendar quarter), if the last reported sale price of the common stock for at least 20 trading days (whether or not consecutive) during a period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on, and including, the last trading day of the immediately preceding calendar quarter is greater than or equal to 130% of the conversion price on each applicable trading day;</p> <p>during the five business day period after any five consecutive trading day period (the measurement period) in which the trading price (as defined under Description of notes Conversion rights Conversion upon satisfaction of trading price condition) per \$1,000 principal amount of notes for each trading day of the measurement period was less than 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of our common stock and the conversion rate on each such trading day;</p> <p>if we call any or all of the notes for redemption, at any time prior to the close of business on the scheduled trading day immediately preceding the redemption date; or</p> <p>upon the occurrence of specified corporate events described under Description of notes Conversion rights Conversion upon specified corporate events.</p>

Table of Contents

On or after December 15, 2020 until the close of business on the second scheduled trading day immediately preceding the maturity date, holders may convert all or any portion of their notes, in multiples of \$1,000 principal amount, at the option of the holder regardless of the foregoing circumstances.

The conversion rate for the notes is initially _____ shares of common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of notes (equivalent to an initial conversion price of approximately \$ _____ per share of common stock), subject to adjustment as described in this prospectus supplement.

Upon conversion, we will pay or deliver, as the case may be, cash, shares of our common stock or a combination of cash and shares of our common stock, at our election. If we satisfy our conversion obligation solely in cash or through payment and delivery, as the case may be, of a combination of cash and shares of our common stock, the amount of cash and shares of common stock, if any, due upon conversion will be based on a daily conversion value (as described herein) calculated on a proportionate basis for each trading day in a 25 trading day observation period (as described herein). See Description of notes Conversion rights Settlement upon conversion.

In addition, following certain corporate events that occur prior to the maturity date, we will increase the conversion rate for a holder who elects to convert its notes in connection with such a corporate event in certain circumstances as described under Description of notes Conversion rights Increase in conversion rate upon conversion upon a make-whole fundamental change.

You will not receive any additional cash payment or additional shares representing accrued and unpaid interest, if any, upon conversion of a note, except in limited circumstances. Instead, interest will be deemed to be paid by the cash, shares of our common stock or a combination of cash and shares of our common stock paid or delivered, as the case may be, to you upon conversion of a note.

Redemption at our option

We may not redeem the notes prior to June 20, 2017. We may redeem for cash all or part of the notes, at our option, on or after June 20, 2017 if the last reported sale price of our common stock has been at least 130% of the conversion price then in effect for at least 20 trading days (whether or not consecutive) during any 30 consecutive trading day period (including the last trading day of such period) ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the date on which we provide notice of redemption at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date. No sinking fund is provided for the notes, which means that we are not required to redeem or retire the notes periodically.

Table of Contents

We will give notice of any redemption not less than 45 nor more than 60 calendar days before the redemption date by mail or electronic delivery to the trustee, the paying agent and each holder of notes. See Description of notes Optional redemption.

Fundamental change

If we undergo a fundamental change (as defined in this prospectus supplement under Description of notes Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase notes), subject to certain conditions, holders may require us to repurchase for cash all or part of their notes in principal amounts of \$1,000 or an integral multiple thereof. The fundamental change repurchase price will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased, *plus* accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the fundamental change repurchase date. See Description of notes Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase notes.

Additional amounts

If we consolidate with or merge with or into, or sell, convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of our properties and assets to, another company and the resulting, surviving or transferee company is not organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any State thereof or the District of Columbia (such company or any successor thereto, the surviving entity), then all payments made by the surviving entity under or with respect to the notes will be made without withholding or deduction for taxes unless the surviving entity is legally required to do so, in which case, subject to certain exceptions and limitations, the surviving entity will pay such additional amounts as may be necessary so that the net amount received by beneficial owners of the notes after such withholding or deduction shall equal the amount that would have been received in the absence of such withholding or deduction.

Ranking

The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and will rank:

senior in right of payment to any of our indebtedness that is expressly subordinated in right of payment to the notes;

equal in right of payment to any of our unsecured indebtedness that is not so subordinated;

effectively junior in right of payment to any of our secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness; and

structurally junior to all indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables) of our subsidiaries.

As of March 31, 2014, our total consolidated indebtedness was \$161.4 million, of which an aggregate of \$4.2 million was secured indebtedness of ours, and our subsidiaries had \$157.2 million of indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables, but excluding intercompany obligations and liabilities of a type not required to be reflected on a balance sheet of such subsidiaries in accordance with GAAP) to which the notes would have been structurally subordinated. After giving effect to the issuance of the notes (assuming no

Table of Contents

exercise of the underwriter's over-allotment option) and the use of proceeds therefrom, our total consolidated indebtedness would have been \$461.4 million.

The indenture governing the notes does not limit the amount of debt that we or our subsidiaries may incur.

Use of proceeds

We estimate that the proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$ million (or \$ million if the underwriter exercises its over-allotment option in full), after deducting fees and estimated expenses. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes, including to fund possible acquisitions of, or investments in, complementary businesses, products and technologies. We have not entered into any agreements or commitments with respect to any acquisitions or investments at this time. See Use of proceeds.

Book-entry form

The notes will be issued in book-entry form and will be represented by permanent global certificates deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company (DTC) and registered in the name of a nominee of DTC. Beneficial interests in any of the notes will be shown on, and transfers will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee and any such interest may not be exchanged for certificated securities, except in limited circumstances.

Absence of a public market for the notes

The notes are new securities and there is currently no established market for the notes. Accordingly, we cannot assure you as to the development or liquidity of any market for the notes. The underwriter has advised us that it currently intends to make a market in the notes. However, it is not obligated to do so, and it may discontinue any market making with respect to the notes without notice. We do not intend to apply for a listing of the notes on any securities exchange or any automated dealer quotation system.

U.S. federal income tax consequences

For the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the holding, disposition and conversion of the notes, and the holding and disposition of shares of our common stock, see Material United States federal income tax considerations.

NASDAQ Global Select Market symbol for our common stock

Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol ACOR.

Trustee, paying agent and conversion agent

Wilmington Trust, National Association

Table of Contents**Summary consolidated financial data**

The summary consolidated financial data as of December 31, 2013 and 2012 and for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 are derived from our audited consolidated financial statements and the related notes, which are incorporated by reference herein. The summary historical consolidated financial data as of March 31, 2014 and for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 have been derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements and the related notes, which are incorporated by reference herein. These unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a basis consistent with our audited consolidated financial statements. In the opinion of management, the unaudited summary historical consolidated financial data reflect all adjustments, consisting only of normal and recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair statement of the results for those periods. The results of operations for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year or any future period. Historical results are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected in the future.

The following summary information should be read in conjunction with Capitalization. In addition, this information should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto, each of which is incorporated by reference herein from our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 and our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2014.

(In thousands, except share and per share data)	Three months ended				
	March 31, 2014	2013	Year ended December 31, 2013 2012 2011		
	(unaudited)				
Consolidated Statement of Operations Data					
Revenues:					
Net product revenues	\$ 74,463	\$ 64,084	\$ 310,317	\$ 282,381	\$ 256,271
Milestone revenue					25,000
License revenue	2,264	2,265	9,057	9,057	9,057
Royalty revenues	3,791	5,516	17,056	14,376	1,909
Total net revenues	80,518	71,865	336,430	305,814	292,237
Costs and expenses:					
Cost of sales	15,529	13,484	66,009	57,007	64,183
Cost of milestone and license revenue	159	159	634	634	2,384
Research and development	14,522	12,520	53,877	53,881	42,108
Selling, general and administrative	46,892	48,198	185,545	168,690	148,508
Total operating expenses	77,102	74,361	306,065	280,212	257,183
Operating income (loss)	3,416	(2,496)	30,365	25,602	35,054
Other expense (net):					
Interest and amortization of debt discount expense	(92)	(591)	(2,170)	(1,880)	(3,570)
Interest income	172	173	668	552	552
Other income (expense)				(6)	(18)
Total other income (expense), net	80	(418)	(1,502)	(1,334)	(3,036)
Income before taxes	3,496	(2,914)	28,863	24,268	32,018
(Provision for) / benefit from income taxes	(2,793)	1,775	(12,422)	130,690	(1,413)
Net income (loss)	\$ 703	\$ (1,139)	\$ 16,441	\$ 154,958	\$ 30,605
Net income (loss) per share-basic	\$ 0.02	\$ (0.03)	\$ 0.41	\$ 3.93	\$ 0.78

Edgar Filing: ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC - Form 424B5

Net income (loss) per share-diluted	0.02	(0.03)	0.39	3.84	0.76
Weighted average common shares outstanding used in computing net income per share-basic	40,934	39,832	40,208	39,459	39,000
Weighted average common shares outstanding used in computing net income per share-diluted	42,235	39,832	41,682	40,332	40,064

S-7

Table of Contents

(in thousands)	As of March 31, 2014 (unaudited)	As of December 31, 2013 2012	
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:			
Cash, cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments	\$ 372,152	\$ 367,226	\$ 333,188
Working capital	268,714	270,689	234,192
Total assets	611,887	607,127	565,332
Long-term liabilities	66,663	70,131	80,541
Total stockholders' equity	450,520	440,353	385,921

S-8

Table of Contents

Risk factors

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. In addition to the risk factors set forth below, you should carefully consider the risks described under the caption Risk Factors in Item 1A of our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 and the risks that may be described in future quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, as well as the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus. If any of the risks described below or in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 or in future quarterly reports on Form 10-Q actually occurs, our business, results of operations and financial condition will likely suffer and the trading price of our securities may decline. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently consider immaterial could also have a material adverse effect on our business operations.

Risks related to the notes

The notes are effectively subordinated to our secured debt and any liabilities of our subsidiaries.

The notes will rank senior in right of payment to any of our indebtedness that is expressly subordinated in right of payment to the notes; equal in right of payment to any of our liabilities that are not so subordinated; effectively junior in right of payment to any of our secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness; and structurally junior to all indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables) of our subsidiaries. In the event of our bankruptcy, liquidation, reorganization or other winding up, our assets that secure debt ranking senior in right of payment to the notes will be available to pay obligations on the notes only after the secured debt has been repaid in full from these assets. There may not be sufficient assets remaining to pay amounts due on any or all of the notes then outstanding. The indenture governing the notes does not prohibit us from incurring additional senior debt or secured debt, nor does it prohibit any of our subsidiaries from incurring additional liabilities.

As of March 31, 2014, our total consolidated indebtedness was \$161.4 million, of which an aggregate of \$4.2 million was secured indebtedness of ours, and our subsidiaries had \$157.2 million of indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables, but excluding intercompany obligations and liabilities of a type not required to be reflected on a balance sheet of such subsidiaries in accordance with GAAP) to which the notes would have been structurally subordinated. After giving effect to the issuance of the notes (assuming no exercise of the underwriter's over-allotment option) and the use of proceeds therefrom, our total consolidated indebtedness would have been \$461.4 million.

Servicing our debt requires a significant amount of cash, and we may not have sufficient cash flow from our business to pay our substantial debt.

Our ability to make scheduled payments of the principal of, to pay interest on or to refinance our indebtedness, including the notes, depends on our future performance, which is subject to economic, financial, competitive and other factors beyond our control. Our business may not continue to generate cash flow from operations in the future sufficient to service our debt and make necessary capital expenditures. If we are unable to generate such cash flow, we may be required to adopt one or more alternatives, such as selling assets, restructuring debt or obtaining additional equity capital on terms that may be onerous or highly dilutive. Our ability to refinance our indebtedness will depend on the capital markets and our financial condition at such time. We may not be able to engage in any of these activities or engage in these activities on desirable terms, which could result in a default on our debt obligations.

Table of Contents

Recent and future regulatory actions and other events may adversely affect the trading price and liquidity of the notes.

We expect that many investors in, and potential purchasers of, the notes will employ, or seek to employ, a convertible arbitrage strategy with respect to the notes. Investors would typically implement such a strategy by selling short the common stock underlying the notes and dynamically adjusting their short position while continuing to hold the notes. Investors may also implement this type of strategy by entering into swaps on our common stock in lieu of or in addition to short selling the common stock.

The SEC and other regulatory and self-regulatory authorities have implemented various rules and taken certain actions, and may in the future adopt additional rules and take other actions, that may impact those engaging in short selling activity involving equity securities (including our common stock). Such rules and actions include Rule 201 of SEC Regulation SHO, the adoption by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. and the national securities exchanges of a Limit Up-Limit Down program, the imposition of market-wide circuit breakers that halt trading of securities for certain periods following specific market declines, and the implementation of certain regulatory reforms required by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. Any governmental or regulatory action that restricts the ability of investors in, or potential purchasers of, the notes to effect short sales of our common stock, borrow our common stock or enter into swaps on our common stock could adversely affect the trading price and the liquidity of the notes.

Volatility in the market price and trading volume of our common stock could adversely impact the trading price of the notes.

The stock market in recent years has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated to the operating performance of companies. The market price of our common stock could fluctuate significantly for many reasons, including in response to the risks described in this section, elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the documents we have incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or for reasons unrelated to our operations, such as reports by industry analysts, investor perceptions or negative announcements by our customers, competitors or suppliers regarding their own performance, as well as industry conditions and general financial, economic and political instability. A decrease in the market price of our common stock would likely adversely impact the trading price of the notes. The market price of our common stock could also be affected by possible sales of our common stock by investors who view the notes as a more attractive means of equity participation in us and by hedging or arbitrage trading activity that we expect to develop involving our common stock. This trading activity could, in turn, affect the trading price of the notes.

Despite our current debt levels, we may still incur substantially more debt or take other actions which would intensify the risks discussed above.

Despite our current consolidated debt levels, we and our subsidiaries may be able to incur substantial additional debt in the future, subject to the restrictions contained in our debt instruments, some of which may be secured debt. We will not be restricted under the terms of the indenture governing the notes from incurring additional debt, securing existing or future debt, recapitalizing our debt or taking a number of other actions that are not limited by the terms of the indenture governing the notes that could have the effect of diminishing our ability to make payments on the notes when due.

We may not have the ability to raise the funds necessary to settle conversions of the notes or to repurchase the notes upon a fundamental change, and our future debt may contain limitations on our ability to pay cash upon conversion or repurchase of the notes.

Holders of the notes will have the right to require us to repurchase their notes upon the occurrence of a fundamental change at a fundamental change repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the

Table of Contents

notes to be repurchased, *plus* accrued and unpaid interest, if any, as described under *Description of notes* Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase notes. In addition, upon conversion of the notes, unless we elect to deliver solely shares of our common stock to settle such conversion (other than paying cash in lieu of delivering any fractional share), we will be required to make cash payments in respect of the notes being converted as described in under *Description of notes* Conversion rights Settlement upon conversion. However, we may not have enough available cash or be able to obtain financing at the time we are required to make repurchases of notes surrendered therefor or notes being converted. In addition, our ability to repurchase the notes or to pay cash upon conversions of the notes may be limited by law, by regulatory authority or by agreements governing our future indebtedness. Our failure to repurchase notes at a time when the repurchase is required by the indenture or to pay any cash payable on future conversions of the notes as required by the indenture would constitute a default under the indenture. A default under the indenture or the fundamental change itself could also lead to a default under agreements governing our future indebtedness. If the repayment of the related indebtedness were to be accelerated after any applicable notice or grace periods, we may not have sufficient funds to repay the indebtedness and repurchase the notes or make cash payments upon conversions thereof.

The conditional conversion feature of the notes, if triggered, may adversely affect our financial condition and operating results.

In the event the conditional conversion feature of the notes is triggered, holders of notes will be entitled to convert the notes at any time during specified periods at their option. See *Description of notes* Conversion rights. If one or more holders elect to convert their notes, unless we elect to satisfy our conversion obligation by delivering solely shares of our common stock (other than paying cash in lieu of delivering any fractional share), we would be required to settle a portion or all of our conversion obligation through the payment of cash, which could adversely affect our liquidity. In addition, even if holders do not elect to convert their notes, we could be required under applicable accounting rules to reclassify all or a portion of the outstanding principal of the notes as a current rather than long-term liability, which would result in a material reduction of our net working capital.

The accounting method for convertible debt securities that may be settled in cash, such as the notes, is the subject of recent changes that could have a material effect on our reported financial results.

In May 2008, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, which we refer to as FASB, issued FASB Staff Position No. APB 14-1, Accounting for Convertible Debt Instruments That May Be Settled in Cash Upon Conversion (Including Partial Cash Settlement), which has subsequently been codified as Accounting Standards Codification 470-20, Debt with Conversion and Other Options, which we refer to as ASC 470-20. Under ASC 470-20, an entity must separately account for the liability and equity components of the convertible debt instruments (such as the notes) that may be settled entirely or partially in cash upon conversion in a manner that reflects the issuer's economic interest cost. The effect of ASC 470-20 on the accounting for the notes is that the equity component is required to be included in the additional paid-in capital section of stockholders' equity on our consolidated balance sheet, and the value of the equity component would be treated as original issue discount for purposes of accounting for the debt component of the notes. As a result, we will be required to record a greater amount of non-cash interest expense in current periods presented as a result of the amortization of the discounted carrying value of the notes to their face amount over the term of the notes. We will report lower net income in our financial results because ASC 470-20 will require interest to include both the current period's amortization of the debt discount and the instrument's coupon interest, which could adversely affect our reported or future financial results, the trading price of our common stock and the trading price of the notes.

In addition, under certain circumstances, convertible debt instruments (such as the notes) that may be settled entirely or partly in cash are currently accounted for utilizing the treasury stock method, the effect of which is that

Table of Contents

the shares issuable upon conversion of the notes are not included in the calculation of diluted earnings per share except to the extent that the conversion value of the notes exceeds their principal amount. Under the treasury stock method, for diluted earnings per share purposes, the transaction is accounted for as if the number of shares of common stock that would be necessary to settle such excess, if we elected to settle such excess in shares, are issued. We cannot be sure that the accounting standards in the future will continue to permit the use of the treasury stock method. If we are unable to use the treasury stock method in accounting for the shares issuable upon conversion of the notes, then our diluted earnings per share would be adversely affected.

Future sales of our common stock in the public market could lower the market price for our common stock and adversely impact the trading price of the notes.

In the future, we may sell additional shares of our common stock to raise capital. In addition, a substantial number of shares of our common stock is reserved for issuance upon the exercise of stock options and upon conversion of the notes. We cannot predict the size of future issuances or the effect, if any, that they may have on the market price for our common stock. The issuance and sale of substantial amounts of common stock, or the perception that such issuances and sales may occur, could adversely affect the trading price of the notes and the market price of our common stock and impair our ability to raise capital through the sale of additional equity securities.

Holders of notes will not be entitled to any rights with respect to our common stock, but they will be subject to all changes made with respect to them to the extent our conversion obligation includes shares of our common stock.

Holders of notes will not be entitled to any rights with respect to our common stock (including, without limitation, voting rights and rights to receive any dividends or other distributions on our common stock) prior to the conversion date relating to such notes (if we have elected to settle the relevant conversion by delivering solely shares of our common stock (other than paying cash in lieu of delivering any fractional share)) or the last trading day of the relevant observation period (if we elect to pay and deliver, as the case may be, a combination of cash and shares of our common stock in respect of the relevant conversion), but holders of notes will be subject to all changes affecting our common stock. For example, if an amendment is proposed to our certificate of incorporation or bylaws requiring stockholder approval and the record date for determining the stockholders of record entitled to vote on the amendment occurs prior to the conversion date related to a holder's conversion of its notes (if we have elected to settle the relevant conversion by delivering solely shares of our common stock (other than paying cash in lieu of delivering any fractional share)) or the last trading day of the relevant observation period (if we elect to pay and deliver, as the case may be, a combination of cash and shares of our common stock in respect of the relevant conversion), such holder will not be entitled to vote on the amendment, although such holder will nevertheless be subject to any changes affecting our common stock.

The conditional conversion feature of the notes could result in your receiving less than the value of our common stock into which the notes would otherwise be convertible.

Prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding December 15, 2020, you may convert your notes only if specified conditions are met. If the specific conditions for conversion are not met, you will not be able to convert your notes, and you may not be able to receive the value of the cash, common stock or a combination of cash and common stock, as applicable, into which the notes would otherwise be convertible.

Table of Contents

Upon conversion of the notes, you may receive less valuable consideration than expected because the value of our common stock may decline after you exercise your conversion right but before we settle our conversion obligation.

Under the notes, a converting holder will be exposed to fluctuations in the value of our common stock during the period from the date such holder surrenders notes for conversion until the date we settle our conversion obligation.

Upon conversion of the notes, we have the option to pay or deliver, as the case may be, cash, shares of our common stock, or a combination of cash and shares of our common stock. If we elect to satisfy our conversion obligation in cash or a combination of cash and shares of our common stock, the amount of consideration that you will receive upon conversion of your notes will be determined by reference to the volume-weighted average price of our common stock for each trading day in a 25 trading day observation period. As described under

Description of notes Settlement upon conversion, this period would be (i) subject to clause (ii), if the relevant conversion date occurs prior to December 15, 2020, the 25 consecutive trading day period beginning on, and including, the second trading day immediately succeeding such conversion date; (ii) if the relevant conversion date occurs on or after the date of our issuance of a notice of redemption with respect to the notes as described under Description of notes Optional redemption and prior to the relevant redemption date, the 25 consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the 27th scheduled trading day immediately preceding such redemption date; and (iii) subject to clause (ii), if the relevant conversion date occurs on or after December 15, 2020, the 25 consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the 27th scheduled trading day immediately preceding the maturity date. Accordingly, if the price of our common stock decreases during this period, the amount and/or value of consideration you receive will be adversely affected. In addition, if the market price of our common stock at the end of such period is below the average volume-weighted average price of our common stock during such period, the value of any shares of our common stock that you will receive in satisfaction of our conversion obligation will be less than the value used to determine the number of shares that you will receive.

If we elect to satisfy our conversion obligation solely in shares of our common stock upon conversion of the notes, we will be required to deliver the shares of our common stock, together with cash for any fractional share, on the third business day following the relevant conversion date. Accordingly, if the price of our common stock decreases during this period, the value of the shares that you receive will be adversely affected and would be less than the conversion value of the notes on the conversion date.

The notes are not protected by restrictive covenants.

The indenture governing the notes does not contain any financial or operating covenants or restrictions on the payments of dividends, the incurrence of indebtedness or the issuance or repurchase of securities by us or any of our subsidiaries. The indenture contains no covenants or other provisions to afford protection to holders of the notes in the event of a fundamental change or other corporate transaction involving us except to the extent described under Description of notes Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase notes, Description of notes Conversion rights Increase in conversion rate upon conversion upon a make-whole fundamental change and Description of notes Consolidation, merger and sale of assets.

The increase in the conversion rate for notes converted in connection with a make-whole fundamental change may not adequately compensate you for any lost value of your notes as a result of such transaction.

If a make-whole fundamental change occurs prior to the maturity date, under certain circumstances, we will increase the conversion rate by a number of additional shares of our common stock for notes converted in connection with such make-whole fundamental change. The increase in the conversion rate will be determined based on the date on which the specified corporate transaction becomes effective and the price paid (or

Table of Contents

deemed to be paid) per share of our common stock in such transaction, as described below under Description of notes Conversion rights Increase in conversion rate upon conversion upon a make-whole fundamental change. The increase in the conversion rate for notes converted in connection with a make-whole fundamental change may not adequately compensate you for any lost value of your notes as a result of such transaction. In addition, if the price of our common stock in the transaction is greater than \$ per share or less than \$ per share (in each case, subject to adjustment), no additional shares will be added to the conversion rate. Moreover, in no event will the conversion rate per \$1,000 principal amount of notes as a result of this adjustment exceed shares of common stock, subject to adjustment in the same manner as the conversion rate as set forth under Description of notes Conversion rights Conversion rate adjustments.

Our obligation to increase the conversion rate for notes converted in connection with a make-whole fundamental change could be considered a penalty, in which case the enforceability thereof would be subject to general principles of reasonableness and equitable remedies.

The conversion rate of the notes may not be adjusted for all dilutive events.

The conversion rate of the notes is subject to adjustment for certain events, including, but not limited to, the issuance of certain stock dividends on our common stock, the issuance of certain rights or warrants, subdivisions, combinations, distributions of capital stock, indebtedness, or assets, cash dividends and certain issuer tender or exchange offers as described under Description of notes Conversion rights Conversion rate adjustments. However, the conversion rate will not be adjusted for other events, such as a third-party tender or exchange offer or an issuance of common stock for cash, that may adversely affect the trading price of the notes or our common stock. An event that adversely affects the value of the notes may occur, and that event may not result in an adjustment to the conversion rate.

Some significant restructuring transactions and significant changes in the composition of our board may not constitute a fundamental change, in which case we would not be obligated to offer to repurchase the notes.

Upon the occurrence of a fundamental change, you have the right to require us to repurchase your notes. However, the fundamental change provisions will not afford protection to holders of notes in the event of other transactions that could adversely affect the notes. For example, transactions such as leveraged recapitalizations, refinancings, restructurings, or acquisitions initiated by us may not constitute a fundamental change requiring us to repurchase the notes. In the event of any such transaction, the holders would not have the right to require us to repurchase the notes, even though each of these transactions could increase the amount of our indebtedness, or otherwise adversely affect our capital structure or any credit ratings, thereby adversely affecting the holders of notes.

We cannot assure you that an active trading market will develop for the notes.

Prior to this offering, there has been no trading market for the notes, and we do not intend to apply to list the notes on any securities exchange or to arrange for quotation on any automated dealer quotation system. We have been informed by the underwriter that it intends to make a market in the notes after the offering is completed. However, the underwriter may cease its market-making at any time without notice. In addition, the liquidity of the trading market in the notes, and the market price quoted for the notes, may be adversely affected by changes in the overall market for this type of security and by changes in our financial performance or prospects or in the prospects for companies in our industry generally. As a result, we cannot assure you that an active trading market will develop for the notes. If an active trading market does not develop or is not maintained, the market price and liquidity of the notes may be adversely affected. In that case you may not be able to sell your notes at a particular time or you may not be able to sell your notes at a favorable price.

Table of Contents

Any adverse rating of the notes may cause their trading price to fall.

We do not intend to seek a rating on the notes. However, if a rating service were to rate the notes and if such rating service were to lower its rating on the notes below the rating initially assigned to the notes or otherwise announces its intention to put the notes on credit watch, the trading price of the notes could decline.

You may be subject to tax if we make or fail to make certain adjustments to the conversion rate of the notes even though you do not receive a corresponding cash distribution.

The conversion rate of the notes is subject to adjustment in certain circumstances, including the payment of cash dividends. If the conversion rate is adjusted as a result of a distribution that is taxable to our common stockholders, such as a cash dividend, you may be deemed to have received a dividend subject to U.S. federal income tax without the receipt of any cash. In addition, a failure to adjust (or to adjust adequately) the conversion rate after an event that increases your proportionate interest in us could be treated as a deemed taxable dividend to you. If a make-whole fundamental change occurs prior to the maturity date, under some circumstances, we will increase the conversion rate for notes converted in connection with the make-whole fundamental change. Such increase may also be treated as a distribution subject to U.S. federal income tax as a dividend. See Material United States federal income tax considerations. If you are a Non-U.S. Holder (as defined in Material United States federal income tax considerations), any deemed dividend would be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a 30% rate, or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable treaty, which may be set off against subsequent payments on the notes. See Material United States federal income tax considerations.

Risks related to our common stock

The price of our common stock historically has been volatile. This volatility may affect the price at which you could sell the common stock you receive upon conversion of your notes, if any, and the sale of substantial amounts of our common stock could adversely affect the price of our common stock and the value of your notes.

The market price for our common stock has varied between a high of \$39.95 on March 19, 2014 and a low of \$27.51 on January 7, 2014 in the twelve-month period ending on June 11, 2014. This volatility may affect the price at which you could sell the common stock, if any, you receive upon conversion of your notes, and the sale of substantial amounts of our common stock could adversely affect the price of our common stock and the value of your notes. Our stock price is likely to continue to be volatile and subject to significant price and volume fluctuations in response to market and other factors, including the other factors discussed in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 or in future quarterly reports on Form 10-Q; variations in our quarterly operating results from our expectations or those of securities analysts or investors; downward revisions in securities analysts' estimates; and announcement by us or our competitors of significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments.

In addition, the sale of substantial amounts of our common stock could adversely impact its price. As of June 11, 2014, we had outstanding approximately 41,733,205 shares of our common stock and options to purchase approximately 7,805,735 shares of our common stock (of which approximately 4,374,700 were exercisable as of that date). The sale or the availability for sale of a large number of shares of our common stock in the public market could cause the price of our common stock, and the value of your notes, to decline.

Table of Contents

Certain provisions of Delaware law, our certificate of incorporation and our bylaws may delay or prevent an acquisition of us that stockholders may consider favorable or may prevent efforts by our stockholders to change our directors or our management, which could decrease the value of shares of our common stock and the notes.

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us, and may have the effect of preventing or hindering any attempt by our stockholders to replace our current directors or officers. These provisions include:

Our board of directors has the right to elect directors to fill a vacancy created by the expansion of the board of directors or the resignation, death or removal of a director, which prevents stockholders from being able to fill vacancies on our board of directors.

Our board of directors may issue, without stockholder approval, shares of preferred stock with rights, preferences and privileges determined by the board of directors. The ability to authorize and issue preferred stock with voting or other rights or preferences makes it possible for our board of directors to issue preferred stock with super voting, special approval, dividend or other rights or preferences on a discriminatory basis that could impede the success of any attempt to acquire us.

Our board of directors is divided into three classes, each with staggered three-year terms. As a result, only one class of directors will be elected at each annual meeting of stockholders, and each of the two other classes of directors will continue to serve for the remainder of their respective three-year terms, limiting the ability of stockholders to reconstitute the board of directors.

The vote of the holders of 75% of the outstanding shares of our common stock is required in order to take certain actions, including amendment of our bylaws, removal of directors for cause and certain amendments to our certificate of incorporation.

As a Delaware corporation, we are also subject to certain anti-takeover provisions of Delaware law. Under Delaware law, a corporation may not engage in a business combination with any holder of 15% or more of its capital stock unless the holders has held the stock for three years or, among other things, the board of directors has approved the transaction. Our board of directors could rely on Delaware law to prevent or delay an acquisition of us, which could have the effect of reducing the ability of our stockholders to receive a premium on their shares of common stock and therefore could reduce the market price of our common stock and the value of your notes.

Table of Contents**Ratio of earnings to fixed charges**

The following table sets forth our ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated (deficiencies in thousands):

	Three months ended March 31,		Year ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(1)	7	*	8	9	9	*	*
Deficiency		\$ (2,914)				\$ (11,769)	\$ (83,940)

* Less than one to one coverage

(1) The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing earnings by fixed charges. Earnings consist of income before income taxes plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, including amortized discounts, premiums and capitalized expenses related to indebtedness.

Table of Contents

Forward-looking statements

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference contain forward-looking statements relating to future events and our future performance within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. You are cautioned that such statements involve risks and uncertainties, including:

our ability to successfully market and sell Ampyra in the U.S.;

third party payers (including governmental agencies) may not reimburse for the use of Ampyra or our other products at acceptable rates or at all and may impose restrictive prior authorization requirements that limit or block prescriptions;

the risk of unfavorable results from future studies of Ampyra or from our other research and development programs, including Plumiaz (our trade name for Diazepam Nasal Spray) or any other acquired or in-licensed programs;

we may not be able to complete development of, obtain regulatory approval for, or successfully market Plumiaz or other products under development;

the occurrence of adverse safety events with our products;

delays in obtaining or failure to obtain regulatory approval of or to successfully market Fampyra outside of the U.S. and our dependence on our collaboration partner Biogen Idec in connection therewith;

competition, including the impact of generic competition on Zanaflex Capsules revenues;

failure to protect our intellectual property, to defend against the intellectual property claims of others, or to obtain third party intellectual property licenses needed for the commercialization of our products;

failure to comply with regulatory requirements could result in adverse action by regulatory agencies; and the ability to obtain additional financing to support our operations.

These forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts and projections about the industry and markets in which we operate and management's beliefs and assumptions. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus regarding our strategy, future operations, future financial position, future revenues, projected costs, prospects, plans and objectives of management are forward-looking statements. The words anticipates, believes, estimates, expects, intends, may, projects, will, would, and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. Actual results or events could differ materially from the plans, intentions and expectations disclosed in the forward-looking statements we make, and investors should not place undue reliance on these statements. In addition to the risks and uncertainties described above, we have included important factors in the cautionary statements in this prospectus and in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, particularly in the Risk Factors section, which may be updated in future quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, that we believe could cause actual results or events to differ materially from the forward-looking statements that we make. Our forward-looking statements do not reflect the potential impact of any future acquisitions, mergers, dispositions, joint ventures or investments that we may make. Forward-looking statements in this report are made only as of the date hereof, and we do not assume any obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements as a result of developments occurring after the date of this report.

Table of Contents

Use of proceeds

The net proceeds to us from this offering will be approximately \$ million (or approximately \$ million if the underwriter's option to purchase additional notes is exercised in full), after payment of underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated expenses of this offering. We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering for general corporate purposes, including to fund possible acquisitions of, or investments in, complementary businesses, products and technologies. We have not entered into any agreements or commitments with respect to any acquisitions or investments at this time.

Until we use net proceeds for the above purposes, we intend to invest them in short-term, investment grade, interest-bearing securities.

S-19

Table of Contents**Capitalization**

The following table sets forth our cash, cash equivalents and short-term and long-term investments and capitalization as of March 31, 2014:

on an actual basis; and

on an as adjusted basis to give effect to the sale of the notes (assuming the underwriter's option to purchase additional notes, solely to cover over-allotments, is not exercised), after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us. See Use of proceeds.

You should read this table in conjunction with Use of proceeds as well as Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto, each of which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus from our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2014.

(in thousands)	As of March 31, 2014	
	Actual	As adjusted (unaudited)
Cash, cash equivalents, and short-term and long-term investments	\$ 372,152	\$
Restricted cash	259	
Debt:		
% Convertible Senior Notes due 2021 offered hereby(1)		
Current portion of convertible notes payable	1,144	
Long-term convertible notes payable	2,111	
Total debt	3,255	
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$.001 par value, 80,000,000 shares authorized; 41,040,508 shares issued and outstanding, including shares held in treasury, actual and as adjusted	41	
Treasury stock (12,420 shares)	(329)	
Additional paid-in capital	688,105	
Accumulated deficit	(237,379)	
Accumulated other comprehensive income	82	
Total stockholders' equity	450,520	
Total capitalization	\$ 453,775	\$

(1) In accordance with ASC 470-20, convertible debt that may be wholly or partially settled in cash is required to be separated into a liability and an equity component, such that interest expense reflects the issuer's nonconvertible debt interest rate. Upon issuance, a debt discount is recognized as a decrease in debt and an increase in equity. The debt component accretes up to the principal amount over the expected term of the debt. ASC 470-20 does not affect the actual amount that we are required to repay, and the amounts shown in the table above for the notes offered hereby is the aggregate principal amount of the notes without reflecting the debt discount or fees and expenses that we are required to recognize or the increase in additional paid-in capital on our consolidated balance sheet.

(2) The table above excludes, as of March 31, 2014:

7,629,870 shares of common stock issuable, as of March 31, 2014 upon the exercise of outstanding options to purchase our common stock, at a weighted average exercise price of \$27.83 per share;

Edgar Filing: ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC - Form 424B5

626,210 shares of unvested restricted stock outstanding as of March 31, 2014;

28,918 shares of common stock issuable upon the conversion of an outstanding convertible promissory note; and

2,032,440 shares of common stock reserved for issuance under our stock option plans, including our 2006 Employee Incentive Plan.

S-20

Table of Contents**Price range of common stock and dividend policy**

Our common stock has been listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol ACOR since our initial public offering on February 9, 2006. The table below provides, for the period indicated, the reported high and low sales prices for the common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market.

	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2014		
Second Quarter through June 13, 2014	\$ 39.48	\$ 29.32
First Quarter	\$ 39.95	\$ 27.51

	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2013		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 36.75	\$ 28.67
Third Quarter	\$ 38.62	\$ 33.19
Second Quarter	\$ 40.87	\$ 30.79
First Quarter	\$ 32.21	\$ 24.48

	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2012		
Fourth Quarter	\$ 27.36	\$ 22.37
Third Quarter	\$ 26.65	\$ 21.33
Second Quarter	\$ 27.17	\$ 21.04
First Quarter	\$ 27.74	\$ 23.08

As of June 13, 2014, we had approximately 25 holders of record of our common stock. On June 13, 2014, the closing sale price of our common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Global Select Market was \$35.11 per share.

We have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock. We currently intend to retain future earnings for the development, operation and expansion of our business and do not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Whether or not to declare any dividends will be at the discretion of our board of directors, considering then-existing conditions, including the terms of our credit arrangements as well as our financial condition and results of operations, capital requirements, business prospects and other factors that our board of directors considers relevant.

Table of Contents

Description of notes

We will issue the notes under a base indenture dated as of June , 2014 between us and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as supplemented by a supplemental indenture with respect to the notes. In this section, we refer to the base indenture (the *base indenture*), as supplemented by the supplemental indenture (the *supplemental indenture*), collectively as the *indenture*. This description of the notes supplements and, to the extent it is inconsistent, replaces the description of the general provisions of the notes and the base indenture in the accompanying prospectus. The terms of the notes include those expressly set forth in the indenture and those made part of the indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the *Trust Indenture Act*).

You may request a copy of the indenture from us as described under [Where you can find more information](#).

The following description is a summary of the material provisions of the notes and the indenture and does not purport to be complete. This summary is subject to and is qualified by reference to all the provisions of the notes and the indenture, including the definitions of certain terms used in the indenture. We urge you to read these documents because they, and not this description, define your rights as a holder of the notes.

For purposes of this description, references to *we*, *our* and *us* refer only to Acorda Therapeutics, Inc. and not to its subsidiaries.

General

The notes will:

be our general unsecured, senior obligations;

initially be limited to an aggregate principal amount of \$300,000,000 (or \$345,000,000 if the underwriter's over-allotment option is exercised in full);

bear cash interest from June , 2014 at an annual rate of % payable on June 15 and December 15 of each year, beginning on December 15, 2014;

be subject to redemption at our option, in whole or in part, on or after June 20, 2017 if the last reported sale price of our common stock has been at least 130% of the conversion price then in effect for at least 20 trading days (whether or not consecutive) during any 30 consecutive trading day period (including the last trading day of such period) ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the date on which we provide notice of redemption at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, *plus* accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date;

be subject to repurchase by us at the option of the holders following a fundamental change (as defined below under [Fundamental change](#) permits holders to require us to repurchase notes), at a fundamental change repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased, *plus* accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the fundamental change repurchase date;

mature on June 15, 2021, unless earlier converted, redeemed or repurchased;

be issued in minimum denominations of \$1,000 and multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof; and

Edgar Filing: ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC - Form 424B5

be represented by one or more registered notes in global form, but in certain limited circumstances may be represented by notes in definitive form. See Book-entry, settlement and clearance.

Subject to satisfaction of certain conditions and during the periods described below, the notes may be converted at an initial conversion rate of shares of common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of notes

S-22

Table of Contents

(equivalent to an initial conversion price of approximately \$ per share of common stock). The conversion rate is subject to adjustment if certain events occur.

We will settle conversions of notes by paying or delivering, as the case may be, cash, shares of our common stock or a combination of cash and shares of our common stock, at our election, as described under Conversion rights Settlement upon conversion. You will not receive any separate cash payment for interest, if any, accrued and unpaid to the conversion date except under the limited circumstances described below.

The indenture does not limit the amount of debt that may be issued by us or our subsidiaries under the indenture or otherwise. The indenture does not contain any financial covenants and does not restrict us from paying dividends or issuing or repurchasing our other securities. Other than restrictions described under Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase notes and Consolidation, merger and sale of assets below and except for the provisions set forth under Conversion rights Increase in conversion rate upon conversion upon a make-whole fundamental change, the indenture does not contain any covenants or other provisions designed to afford holders of the notes protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving us or in the event of a decline in our credit rating as the result of a takeover, recapitalization, highly leveraged transaction or similar restructuring involving us that could adversely affect such holders.

We may, without the consent of the holders, reopen the indenture for the notes and issue additional notes under the indenture with the same terms as the notes offered hereby (other than differences in the issue price and interest accrued prior to the issue date of such additional notes) in an unlimited aggregate principal amount; *provided* that if any such additional notes are not fungible with the notes initially offered hereby for U.S. federal securities law and federal income tax purposes, such additional notes will have a separate CUSIP number.

We do not intend to list the notes on any securities exchange or any automated dealer quotation system.

Purchase and cancellation

We will cause all notes surrendered for payment, repurchase (including as described below), redemption, registration of transfer or exchange or conversion, if surrendered to any person other than the trustee (including any of our agents, subsidiaries or affiliates), to be delivered to the trustee for cancellation. All notes delivered to the trustee shall be cancelled promptly by the trustee. Except for notes surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange, no notes shall be authenticated in exchange for any notes cancelled as provided in the indenture.

We may, to the extent permitted by law, and directly or indirectly (regardless of whether such notes are surrendered to us), repurchase notes in the open market or otherwise, whether by us or our subsidiaries or through a private or public tender or exchange offer or through counterparties to private agreements, including by cash-settled swaps or other derivatives. We will cause any notes so repurchased (other than notes repurchased pursuant to cash-settled swaps or other derivatives) to be surrendered to the trustee for cancellation, and they will no longer be considered outstanding under the indenture upon their repurchase.

Payments on the notes; paying agent and registrar; transfer and exchange

We will pay the principal of, and interest on, notes in global form registered in the name of or held by The Depository Trust Company (DTC) or its nominee by wire transfer in immediately available funds to DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered holder of such global note, in accordance with the procedures of DTC.

We will pay the principal of any certificated notes at the office or agency designated by us for that purpose. We have initially designated the trustee as our paying agent and registrar and its agency in the United States as

Table of Contents

a place where notes may be presented for payment or for registration of transfer. We may, however, change the paying agent or registrar without prior notice to the holders of the notes, and we may act as paying agent or registrar. Interest on certificated notes will be payable (i) to holders having an aggregate principal amount of \$5,000,000 or less, by check mailed to the holders of these notes and (ii) to holders having an aggregate principal amount of more than \$5,000,000, either by check mailed to each holder or, upon application by such a holder to the registrar not later than the relevant regular record date, by wire transfer in immediately available funds to that holder's account within the United States, which application shall remain in effect until the holder notifies, in writing, the registrar to the contrary.

A holder of notes may transfer or exchange notes at the office of the registrar in accordance with the indenture. The registrar and the trustee may require a holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents. No service charge will be imposed by us, the trustee or the registrar for any registration of transfer or exchange of notes, but we may require a holder to pay a sum sufficient to cover any transfer tax or other similar governmental charge required by law or permitted by the indenture. We are not required to transfer or exchange any note selected for redemption or surrendered for conversion or required repurchase.

The registered holder of a note will be treated as its owner for all purposes.

Interest

The notes will bear cash interest at a rate of % per year until maturity. Interest on the notes will accrue from June , 2014 or from the most recent date on which interest has been paid or duly provided for. Interest will be payable semiannually in arrears on June 15 and December 15 of each year, beginning on December 15, 2014.

Interest will be paid to the person in whose name a note is registered at the close of business on June 1 or December 1, as the case may be, immediately preceding the relevant interest payment date (each, a regular record date). Interest on the notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year composed of twelve 30-day months and, for partial months, on the basis of the number of days actually elapsed in a 30-day month.

If any interest payment date, the maturity date or any earlier required repurchase date upon a fundamental change of a note falls on a day that is not a business day, the required payment will be made on the next succeeding business day and no interest on such payment will accrue in respect of the delay. The term business day means, with respect to any note, any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is authorized or required by law or executive order to close or be closed.

Unless the context otherwise requires, all references to interest in this prospectus supplement include additional interest, if any, payable at our election as the sole remedy relating to the failure to comply with our reporting obligations as described under Events of default.

Additional amounts

If we consolidate with or merge with or into, or sell, convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of our properties and assets to, another company and the resulting, surviving or transferee company is not organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any State thereof or the District of Columbia (such company or any successor thereto, the surviving entity), then all payments and deliveries made by, or on behalf of, the surviving entity under or with respect to the notes, including, but not limited to, payments of principal (including, if applicable, the redemption price and fundamental change repurchase price), payments of interest and deliveries of common stock or other reference property and/or payments of cash, in each case, upon conversion, will be made without withholding or deduction for, or on account of, any present or future taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature (Taxes) imposed or levied by a taxing

Table of Contents

authority within any jurisdiction in which the surviving entity is, for tax purposes, organized or resident or doing business or through which payment is made or deemed made (or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein) (each, as applicable, a relevant taxing jurisdiction), unless such withholding or deduction is required by law or by regulation or governmental policy having the force of law. In the event that any such withholding or deduction is so required, the surviving entity will pay such additional amounts (the additional amounts) as may be necessary to ensure that the net amount received by the beneficial owner after such withholding or deduction (and after deducting or withholding any Taxes on the additional amounts) will equal the amounts that would have been received by such beneficial owner had no such withholding or deduction been required; *provided* that no additional amounts will be payable:

(1) for or on account of:

(a) any Tax that would not have been imposed but for:

- (i) the existence of any present or former connection between the holder or beneficial owner of such note and the relevant taxing jurisdiction, other than merely holding such note or the receipt of payments thereunder, including, without limitation, such holder or beneficial owner being or having been a national, domiciliary or resident of such relevant taxing jurisdiction or treated as a resident thereof or being or having been physically present or engaged in a trade or business therein or having or having had a permanent establishment therein;
- (ii) the presentation of such note (in cases in which presentation is required) more than 30 days after the later of the date on which the payment of the principal of (including the redemption price and fundamental change repurchase price, if applicable) and interest on, such note or the delivery of common stock and other reference property and/or payments of cash, in each case, upon conversion of such note became due and payable pursuant to the terms thereof or was made or duly provided for; or
- (iii) the failure of the holder or beneficial owner to comply with a timely request from the surviving entity to provide certification, information, documents or other evidence concerning such holder's or beneficial owner's nationality, residence, identity or connection with the relevant taxing jurisdiction, or to make any declaration or satisfy any other reporting requirement relating to such matters, if and to the extent that due and timely compliance with such request is required by statute, regulation or administrative practice of the relevant taxing jurisdiction in order to reduce or eliminate any withholding or deduction as to which additional amounts would have otherwise been payable to such holder or beneficial owner;

(b) any estate, inheritance, gift, sale, transfer, excise, personal property or similar Tax;

(c) any Tax that is payable otherwise than by withholding or deduction from payments under or with respect to the notes;

(d) any Tax required by sections 1471 through 1474 of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (FATCA), any current or future Treasury Regulations or rulings promulgated thereunder, any law, regulation or other official guidance enacted in any jurisdiction implementing FATCA, any intergovernmental agreement between the United States and any other jurisdiction to implement FATCA or any law enacted by such other jurisdiction to give effect to such agreement, or any agreement with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service under FATCA; or

(e) any combination of Taxes referred to in the preceding clauses (a), (b), (c) or (d),

Table of Contents

- (2) with respect to any payment of the principal of (including the redemption price and fundamental change repurchase price, if applicable) and interest on, such note or the delivery of common stock or other reference property and/or payments of cash, in each case, upon conversion of such note to a holder, if the holder is a fiduciary, partnership or person other than the sole beneficial owner of that payment to the extent that such payment would be required to be included in the income under the laws of the relevant taxing jurisdiction, for tax purposes, of a beneficiary or settlor with respect to the fiduciary, a partner or member of that partnership or a beneficial owner who would not have been entitled to such additional amounts had that beneficiary, settlor, partner, member or beneficial owner been the holder thereof.

In the event that (i) the taxing authority of a relevant taxing jurisdiction determines that amounts should have been withheld or deducted in respect of any payments or deliveries under or with respect to the notes in excess of any amounts that were actually withheld or deducted by the surviving entity, and (ii) the surviving entity would have been required to pay additional amounts if such amounts had been withheld or deducted, then the surviving entity will indemnify the beneficial owner, on an after-tax basis, for any and all losses incurred as a result of its failure to make such withholdings and deductions and to pay additional amounts.

If the surviving entity is required to make any deduction or withholding from any payments with respect to the notes, the surviving entity will deliver to the trustee official tax receipts evidencing the remittance to the relevant tax authorities of the amounts so withheld or deducted or other evidence reasonably satisfactory to the trustee.

Whenever there is mentioned in any context the delivery of common stock or other reference property and/or payments of cash, in each case, upon conversion of any note or the payment of principal of (including the redemption price and fundamental change repurchase price, if applicable) and interest on, any note or any other amount payable with respect to such note, such mention shall be deemed to include payment of additional amounts provided for in the indenture to the extent that, in such context, additional amounts are, were or would be payable in respect thereof.

Ranking

The notes will be our general unsecured obligations that rank senior in right of payment to all of our indebtedness that is expressly subordinated in right of payment to the notes. The notes will rank equal in right of payment with all of our liabilities that are not so subordinated. The notes will effectively rank junior to any of our secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness. In the event of our bankruptcy, liquidation, reorganization or other winding up, our assets that secure secured debt will be available to pay obligations on the notes only after all indebtedness under such secured debt has been repaid in full from such assets. The notes will rank structurally junior to all indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries (including trade payables but excluding intercompany obligations and liabilities of a type not required to be reflected on a balance sheet of such subsidiaries in accordance with GAAP). We advise you that there may not be sufficient assets remaining to pay amounts due on any or all the notes then outstanding.

As of March 31, 2014, we and our subsidiaries had total consolidated indebtedness of \$161.4 million, of which an aggregate of \$4.2 million was secured indebtedness of ours, and our subsidiaries had \$157.2 million of indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables but excluding intercompany obligations and liabilities of a type not required to be reflected on a balance sheet of such subsidiaries in accordance with GAAP) to which the notes would have been structurally subordinated. After giving effect to the issuance of the notes (assuming no exercise of the underwriter's over-allotment option) and the use of proceeds therefrom, our total consolidated indebtedness would have been \$461.4 million.

Table of Contents

Optional redemption

No sinking fund is provided for the notes, which means that we are not required to redeem or retire the notes periodically. Prior to June 20, 2017, the notes will not be redeemable. On or after June 20, 2017, we may redeem for cash all or part of the notes, at our option, if the last reported sale price of our common stock has been at least 130% of the conversion price then in effect for at least 20 trading days (whether or not consecutive) during any 30 consecutive trading day period (including the last trading day of such period) ending within five trading days prior to the date on which we provide notice of redemption. In the case of any optional redemption, we will provide not less than 45 nor more than 60 calendar days notice before the redemption date to the trustee, the paying agent and each holder of notes, and the redemption price will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed, *plus* accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date (unless the redemption date falls after a regular record date but on or prior to the immediately succeeding interest payment date, in which case we will pay the full amount of accrued and unpaid interest to the holder of record as of the close of business on such regular record date, and the redemption price will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be redeemed). The redemption date must be a business day.

If we decide to redeem fewer than all of the outstanding notes, the trustee will select the notes to be redeemed (in principal amounts of \$1,000 or multiples thereof) by lot, on a *pro rata* basis or by another method the trustee considers to be fair and appropriate, in accordance with the procedures of DTC.

If the trustee selects a portion of your note for partial redemption and you convert a portion of the same note, the converted portion will be deemed to be from the portion selected for redemption.

In the event of any redemption in part, we will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of or exchange any note during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 calendar days before the mailing of a notice of redemption and ending at the close of business on the date of such mailing to all holders of notes to be redeemed; or

register the transfer of or exchange any note so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any note being redeemed in part.

No notes may be redeemed if the principal amount of the notes has been accelerated, and such acceleration has not been rescinded, on or prior to the redemption date (except in the case of an acceleration resulting from a default by us in the payment of the redemption price with respect to such notes).

Conversion rights

General

Prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding December 15, 2020, the notes will be convertible only upon satisfaction of one or more of the conditions described under the headings Conversion upon satisfaction of sale price condition, Conversion upon redemption, Conversion upon satisfaction of trading price condition, and Conversion upon specified corporate events. On or after December 15, 2020 until the close of business on the second scheduled trading day immediately preceding the maturity date, holders may convert all or any portion of their notes at the conversion rate at any time irrespective of the foregoing conditions. Neither the trustee nor conversion agent (if other than the trustee) shall have any duty to determine or verify our determination of whether any of the conditions to conversion have been satisfied.

The conversion rate will initially be _____ shares of common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of notes (equivalent to an initial conversion price of approximately \$ _____ per share of common stock). Upon conversion

Table of Contents

of a note, we will satisfy our conversion obligation by paying or delivering, as the case may be, cash, shares of our common stock or a combination of cash and shares of our common stock, at our election, all as set forth below under Settlement upon conversion. If we satisfy our conversion obligation solely in cash or through payment and delivery, as the case may be, of a combination of cash and shares of our common stock, the amount of cash and shares of common stock, if any, due upon conversion will be based on a daily conversion value (as defined below) calculated on a proportionate basis for each trading day in a 25 trading day observation period (as defined below under Settlement upon conversion). The trustee will initially act as the conversion agent.

A holder may convert fewer than all of such holder's notes so long as the notes converted are a multiple of \$1,000 principal amount.

If we call notes for redemption, a holder of notes may convert all or any portion of its notes only until the close of business on the scheduled trading day immediately preceding the redemption date unless we fail to pay the redemption price (in which case a holder of notes may convert such notes until the redemption price has been paid or duly provided for). If a holder of notes has submitted notes for purchase upon a fundamental change, the holder may convert those notes only if that holder first withdraws its purchase notice.

Upon conversion, you will not receive any separate cash payment for accrued and unpaid interest, if any, except as described below. We will not issue fractional shares of our common stock upon conversion of notes. Instead, we will pay cash in lieu of delivering any fractional share as described under Settlement upon conversion. Our payment and delivery, as the case may be, to you of the cash, shares of our common stock or a combination thereof, as the case may be, into which a note is convertible will be deemed to satisfy in full our obligation to pay:

the principal amount of the note; and

accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but not including, the relevant conversion date.

As a result, accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but not including, the relevant conversion date will be deemed to be paid in full rather than cancelled, extinguished or forfeited. Upon a conversion of notes into a combination of cash and shares of our common stock, accrued and unpaid interest will be deemed to be paid first out of the cash paid upon such conversion.

Notwithstanding the immediately preceding paragraph, if notes are converted after 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on a regular record date for the payment of interest, holders of such notes at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on such regular record date will receive the full amount of interest payable on such notes on the corresponding interest payment date notwithstanding the conversion. Notes surrendered for conversion during the period from 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on any regular record date to 9:00 a.m., New York City time, on the immediately following interest payment date must be accompanied by funds equal to the amount of interest payable on the notes so converted; *provided* that no such payment need be made:

for conversions following the regular record date immediately preceding the maturity date;

if we have specified a redemption date that is after a regular record date and on or prior to the business day immediately following the date on which the corresponding interest payment is made;

if we have specified a fundamental change repurchase date that is after a regular record date and on or prior to the business day immediately following the date on which the corresponding interest payment is made; or

to the extent of any overdue interest, if any overdue interest exists at the time of conversion with respect to such note.

Table of Contents

Therefore, for the avoidance of doubt, all record holders on the regular record date immediately preceding the maturity date will receive the full interest payment due on the maturity date regardless of whether their notes have been converted following such regular record date.

If a holder converts notes, we will pay any documentary, stamp or similar issue or transfer tax due on any issuance of any shares of our common stock upon the conversion, unless the tax is due because the holder requests such shares to be issued in a name other than the holder's name, in which case the holder will pay that tax.

Holders may surrender their notes for conversion under the following circumstances:

Conversion upon satisfaction of sale price condition

Prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding December 15, 2020, a holder may surrender all or any portion of its notes for conversion at any time during any calendar quarter commencing after the calendar quarter ending on September 30, 2014 (and only during such calendar quarter), if the last reported sale price of the common stock for at least 20 trading days (whether or not consecutive) during the period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on, and including, the last trading day of the immediately preceding calendar quarter is greater than or equal to 130% of the conversion price on each applicable trading day. If the sale price condition has been met, we will so notify the holders, the trustee and the conversion agent (if other than the trustee).

The last reported sale price of our common stock on any date means the closing sale price per share (or if no closing sale price is reported, the average of the bid and ask prices or, if more than one in either case, the average of the average bid and the average ask prices) on that date as reported in composite transactions for the principal U.S. national or regional securities exchange on which our common stock is traded. If our common stock is not listed for trading on a U.S. national or regional securities exchange on the relevant date, the last reported sale price will be the last quoted bid price for our common stock in the over-the-counter market on the relevant date as reported by OTC Markets Group Inc. or a similar organization. If our common stock is not so quoted, the last reported sale price will be the average of the mid-point of the last bid and ask prices for our common stock on the relevant date from each of at least three nationally recognized independent investment banking firms selected by us for this purpose. The last reported sale price of our common stock will be determined without reference to extended or after hours trading.

Trading day means a day on which (i) trading in our common stock (or other security for which a closing sale price must be determined) generally occurs on The NASDAQ Global Select Market or, if our common stock (or such other security) is not then listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market, on the principal other U.S. national or regional securities exchange on which our common stock (or such other security) is then listed or, if our common stock (or such other security) is not then listed on a U.S. national or regional securities exchange, on the principal other market on which our common stock (or such other security) is then traded, and (ii) a last reported sale price for our common stock (or closing sale price for such other security) is available on such securities exchange or market. If our common stock (or such other security) is not so listed or traded, trading day means a business day.

Conversion upon satisfaction of trading price condition

Prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding December 15, 2020, a holder of notes may surrender all or any portion of its notes for conversion at any time during the five business day period after any five consecutive trading day period (the measurement period) in which the trading price per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, as determined following a request by a holder of notes in accordance with the procedures described below, for each trading day of the measurement period was less than 98% of the

Table of Contents

product of the last reported sale price of our common stock and the conversion rate on each such trading day, subject to compliance with the procedures and conditions described below concerning our obligation to make a trading price determination.

The trading price of the notes on any date of determination means the average of the secondary market bid quotations obtained by the bid solicitation agent for \$1,000,000 principal amount of notes at approximately 3:30 p.m., New York City time, on such determination date from three independent nationally recognized securities dealers we select for this purpose; *provided* that if three such bids cannot reasonably be obtained by the bid solicitation agent but two such bids are obtained, then the average of the two bids shall be used, and if only one such bid can reasonably be obtained by the bid solicitation agent, that one bid shall be used. If the bid solicitation agent cannot reasonably obtain at least one bid for \$1,000,000 principal amount of notes from a nationally recognized securities dealer, then the trading price per \$1,000 principal amount of notes will be deemed to be less than 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of our common stock and the conversion rate. If we do not, when we are required to, instruct the bid solicitation agent to obtain bids, or if we give such instruction to the bid solicitation agent, and the bid solicitation agent fails to make such determination, then, in either case, the trading price per \$1,000 principal amount of notes will be deemed to be less than 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of our common stock and the conversion rate on each trading day of such failure.

The bid solicitation agent shall have no obligation to determine the trading price per \$1,000 principal amount of notes unless we have requested such determination; and we shall have no obligation to make such request unless a holder of a note provides us with reasonable evidence that the trading price per \$1,000 principal amount of notes would be less than 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of our common stock and the conversion rate. At such time, we shall instruct the bid solicitation agent to determine the trading price per \$1,000 principal amount of notes beginning on the next trading day and on each successive trading day until the trading price per \$1,000 principal amount of notes is greater than or equal to 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of our common stock and the conversion rate. If the trading price condition has been met, we will so notify the holders (which notification may be made through a notice to DTC in the case of global notes), the trustee and the conversion agent (if other than the trustee). If, at any time after the trading price condition has been met, the trading price per \$1,000 principal amount of notes is greater than or equal to 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of our common stock and the conversion rate for such date, we will so notify the holders (which notification may be made through a notice to DTC in the case of global notes), the trustee and the conversion agent (if other than the trustee). At such time as we direct the bid solicitation agent in writing to solicit bid quotations, we will provide the bid solicitation agent with the names and contact details of the three independent nationally-recognized securities dealers we select, and we will direct those security dealers to provide bids to the bid solicitation agent.

The trustee will initially act as the bid solicitation agent.

Conversion upon notice of redemption

If we call any or all of the notes for redemption prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding December 15, 2020, holders may convert all or any portion of their notes at any time prior to the close of business on the scheduled trading day prior to the redemption date, even if the notes are not otherwise convertible at such time. After that time, the right to convert such notes will expire, unless we default in the payment of the redemption price, in which case a holder of notes may convert all or any portion of its notes until the redemption price has been paid or duly provided for.

Table of Contents

Conversion upon specified corporate events

Certain distributions

If, prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding December 15, 2020, we elect to:

distribute to all or substantially all holders of our common stock any rights, options or warrants entitling them, for a period of not more than 60 calendar days after the declaration date of such distribution, to subscribe for or purchase shares of our common stock at a price per share that is less than the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock for the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the declaration date for such distribution; or

distribute to all or substantially all holders of our common stock our assets, debt securities or rights to purchase our securities, which distribution has a per share value, as determined by our board of directors or a committee thereof, exceeding 10% of the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock for the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the declaration date for such distribution,

then, in either case, we must notify the holders of the notes (which notice may be made through a notice to DTC in the case of global notes) at least 45 scheduled trading days prior to the ex-dividend date for such issuance or distribution. Once we have given such notice, holders may surrender all or any portion of their notes for conversion at any time until the earlier of 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the business day immediately preceding the ex-dividend date for such issuance or distribution and our announcement that such issuance or distribution will not take place, even if the notes are not otherwise convertible at such time.

Certain corporate events

If a transaction or event that constitutes a fundamental change (as defined under Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase notes) or a make-whole fundamental change (as defined under Increase in conversion rate upon conversion upon a make-whole fundamental change) occurs prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding December 15, 2020, regardless of whether a holder has the right to require us to repurchase the notes as described under Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase notes, or if we are a party to a share exchange event (as defined under Recapitalizations, reclassifications and changes of our common stock) (each such fundamental change, make-whole fundamental change or share exchange event, a corporate event), all or any portion of a holder's notes may be surrendered for conversion at any time from or after the date that is 35 scheduled trading days prior to the anticipated effective date of the corporate event (or, if later, the business day after we give notice of such corporate event) until 35 trading days after the actual effective date of such corporate event or, if such corporate event also constitutes a fundamental change, until the related fundamental change repurchase date. We will notify holders, the trustee and the conversion agent (if other than the trustee) (i) as promptly as practicable following the date we publicly announce such corporate event but in no event less than 35 scheduled trading days prior to the anticipated effective date of such corporate event; or (ii) if we do not have knowledge of such corporate event at least 35 scheduled trading days prior to the anticipated effective date of such corporate event, within two business days after the date upon which we receive notice, or otherwise become aware, of such corporate event, but in no event later than the actual effective date of such corporate event.

Conversions on or after December 15, 2020

On or after December 15, 2020, a holder may convert all or any portion of its notes at any time prior to the close of business on the second scheduled trading day immediately preceding the maturity date regardless of the foregoing conditions.

Table of Contents

Conversion procedures

If you hold a beneficial interest in a global note, to convert you must comply with DTC's procedures for converting a beneficial interest in a global note and, if required, pay funds equal to interest payable on the next interest payment date to which you are not entitled and any taxes payable as described below.

If you hold a certificated note, to convert you must:

complete and manually sign the conversion notice on the back of the note, or a facsimile of the conversion notice;

deliver the conversion notice, which is irrevocable, and the note to the conversion agent;

if required, furnish appropriate endorsements and transfer documents; and

if required, pay funds equal to interest payable on the next interest payment date to which you are not entitled and any taxes payable as described below.

We will pay any documentary, stamp or similar issue or transfer tax on the issuance of any shares of our common stock upon conversion of the notes, unless the tax is due because the holder requests such shares to be issued in a name other than the holder's name, in which case the holder will pay the tax.

We refer to the date you comply with the relevant procedures for conversion described above as the conversion date.

If a holder has already delivered a repurchase notice as described under Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase notes with respect to a note, the holder may not surrender that note for conversion until the holder has withdrawn the repurchase notice in accordance with the relevant provisions of the indenture. If a holder submits its notes for required repurchase, the holder's right to withdraw the repurchase notice and convert the notes that are subject to repurchase will terminate at the close of business on the business day immediately preceding the relevant fundamental change repurchase date.

Settlement upon conversion

Upon conversion, we may choose to pay or deliver, as the case may be, either cash (cash settlement), shares of our common stock (physical settlement) or a combination of cash and shares of our common stock (combination settlement), as described below. We refer to each of these settlement methods as a settlement method.

All conversions for which the relevant conversion date occurs on or after December 15, 2020, and all conversions for which the relevant conversion date occurs after our issuance of a notice of redemption with respect to the notes and prior to the related redemption date, will be settled using the same settlement method. Except for any conversions for which the relevant conversion date occurs after our issuance of a notice of redemption but prior to the related redemption date, and any conversions for which the relevant conversion date occurs on or after December 15, 2020, to the close of business on the second scheduled trading day immediately preceding the maturity date, we will use the same settlement method for all conversions with the same conversion date, but we will not have any obligation to use the same settlement method with respect to conversions with different conversion dates. That is, we may choose for notes converted on one conversion date to settle conversions in physical settlement, and choose for notes converted on another conversion date cash settlement or combination settlement.

If we elect a settlement method, we will inform holders with a copy to the trustee and the conversion agent (if other than the trustee) of the settlement method we have selected no later than the close of business on the

Table of Contents

trading day immediately following the related conversion date (or in the case of any conversions for which the relevant conversion date occurs (i) after the date of issuance of a notice of redemption as described under Optional redemption and prior to the related redemption date, in such notice of redemption or (ii) on or after December 15, 2020, no later than December 15, 2020). If we do not timely elect a settlement method, we will no longer have the right to elect cash settlement or physical settlement and we will be deemed to have elected combination settlement in respect of our conversion obligation, as described below, and the specified dollar amount (as defined below) per \$1,000 principal amount of notes will be equal to \$1,000. If we elect combination settlement, but we do not timely notify converting holders of the specified dollar amount per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, such specified dollar amount will be deemed to be \$1,000.

Settlement amounts will be computed as follows:

if we elect physical settlement, we will deliver to the converting holder in respect of each \$1,000 principal amount of notes being converted a number of shares of common stock equal to the conversion rate;

if we elect cash settlement, we will pay to the converting holder in respect of each \$1,000 principal amount of notes being converted cash in an amount equal to the sum of the daily conversion values for each of the 25 consecutive trading days during the related observation period; and

if we elect (or are deemed to have elected) combination settlement, we will pay or deliver, as the case may be, to the converting holder in respect of each \$1,000 principal amount of notes being converted a settlement amount equal to the sum of the daily settlement amounts for each of the 25 consecutive trading days during the related observation period.

The daily settlement amount, for each of the 25 consecutive trading days during the observation period, shall consist of:

cash equal to the lesser of (i) the maximum cash amount per \$1,000 principal amount of notes to be received upon conversion as specified in the notice specifying our chosen settlement method (the specified dollar amount), if any, *divided by 25* (such quotient, the daily measurement value) and (ii) the daily conversion value; and

if the daily conversion value exceeds the daily measurement value, a number of shares equal to (i) the difference between the daily conversion value and the daily measurement value, *divided by* (ii) the daily VWAP for such trading day.

The daily conversion value means, for each of the 25 consecutive trading days during the observation period, 4% of the product of (1) the conversion rate on such trading day and (2) the daily VWAP for such trading day.

The daily VWAP means, for each of the 25 consecutive trading days during the relevant observation period, the per share volume-weighted average price as displayed under the heading Bloomberg VWAP on Bloomberg page ACOR <equity> AQR (or its equivalent successor if such page is not available) in respect of the period from the scheduled open of trading until the scheduled close of trading of the primary trading session on such trading day (or if such volume-weighted average price is unavailable, the market value of one share of our common stock on such trading day determined, using a volume-weighted average method, by a nationally recognized independent investment banking firm retained for this purpose by us). The daily VWAP will be determined without regard to after-hours trading or any other trading outside of the regular trading session trading hours.

Table of Contents

The observation period with respect to any note surrendered for conversion means:

subject to the immediately succeeding bullet, if the relevant conversion date occurs prior to December 15, 2020, the 25 consecutive trading day period beginning on, and including, the second trading day immediately succeeding such conversion date;

if the relevant conversion date occurs on or after the date of our issuance of a notice of redemption with respect to the notes as described under Optional redemption and prior to the relevant redemption date, the 25 consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the 27th scheduled trading day immediately preceding such redemption date; and

subject to the immediately preceding bullet, if the relevant conversion date occurs on or after December 15, 2020, the 25 consecutive trading days beginning on, and including, the 27th scheduled trading day immediately preceding the maturity date.

For the purposes of determining amounts due upon conversion only, trading day means a day on which (i) there is no market disruption event (as defined below) and (ii) trading in our common stock generally occurs on The NASDAQ Global Select Market or, if our common stock is not then listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market, on the principal other U.S. national or regional securities exchange on which our common stock is then listed or, if our common stock is not then listed on a U.S. national or regional securities exchange, on the principal other market on which our common stock is then listed or admitted for trading. If our common stock is not so listed or admitted for trading, trading day means a business day.

Scheduled trading day means a day that is scheduled to be a trading day on the principal U.S. national or regional securities exchange or market on which our common stock is listed or admitted for trading. If our common stock is not so listed or admitted for trading, scheduled trading day means a business day.

For the purposes of determining amounts due upon conversion, market disruption event means (i) a failure by the primary U.S. national or regional securities exchange or market on which our common stock is listed or admitted for trading to open for trading during its regular trading session or (ii) the occurrence or existence prior to 1:00 p.m., New York City time, on any scheduled trading day for our common stock for more than one half-hour period in the aggregate during regular trading hours of any suspension or limitation imposed on trading (by reason of movements in price exceeding limits permitted by the relevant stock exchange or otherwise) in our common stock or in any options contracts or futures contracts relating to our common stock.

Except as described under Increase in conversion rate upon conversion upon a make-whole fundamental change and Recapitalizations, reclassifications and changes of our common stock, we will deliver the consideration due in respect of conversion on the third business day immediately following the relevant conversion date, if we elect physical settlement, or on the third business day immediately following the last trading day of the relevant observation period, in the case of any other settlement method.

We will pay cash in lieu of delivering any fractional share of common stock issuable upon conversion based on the daily VWAP for the relevant conversion date (in the case of physical settlement) or based on the daily VWAP for the last trading day of the relevant observation period (in the case of combination settlement).

Each conversion will be deemed to have been effected as to any notes surrendered for conversion on the conversion date; *provided, however*, that the person in whose name any shares of our common stock shall be issuable upon such conversion will become the holder of record of such shares as of the close of business on the conversion date (in the case of physical settlement) or the last trading day of the relevant observation period (in the case of combination settlement).

Table of Contents***Conversion rate adjustments***

The conversion rate will be adjusted as described below, except that we will not make any adjustments to the conversion rate if holders of the notes participate, at the same time and upon the same terms as holders of our common stock and solely as a result of holding the notes, in any of the transactions described below without having to convert their notes as if they held a number of shares of common stock equal to the conversion rate, *multiplied* by the principal amount (expressed in thousands) of notes held by such holder.

- (1) If we exclusively issue shares of our common stock as a dividend or distribution on shares of our common stock, or if we effect a share split or share combination, the conversion rate will be adjusted based on the following formula:

$$\begin{array}{l} CR_1 \\ = CR_0 \times \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} OS_1 \\ OS_0 \end{array}$$

where,

CR_0 = the conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the open of business on the ex-dividend date of such dividend or distribution, or immediately prior to the open of business on the effective date of such share split or share combination, as applicable;

CR_1 = the conversion rate in effect immediately after the open of business on such ex-dividend date or effective date;

OS_0 = the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately prior to the open of business on such ex-dividend date or effective date; and

OS_1 = the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to such dividend, distribution, share split or share combination.

Any adjustment made under this clause (1) shall become effective immediately after the open of business on the ex-dividend date for such dividend or distribution, or immediately after the open of business on the effective date for such share split or share combination, as applicable. If any dividend or distribution of the type described in this clause (1) is declared but not so paid or made, the conversion rate shall be immediately readjusted, effective as of the date our board of directors or a committee thereof determines not to pay such dividend or distribution, to the conversion rate that would then be in effect if such dividend or distribution had not been declared.

- (2) If we distribute to all or substantially all holders of our common stock any rights, options or warrants entitling them, for a period of not more than 60 calendar days after the declaration date of such issuance, to subscribe for or purchase shares of our common stock at a price per share that is less than the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock for the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the declaration date of such issuance, the conversion rate will be increased based on the following formula:

$$\begin{array}{l} CR_1 \\ = CR_0 \times \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} OS_0 + X \\ OS_0 + Y \end{array}$$

where,

CR_0 = the conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the open of business on the ex-dividend date for such distribution;

CR_1 = the conversion rate in effect immediately after the open of business on such ex-dividend date;

Table of Contents

- OS₀ = the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately prior to the open of business on such ex-dividend date;
- X = the total number of shares of our common stock issuable pursuant to such rights, options or warrants; and
- Y = the number of shares of our common stock equal to the aggregate price payable to exercise such rights, options or warrants, *divided* by the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the date of announcement of the issuance of such rights, options or warrants.

Any increase made under this clause (2) will be made successively whenever any such rights, options or warrants are distributed and shall become effective immediately after the open of business on the ex-dividend date for such distribution. To the extent that shares of common stock are not delivered after the expiration of such rights, options or warrants, the conversion rate shall be decreased to the conversion rate that would then be in effect had the increase with respect to the distribution of such rights, options or warrants been made on the basis of delivery of only the number of shares of common stock actually delivered. If such rights, options or warrants are not so distributed, the conversion rate shall be decreased to the conversion rate that would then be in effect if such ex-dividend date for such issuance had not occurred.

For the purpose of this clause (2) and for the purpose of the first bullet point under Conversion upon specified corporate events Certain distributions, in determining whether any rights, options or warrants entitle the holders to subscribe for or purchase shares of the common stock at less than such average of the last reported sale prices for the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the date of announcement of such declaration date, and in determining the aggregate offering price of such shares of common stock, there shall be taken into account any consideration received by us for such rights, options or warrants and any amount payable on exercise or conversion thereof, the value of such consideration, if other than cash, to be determined by our board of directors or a committee thereof.

- (3) If we distribute shares of our capital stock, evidences of our indebtedness, other assets or property of ours or rights, options or warrants to acquire our capital stock or other securities, to all or substantially all holders of our common stock, excluding:

dividends, distributions or issuances as to which an adjustment was effected pursuant to clause (1) or (2) above;

dividends or distributions paid exclusively in cash as to which an adjustment was effected pursuant to clause (4) below; and

spin-offs as to which the provisions set forth below in this clause (3) shall apply;
then the conversion rate will be increased based on the following formula:

$$CR_1 = CR_0 \times \frac{SP_0}{SP_0 \text{ FMV}}$$

where,

CR₀ = the conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the open of business on the ex-dividend date for such distribution;

CR₁ = the conversion rate in effect immediately after the open of business on such ex-dividend date;

Table of Contents

SP_0 = the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the 10 consecutive trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the ex-dividend date for such distribution; and

FMV = the fair market value (as determined by our board of directors or a committee thereof) of the shares of capital stock, evidences of indebtedness, assets, property, rights, options or warrants distributed with respect to each outstanding share of our common stock on the ex-dividend date for such distribution.

Any increase made under the portion of this clause (3) above will become effective immediately after the open of business on the ex-dividend date for such distribution. If such distribution is not so paid or made, the conversion rate shall be decreased to be the conversion rate that would then be in effect if such distribution had not been declared. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if FMV (as defined above) is equal to or greater than

SP_0 (as defined above), in lieu of the foregoing increase, each holder of a note shall receive, in respect of each \$1,000 principal amount thereof, at the same time and upon the same terms as holders of our common stock, the amount and kind of our capital stock, evidences of our indebtedness, other assets or property of ours or rights, options or warrants to acquire our capital stock or other securities that such holder would have received if such holder owned a number of shares of common stock equal to the conversion rate in effect on the ex-dividend date for the distribution.

With respect to an adjustment pursuant to this clause (3) where there has been a payment of a dividend or other distribution on our common stock of shares of capital stock of any class or series, or similar equity interest, of or relating to a subsidiary or other business unit, that are, or, when issued, will be, listed or admitted for trading on a U.S. national securities exchange, which we refer to as a spin-off, the conversion rate will be increased based on the following formula:

$$\frac{CR_1}{CR_0} = \frac{FMV + MP_0}{MP_0}$$

where,

CR_0 = the conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the end of the valuation period (as defined below);

CR_1 = the conversion rate in effect immediately after the end of the valuation period;

FMV = the average of the last reported sale prices of the capital stock or similar equity interest distributed to holders of our common stock applicable to one share of our common stock (determined by reference to the definition of last reported sale price set forth under Conversion upon satisfaction of sale price condition as if references therein to our common stock were to such capital stock or similar equity interest) over the first 10 consecutive trading day period after, and including, the ex-dividend date of the spin-off (the valuation period); and

MP_0 = the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the valuation period.

The increase to the conversion rate under the preceding paragraph will occur on the last trading day of the valuation period; *provided* that in respect of any conversion of notes during the valuation period, references in the preceding paragraph with respect to 10 trading days shall be deemed to be replaced with such lesser number of trading days as have elapsed between the ex-dividend date of such spin-off and the conversion date in determining the conversion rate. If the ex-dividend date of the spin-off is after the 10th trading day immediately preceding, and including, the end of any observation period in respect of a conversion of notes, references in the preceding paragraph to 10 trading days will be deemed to be replaced, solely in respect of that conversion, with such lesser number of trading days as have elapsed from, and including, the ex-dividend date for the spin-off to, and including, the last trading day of such observation period.

Table of Contents

- (4) If any cash dividend or distribution is made to all or substantially all holders of our common stock, the conversion rate will be adjusted based on the following formula:

$$CR_1 = CR_0 \times \frac{SP_0}{SP_0 + C}$$

where,

CR₀ = the conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the open of business on the ex-dividend date for such dividend or distribution;

CR₁ = the conversion rate in effect immediately after the open of business on the ex-dividend date for such dividend or distribution;

SP₀ = the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the 10 consecutive trading day period ending and including the trading day immediately preceding the ex-dividend date for such dividend or distribution; and

C = the amount in cash per share we distribute to all or substantially all holders of our common stock.

Any increase made under this clause (4) shall become effective immediately after the open of business on the ex-dividend date for such dividend or distribution. If such dividend or distribution is not so paid, the conversion rate shall be decreased, effective as of the date our board of directors or a committee thereof determines not to make or pay such dividend or distribution, to be the conversion rate that would then be in effect if such dividend or distribution had not been declared. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if C (as defined above) is equal to or greater than SP₀ (as defined above), in lieu of the foregoing increase, each holder of a note shall receive, for each \$1,000 principal amount of notes, at the same time and upon the same terms as holders of shares of our common stock, the amount of cash that such holder would have received if such holder owned a number of shares of our common stock equal to the conversion rate on the ex-dividend date for such cash dividend or distribution.

- (5) If we or any of our subsidiaries make a payment in respect of a tender or exchange offer for our common stock, to the extent that the cash and value of any other consideration included in the payment per share of common stock exceeds the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and including, the trading day next succeeding the last date on which tenders or exchanges may be made pursuant to such tender or exchange offer, the conversion rate will be increased based on the following formula:

$$CR_1 = CR_0 \times \frac{AC + (SP_1 \times OS_1)}{OS_0 \times SP_1}$$

where,

CR₀ = the conversion rate in effect immediately prior to the close of business on the 10th trading day immediately following, and including, the trading day next succeeding the date such tender or exchange offer expires;

CR₁ = the conversion rate in effect immediately after the close of business on the 10th trading day immediately following, and including, the trading day next succeeding the date such tender or exchange offer expires;

AC = the aggregate value of all cash and any other consideration (as determined by our board of directors or a committee thereof) paid or payable for shares purchased in such tender or exchange offer;

Table of Contents

OS₀ the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately prior to the date such tender or exchange offer expires (prior to
= giving effect to the purchase of all shares accepted for purchase or exchange in such tender or exchange offer);

OS₁ the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately after the date such tender or exchange offer expires (after giving
= effect to the purchase of all shares accepted for purchase or exchange in such tender or exchange offer); and

SP₁ the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the 10 consecutive trading day period commencing on, and
= including, the trading day next succeeding the date such tender or exchange offer expires.

The increase to the conversion rate under the preceding paragraph will occur at the close of business on the 10th trading day immediately following, and including, the trading day next succeeding the date such tender or exchange offer expires; *provided* that in respect of any conversion of notes within the 10 trading days immediately following, and including, the trading day next succeeding the expiration date of any tender or exchange offer, references with respect to 10 trading days shall be deemed replaced with such lesser number of trading days as have elapsed between the expiration date of such tender or exchange offer and the conversion date in determining the conversion rate. In addition, if the trading day next succeeding the date such tender or exchange offer expires is after the 10th trading day immediately preceding, and including, the end of any observation period in respect of a conversion of notes, references in the preceding paragraph to 10 trading days shall be deemed to be replaced, solely in respect of that conversion, with such lesser number of trading days as have elapsed from, and including, the trading day next succeeding the date such tender or exchange offer expires to, and including, the last trading day of such observation period.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a conversion rate adjustment becomes effective on any ex-dividend date as described above, and a holder that has converted its notes on or after such ex-dividend date and on or prior to the related record date would be treated as the record holder of shares of our common stock as of the related conversion date as described under Settlement upon conversion based on an adjusted conversion rate for such ex-dividend date, then, notwithstanding the foregoing conversion rate adjustment provisions, the conversion rate adjustment relating to such ex-dividend date will not be made for such converting holder. Instead, such holder will be treated as if such holder were the record owner of the shares of our common stock on an unadjusted basis and participate in the related dividend, distribution or other event giving rise to such adjustment.

Except as stated herein, we will not adjust the conversion rate for the issuance of shares of our common stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of our common stock or the right to purchase shares of our common stock or such convertible or exchangeable securities.

As used in this section, ex-dividend date means the first date on which the shares of our common stock trade on the applicable exchange or in the applicable market, regular way, without the right to receive the issuance, dividend or distribution in question, from us or, if applicable, from the seller of our common stock on such exchange or market (in the form of due bills or otherwise) as determined by such exchange or market, and effective date means the first date on which the shares of our common stock trade on the applicable exchange or in the applicable market, regular way, reflecting the relevant share split or share combination, as applicable.

As used in this section, record date means, with respect to any dividend, distribution or other transaction or event in which the holders of our common stock (or other applicable security) have the right to receive any cash, securities or other property or in which our common stock (or such other security) is exchanged for or

Table of Contents

converted into any combination of cash, securities or other property, the date fixed for determination of holders of our common stock (or such other security) entitled to receive such cash, securities or other property (whether such date is fixed by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee thereof, statute, contract or otherwise).

We are permitted to increase the conversion rate of the notes by any amount for a period of at least 20 business days if our board of directors or a committee thereof determines that such increase would be in our best interest. We may also (but are not required to) increase the conversion rate to avoid or diminish income tax to holders of our common stock or rights to purchase shares of our common stock in connection with a dividend or distribution of shares (or rights to acquire shares) or similar event.

A holder may, in some circumstances, including a distribution of cash dividends to holders of our shares of common stock, be deemed to have received a distribution subject to U.S. federal income tax as a result of an adjustment or the nonoccurrence of an adjustment to the conversion rate. For a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax treatment of an adjustment to the conversion rate, see Certain U.S. federal income tax considerations.

If we have a rights plan in effect upon conversion of the notes into common stock, you will receive, in addition to any shares of common stock received in connection with such conversion, the rights under the rights plan. However, if, prior to any conversion, the rights have separated from the shares of common stock in accordance with the provisions of the applicable rights plan, the conversion rate will be adjusted at the time of separation as if we distributed to all or substantially all holders of our common stock, shares of our capital stock, evidences of indebtedness, assets, property, rights, options or warrants as described in clause (3) above, subject to readjustment in the event of the expiration, termination or redemption of such rights.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, the conversion rate will not be adjusted:

upon the issuance of any shares of our common stock pursuant to any present or future plan providing for the reinvestment of dividends or interest payable on our securities and the investment of additional optional amounts in shares of our common stock under any plan;

upon the issuance of any shares of our common stock or options or rights to purchase those shares pursuant to any present or future employee, director or consultant benefit plan or program of or assumed by us or any of our subsidiaries;

upon the issuance of any shares of our common stock pursuant to any option, warrant, right or exercisable, exchangeable or convertible security not described in the preceding bullet and outstanding as of the date the notes were first issued;

solely for a change in the par value of the common stock

upon the repurchase of any shares of our common stock pursuant to an open-market share repurchase program or other buy-back transaction that is not a tender offer or exchange offer of the kind described under clause (5) above; or

for accrued and unpaid interest, if any.

Adjustments to the conversion rate will be calculated to the nearest 1/10,000th of a share.

Recapitalizations, reclassifications and changes of our common stock

In the case of:

any recapitalization, reclassification or change of our common stock (other than changes resulting from a subdivision or combination),

S-40

Table of Contents

any consolidation, merger or combination involving us,

any sale, lease or other transfer to a third party of the consolidated assets of ours and our subsidiaries substantially as an entirety, or

any statutory share exchange,

in each case, as a result of which our common stock would be converted into, or exchanged for, stock, other securities, other property or assets (including cash or any combination thereof) (any such event, a share exchange event), then, at and after the effective time of the transaction, the right to convert each \$1,000 principal amount of notes will be changed into a right to convert such principal amount of notes into the kind and amount of shares of stock, other securities or other property or assets (including cash or any combination thereof) that a holder of a number of shares of common stock equal to the conversion rate immediately prior to such transaction would have owned or been entitled to receive (the reference property) upon such transaction. However, at and after the effective time of the transaction, (i) we will continue to have the right to determine the form of consideration to be paid or delivered, as the case may be, upon conversion of notes, as set forth under Settlement upon conversion and (ii)(x) any amount payable in cash upon conversion of the notes as set forth under Settlement upon conversion will continue to be payable in cash, (y) any shares of our common stock that we would have been required to deliver upon conversion of the notes as set forth under Settlement upon conversion will instead be deliverable in the amount and type of reference property that a holder of that number of shares of our common stock would have received in such transaction and (z) the daily VWAP will be calculated based on the value of a unit of reference property that a holder of one share of our common stock would have received in such transaction. If the transaction causes our common stock to be converted into, or exchanged for, the right to receive more than a single type of consideration (determined based in part upon any form of stockholder election), the reference property into which the notes will be convertible will be deemed to be (i) the weighted average of the types and amounts of consideration received by the holders of our common stock that affirmatively make such an election or (ii) if no holders of our common stock affirmatively make such an election, the types and amounts of consideration actually received by the holders of our common stock. We will notify holders, the trustee and the conversion agent (if other than the trustee) of the weighted average as soon as practicable after such determination is made. If the holders of our common stock receive only cash in such transaction, then for all conversions that occur after the effective date of such transaction (i) the consideration due upon conversion of each \$1,000 principal amount of notes shall be solely cash in an amount equal to the conversion rate in effect on the conversion date (as may be increased as described under

Increase in conversion rate upon conversion upon a make-whole fundamental change), multiplied by the price paid per share of common stock in such transaction and (ii) we will satisfy our conversion obligation by paying cash to converting holders on the third business day immediately following the conversion date.

The supplemental indenture providing that the notes will be convertible into reference property will also provide for anti-dilution and other adjustments that are as nearly equivalent as possible to the adjustments described under Conversion rate adjustments above. If the reference property in respect of any such transaction includes shares of stock, securities or other property or assets of a company other than us or the successor or purchasing corporation, as the case may be, in such transaction, such other company will also execute such supplemental indenture, and such supplemental indenture will contain such additional provisions to protect the interests of the holders, including the right of holders to require us to repurchase their notes upon a fundamental change as described under Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase notes below, as the board of directors reasonably considers necessary by reason of the foregoing. We will agree in the indenture not to become a party to any such transaction unless its terms are consistent with the foregoing.

Table of Contents***Adjustments of prices***

Whenever any provision of the indenture requires us to calculate the last reported sale prices, the daily VWAPs, the daily conversion values or the daily settlement amounts over a span of multiple days (including an observation period and the stock price for purposes of a make-whole fundamental change), our board of directors or a committee thereof will make appropriate adjustments to each to account for any adjustment to the conversion rate that becomes effective, or any event requiring an adjustment to the conversion rate where the ex-dividend date, effective date or expiration date of the event occurs, at any time during the period when the last reported sale prices, the daily VWAPs, the daily conversion values or the daily settlement amounts are to be calculated.

Increase in conversion rate upon conversion upon a make-whole fundamental change

If the effective date (as defined below) of a make-whole fundamental change (as defined below) occurs prior to the maturity date of the notes and a holder elects to convert its notes in connection with such make-whole fundamental change, we will, under certain circumstances, increase the conversion rate for the notes so surrendered for conversion by a number of additional shares of common stock (the additional shares), as described below.

A make whole fundamental change means any transaction or event that constitutes a fundamental change defined below in clause (1), (2) or (4) under the definition of fundamental change in Fundamental Change Permits Holders to Require Us to Purchase Notes, after giving effect to any exceptions or exclusions from such definition but without regard to the proviso in clause (2) of the definition thereof.

A conversion of notes will be deemed for these purposes to be in connection with such make-whole fundamental change if the relevant notice of conversion of the notes (which notification may be made through a notice to DTC in the case of global notes) is received by the conversion agent from, and including, the effective date of the make-whole fundamental change up to, and including, the business day immediately prior to the related fundamental change repurchase date (or, in the case of a make-whole fundamental change that would have been a fundamental change but for the proviso in clause (2) of the definition thereof, the 35th trading day immediately following the effective date of such make-whole fundamental change).

Upon surrender of notes for conversion in connection with a make-whole fundamental change, we will, at our option, satisfy our conversion obligation by physical settlement, cash settlement or combination settlement, as described under Conversion rights Settlement upon conversion. However, if the consideration for our common stock in any make-whole fundamental change described in clause (2) of the definition of fundamental change is composed entirely of cash, for any conversion of notes following the effective date of such make-whole fundamental change, the conversion obligation will be calculated based solely on the stock price (as defined below) for the transaction and will be deemed to be an amount of cash per \$1,000 principal amount of converted notes equal to the conversion rate (including any increase to reflect the additional shares as described in this section), multiplied by such stock price. In such event, the conversion obligation will be determined and paid to holders in cash on the third business day following the conversion date. We will notify holders (with a copy to the trustee and conversion agent, if other than the trustee) of the effective date of any make-whole fundamental change and issue a press release announcing such effective date or publish information on our website or through such other public medium as we may use at that time no later than five business days after such effective date.

The number of additional shares, if any, by which the conversion rate will be increased will be determined by reference to the table below, based on the date on which the make-whole fundamental change occurs or becomes effective (the effective date) and the price (the stock price) paid (or deemed to be paid) per share

Table of Contents

of our common stock in the make-whole fundamental change. If the holders of our common stock receive in exchange for their common stock only cash in a make-whole fundamental change described in clause (2) of the definition of fundamental change, the stock price will be the cash amount paid per share. Otherwise, the stock price will be the average of the last reported sale prices of our common stock over the five trading day period ending on, and including, the trading day immediately preceding the effective date of the make-whole fundamental change.

The stock prices set forth in the column headings of the table below will be adjusted as of any date on which the conversion rate of the notes is otherwise adjusted. The adjusted stock prices will equal the stock prices immediately prior to such adjustment, *multiplied* by a fraction, the numerator of which is the conversion rate immediately prior to the adjustment giving rise to the stock price adjustment and the denominator of which is the conversion rate as so adjusted. The number of additional shares as set forth in the table below will be adjusted in the same manner and at the same time as the conversion rate as set forth under Conversion rate adjustments.

The following table sets forth the number of additional shares by which the conversion rate will be increased per \$1,000 principal amount of notes for each stock price and effective date set forth below:

Effective Date	Stock Price											
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
June , 2014												
June 15, 2015												
June 15, 2016												
June 15, 2017												
June 15, 2018												
June 15, 2019												
June 15, 2020												
June 15, 2021												

The exact stock prices and effective dates may not be set forth in the table above, in which case:

If the stock price is between two stock prices in the table or the effective date is between two effective dates in the table, the number of additional shares by which the conversion rate will be increased will be determined by a straight-line interpolation between the number of additional shares set forth for the higher and lower stock prices and the earlier and later effective dates, as applicable, based on a 365-day year.

If the stock price is greater than \$ per share (subject to adjustment in the same manner as the stock prices set forth in the column headings of the table above), no additional shares will be added to the conversion rate.

If the stock price is less than \$ per share (subject to adjustment in the same manner as the stock prices set forth in the column headings of the table above), no additional shares will be added to the conversion rate.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event will the conversion rate per \$1,000 principal amount of notes exceed shares of common stock, subject to adjustment in the same manner as the conversion rate as set forth under Conversion rate adjustments.

Our obligation to increase the conversion rate for notes converted in connection with a make-whole fundamental change could be considered a penalty, in which case the enforceability thereof would be subject to general principles of reasonableness and equitable remedies.

Table of Contents

Exchange in lieu of conversion

When a holder surrenders its notes for conversion, we may, at our election (an *exchange election*), direct the conversion agent to surrender, on or prior to the second business day following the conversion date, such notes to a financial institution designated by us for exchange in lieu of conversion. In order to accept any notes surrendered for conversion, the designated institution must agree to timely deliver, in exchange for such notes, cash, shares of our common stock or a combination of cash and shares of our common stock, at our election, that would otherwise be due upon conversion as described above under *Conversion rights Settlement upon conversion* (the *conversion consideration*). If we make an exchange election, we will, by the close of business on the second business day following the relevant conversion date, notify the holder surrendering its notes for conversion that we have made the exchange election and we will notify the designated financial institution of the relevant deadline for delivery of the conversion consideration.

Any notes exchanged by the designated institution will remain outstanding. If the designated institution agrees to accept any notes for exchange but does not timely deliver the related conversion consideration, or if such designated financial institution does not accept the notes for exchange, we will deliver the relevant conversion consideration as if we had not made an exchange election.

Our designation of a financial institution to which the notes may be submitted for exchange does not require such institution to accept any notes.

Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase notes

If a *fundamental change* (as defined below in this section) occurs at any time, holders will have the right, at their option, to require us to repurchase for cash all of their notes, or any portion of the principal thereof that is equal to \$1,000 or a multiple of \$1,000. The fundamental change repurchase date will be a date specified by us that is not less than 20 or more than 35 calendar days following the date of our fundamental change notice as described below.

The fundamental change repurchase price we are required to pay will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased, *plus* accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the fundamental change repurchase date (unless the fundamental change repurchase date falls after a regular record date but on or prior to the interest payment date to which such regular record date relates, in which case we will instead pay the full amount of accrued and unpaid interest to the holder of record on such regular record date, and the fundamental change repurchase price will be equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased).

A *fundamental change* will be deemed to have occurred at the time after the notes are originally issued if any of the following occurs:

(1) except as described in clause (2) below, a *person* or *group* within the meaning of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act, other than us, our wholly owned subsidiaries and our and their employee benefit plans filed a Schedule TO or any schedule, form or report under the Exchange Act disclosing that such person or group has become the direct or indirect *beneficial owner*, as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act, of our common equity representing more than 50% of the voting power of our common equity;

(2) the consummation of (A) any recapitalization, reclassification or change of our common stock (other than changes resulting from a subdivision or combination) as a result of which our common stock would be converted into, or exchanged for, stock, other securities, other property or assets; (B) any share exchange, consolidation or merger of us pursuant to which our common stock will be converted into cash, securities or other property or assets; or (C) any sale, lease or other transfer in one transaction or a series of

Table of Contents

transactions of all or substantially all of the consolidated assets of us and our subsidiaries, taken as a whole, to any person other than one of our wholly owned subsidiaries; *provided, however*, that a transaction described in clause (A) or (B) in which the holders of all classes of our common equity immediately prior to such transaction own, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of all classes of common equity of the continuing or surviving corporation or transferee or the parent thereof immediately after such transaction in substantially the same proportions as such ownership immediately prior to such transaction shall not be a fundamental change pursuant to this clause (2);

(3) our stockholders approve any plan or proposal for the liquidation or dissolution of us; or

(4) our common stock (or other common stock or American Depositary Receipts underlying the notes) ceases to be listed or quoted on any of The New York Stock Exchange, The NASDAQ Global Select Market or The NASDAQ Global Market (or any of their respective successors).

A transaction or transactions described in clause (2) above will not constitute a fundamental change, however, if at least 90% of the consideration received or to be received by our common stockholders, excluding cash payments for fractional shares and pursuant to statutory appraisal rights, in connection with such transaction or transactions consists of shares of common stock, ordinary shares or American Depositary Receipts, in each case, that are listed or quoted on any of The New York Stock Exchange, The NASDAQ Global Select Market or The NASDAQ Global Market (or any of their respective successors) or will be so listed or quoted when issued or exchanged in connection with such transaction or transactions and as a result of such transaction or transactions the notes become convertible into such consideration, excluding cash payments for fractional shares (subject to the provisions set forth above under *Conversion rights Settlement upon conversion*).

On or before the 20th day after the occurrence of a fundamental change, we will provide to all holders of the notes and the trustee and paying agent a notice of the occurrence of the fundamental change and of the resulting repurchase right. Such notice shall state, among other things:

the events causing a fundamental change;

the date of the fundamental change;

the last date on which a holder may exercise the repurchase right;

the fundamental change repurchase price;

the fundamental change repurchase date;

the name and address of the paying agent and the conversion agent, if applicable;

if applicable, the conversion rate and any adjustments to the conversion rate;

that the notes with respect to which a fundamental change repurchase notice has been delivered by a holder may be converted only if the holder withdraws the fundamental change repurchase notice in accordance with the terms of the indenture; and

the procedures that holders must follow to require us to repurchase their notes.

Simultaneously with providing such notice, we will publish a notice containing this information in a newspaper of general circulation in The City of New York or publish the information on our website or through such other public medium as we may determine at that time.

Edgar Filing: ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC - Form 424B5

To exercise the fundamental change repurchase right, you must deliver, on or before the business day immediately preceding the fundamental change repurchase date, the notes to be repurchased, duly endorsed for transfer, together with a written repurchase notice, to the paying agent. Each repurchase notice must state:

if certificated, the certificate numbers of your notes to be delivered for repurchase;

S-45

Table of Contents

the portion of the principal amount of notes to be repurchased, which must be \$1,000 or an integral multiple thereof; and

that the notes are to be repurchased by us pursuant to the applicable provisions of the notes and the indenture.

If the notes are not in certificated form, such repurchase notice must comply with appropriate DTC procedures.

Holders may withdraw any repurchase notice (in whole or in part) by a written notice of withdrawal delivered to the paying agent prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding the fundamental change repurchase date. The notice of withdrawal shall state:

the principal amount of the withdrawn notes;

if certificated notes have been issued, the certificate numbers of the withdrawn notes; and

the principal amount, if any, which remains subject to the repurchase notice.

If the notes are not in certificated form, such notice of withdrawal must comply with appropriate DTC procedures.

We will be required to repurchase the notes on the fundamental change repurchase date. Holders who have exercised the repurchase right will receive payment of the fundamental change repurchase price on the later of (i) the fundamental change repurchase date and (ii) the time of book-entry transfer or the delivery of the notes. If the paying agent holds money sufficient to pay the fundamental change repurchase price of the notes on the fundamental change repurchase date, then, with respect to the notes that have been properly surrendered for repurchase and have not been validly withdrawn:

the notes will cease to be outstanding and interest will cease to accrue (whether or not book-entry transfer of the notes is made or whether or not the notes are delivered to the paying agent); and

all other rights of the holder will terminate (other than the right to receive the fundamental change repurchase price).

In connection with any repurchase offer pursuant to a fundamental change repurchase notice, we will, if required:

comply with the provisions of Rule 13e-4, Rule 14e-1 and any other tender offer rules under the Exchange Act that may then be applicable;

file a Schedule TO or any other required schedule under the Exchange Act; and

otherwise comply with all federal and state securities laws in connection with any offer by us to repurchase the notes;

in each case, so as to permit the rights and obligations under this Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase notes to be exercised in the time and in the manner specified in the indenture.

No notes may be repurchased on any date at the option of holders upon a fundamental change if the principal amount of the notes has been accelerated, and such acceleration has not been rescinded, on or prior to such date (except in the case of an acceleration resulting from a default by us in the payment of the fundamental change repurchase price with respect to such notes).

The repurchase rights of the holders could discourage a potential acquirer of us. The fundamental change repurchase feature, however, is not the result of management's knowledge of any specific effort to obtain control of us by any means or part of a plan by management to adopt a series of anti-takeover provisions.

Table of Contents

The term fundamental change is limited to specified transactions and may not include other events that might adversely affect our financial condition. In addition, the requirement that we offer to repurchase the notes upon a fundamental change may not protect holders in the event of a highly leveraged transaction, reorganization, merger or similar transaction involving us.

The definition of fundamental change includes a phrase relating to the sale, lease or other transfer of all or substantially all of our consolidated assets. There is no precise, established definition of the phrase substantially all under applicable law. Accordingly, the ability of a holder of the notes to require us to repurchase its notes as a result of the sale, lease or other transfer of less than all of our assets may be uncertain.

If a fundamental change were to occur, we may not have enough funds to pay the fundamental change repurchase price. Our ability to repurchase the notes for cash may be limited by restrictions on our ability to obtain funds for such repurchase through dividends from our subsidiaries, the terms of our then existing borrowing arrangements or otherwise. See Risk factors Risks related to the notes We may not have the ability to raise the funds necessary to settle conversions of the notes or to repurchase the notes upon a fundamental change, and our future debt may contain limitations on our ability to pay cash upon conversion or repurchase of the notes. If we fail to repurchase the notes when required following a fundamental change, we will be in default under the indenture. In addition, we have, and may in the future incur, other indebtedness with similar change in control provisions permitting our holders to accelerate or to require us to repurchase our indebtedness upon the occurrence of similar events or on some specific dates.

Consolidation, merger and sale of assets

The indenture provides that we shall not consolidate with or merge with or into, or sell, convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of our properties and assets to, another person, unless (i) the resulting, surviving or transferee person (if not us) is (1) a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any State thereof or the District of Columbia, or (2) a corporation or entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes organized and existing under the laws of any other jurisdiction, and such company (if not us) expressly assumes by supplemental indenture all of our obligations under the notes and the indenture (including, for the avoidance of doubt, the obligation to pay additional amounts, as set forth above under Additional amounts); and (ii) immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default or event of default has occurred and is continuing under the indenture. Upon any such consolidation, merger or sale, conveyance, transfer or lease, the resulting, surviving or transferee person (if not us) shall succeed to, and may exercise every right and power of, ours under the indenture, and we shall be discharged from our obligations under the notes and the indenture except in the case of any such lease.

Although these types of transactions are permitted under the indenture, certain of the foregoing transactions could constitute a fundamental change permitting each holder to require us to repurchase the notes of such holder as described above.

Events of default

Each of the following is an event of default with respect to the notes:

- (1) default in any payment of interest on any note when due and payable and the default continues for a period of 30 days;
- (2) default in the payment of principal of any note when due and payable at its stated maturity, upon optional redemption, upon any required repurchase, upon declaration of acceleration or otherwise;
- (3) our failure to comply with our obligation to convert the notes in accordance with the indenture upon exercise of a holder's conversion right for a period of five business days;

Table of Contents

(4) our failure to give a fundamental change notice as described under Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase notes, notice of a specified corporate transaction as described under Conversion upon specified corporate events, notice of a make-whole fundamental change as described under Increase in conversion rate upon conversion upon a make-whole fundamental change or notice of a share exchange event as described under Recapitalizations, reclassifications and changes of our common stock, in each case when due;

(5) our failure to comply with our obligations under Consolidation, merger and sale of assets ;

(6) our failure for 60 days after written notice from the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the notes then outstanding has been received to comply with any of our other agreements contained in the notes or indenture;

(7) default by us or any of our significant subsidiaries with respect to any mortgage, agreement or other instrument under which there may be outstanding, or by which there may be secured or evidenced, any indebtedness for money borrowed in excess of \$30,000,000 (or its foreign currency equivalent) in the aggregate of us and/or any such significant subsidiary, whether such indebtedness now exists or shall hereafter be created (i) resulting in such indebtedness becoming or being declared due and payable or (ii) constituting a failure to pay the principal or interest of any such debt when due and payable at its stated maturity, upon required repurchase, upon declaration or acceleration or otherwise, and such acceleration shall not have been rescinded or annulled or such failure to pay shall not have been cured, as the case may be, within 30 days after written notice to us by the trustee or to us and the trustee by holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding notes;

(8) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization of us or any of our significant subsidiaries; or

(9) a final judgment or judgments for the payment of \$30,000,000 (or its foreign currency equivalent) or more (excluding any amounts covered by insurance) in the aggregate rendered against us or any of our significant subsidiaries, which judgment is not discharged or stayed within 60 days after (i) the date on which the right to appeal thereof has expired if no such appeal has commenced, or (ii) the date on which all rights to appeal have been extinguished.

A significant subsidiary is a subsidiary that is a significant subsidiary as defined in Article 1, Rule 1-02 of Regulation S-X promulgated by the SEC; provided that, in the case of a subsidiary that meets the criteria of clause (3) of the definition thereof but not clause (1) or (2) thereof, such subsidiary shall not be deemed to be a significant subsidiary unless the subsidiary's income (or loss) from continuing operations before income taxes, extraordinary items and cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle exclusive of amounts attributable to any non-controlling interests for the last completed fiscal year prior to the date of such determination exceeds \$10,000,000.

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, the trustee by notice to us, or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding notes by notice to us and the trustee, may declare 100% of the principal of and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all the notes to be due and payable. In case of certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, involving us or a significant subsidiary, 100% of the principal of and accrued and unpaid interest on the notes will automatically become due and payable. Upon such a declaration of acceleration, such principal and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, will be due and payable immediately.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the indenture will provide that, to the extent we elect, the sole remedy for an event of default relating to (i) our failure to file with the trustee pursuant to Section 314(a)(1) of the Trust Indenture Act any documents or reports that we are required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act or (ii) our failure to comply with our obligations as set forth under Reports below, will for the

Table of Contents

first 270 days after the occurrence of such an event of default consist exclusively of the right to receive additional interest on the notes (1) at a rate equal to 0.25% per annum of the principal amount of the notes outstanding for each day during the first 180-day period on which such event of default is continuing beginning on, and including, the date on which such an event of default first occurs and (2) at a rate equal to 0.50% per annum of the principal amount of the notes outstanding from the 181st day until the 270th day following the occurrence of such an event of default during which such event of default is continuing.

If we so elect, such additional interest will be payable in the same manner and on the same dates as the stated interest payable on the notes. On the 271st day after such event of default (if the event of default relating to the reporting obligations is not cured or waived prior to such 271st day), the notes will be subject to acceleration as provided above. The provisions of the indenture described in this paragraph will not affect the rights of holders of notes in the event of the occurrence of any other event of default. In the event we do not elect to pay the additional interest following an event of default in accordance with this paragraph or we elected to make such payment but do not pay the additional interest when due, the notes will be immediately subject to acceleration as provided above.

In order to elect to pay the additional interest as the sole remedy during the first 270 days after the occurrence of an event of default relating to the failure to comply with the reporting obligations in accordance with the immediately preceding paragraph, we must notify in writing all holders of notes, the trustee and the paying agent of such election prior to the beginning of such 270-day period. Upon our failure to timely give such notice, the notes will be immediately subject to acceleration as provided above.

If any portion of the amount payable on the notes upon acceleration is considered by a court to be unearned interest (through the allocation of the value of the instrument to the embedded warrant or otherwise), the court could disallow recovery of any such portion.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding notes may waive all past defaults (except with respect to nonpayment of principal or interest or with respect to the failure to deliver the consideration due upon conversion) and rescind any such acceleration with respect to the notes and its consequences if (i) rescission would not conflict with any judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction and (ii) all existing events of default, other than the nonpayment of the principal of and interest on the notes that have become due solely by such declaration of acceleration, have been cured or waived.

Each holder shall have the right to receive payment or delivery, as the case may be, of:

the principal (including the redemption price and the fundamental change repurchase price, if applicable) of;
accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on; and
the consideration due upon conversion of,

its notes, on or after the respective due dates expressed or provided for in the indenture, or to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment or delivery, as the case may be, and such right to receive such payment or delivery, as the case may be, on or after such respective dates shall not be impaired or affected without the consent of such holder.

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers under the indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders unless such holders have offered to the trustee indemnity or security satisfactory to the trustee against any loss, liability or expense. Except to enforce the right to receive payment of principal or interest when due, or the right to receive payment or delivery of the consideration due upon conversion, no holder may pursue any remedy with respect to the indenture or the notes unless:

(1) such holder has previously given the trustee notice that an event of default is continuing;

Table of Contents

- (2) holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding notes have requested the trustee to pursue the remedy;
- (3) such holders have offered the trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense;
- (4) the trustee has not complied with such request within 60 days after the receipt of the request and the offer of such security or indemnity; and
- (5) the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding notes have not given the trustee a direction that, in the opinion of the trustee, is inconsistent with such request within such 60-day period.

Subject to certain restrictions, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding notes are given the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or of exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee.

The indenture provides that in the event an event of default has occurred and is continuing, the trustee will be required in the exercise of its powers to use the degree of care that a prudent person would use in the conduct of its own affairs. The trustee, however, may refuse to follow any direction that conflicts with law or the indenture or that the trustee determines is unduly prejudicial to the rights of any other holder or that would involve the trustee in personal liability. Prior to taking any action under the indenture, the trustee will be entitled to indemnification satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense that may be caused by taking or not taking such action.

The indenture provides that if a default occurs and is continuing and is known to the trustee, the trustee must mail to each holder, or in the case of global notes, deliver electronically in accordance with the procedures of DTC notice of the default within 90 days after it occurs. Except in the case of a default in the payment of principal of or interest on any note or a default in the payment or delivery of the consideration due upon conversion, the trustee may withhold notice if and so long as a committee of trust officers of the trustee in good faith determines that withholding notice is in the interests of the holders. In addition, we are required to deliver to the trustee, within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, a certificate indicating whether the signers thereof know of any default that occurred during the previous year. We are also required to deliver to the trustee, within 30 days after the occurrence thereof, written notice of any events which would constitute certain defaults, their status and what action we are taking or proposing to take in respect thereof.

Payments of the redemption price, the fundamental change repurchase price, principal and interest that are not made when due will accrue interest per annum at the then-applicable interest rate from the required payment date.

Modification and amendment

Subject to certain exceptions, the indenture or the notes may be amended with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the notes then outstanding (including without limitation, consents obtained in connection with a repurchase of, or tender or exchange offer for, notes) and, subject to certain exceptions, any past default or compliance with any provisions may be waived with the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the notes then outstanding (including, without limitation, consents obtained in connection with a repurchase of, or tender or exchange offer for, notes). However, without the consent of each holder of an outstanding note affected, no amendment may, among other things:

- (1) reduce the amount of notes whose holders must consent to an amendment;
- (2) reduce the rate of or extend the stated time for payment of interest on any note;

Table of Contents

- (3) reduce the principal of or extend the stated maturity of any note;
- (4) make any change that adversely affects the conversion rights of any notes;
- (5) reduce the redemption price, the fundamental change repurchase price of any note or amend or modify in any manner adverse to the holders of notes our obligation to make such payments, whether through an amendment or waiver of provisions in the covenants, definitions or otherwise;
- (6) make any note payable in money, or at a place of payment, other than that stated in the note;
- (7) change the ranking of the notes;
- (8) impair the right of any holder to receive payment of principal and interest on such holder's notes on or after the due dates therefor or to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to such holder's notes;
- (9) change the provisions described under "Additional amounts" above; or
- (10) make any change in the amendment provisions that require each holder's consent or in the waiver provisions.

Without the consent of any holder, we and the trustee may amend the indenture to:

- (1) cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;
- (2) provide for the assumption by a successor corporation of our obligations under the indenture;
- (3) add guarantees with respect to the notes;
- (4) secure the notes;
- (5) add to our covenants or events of default for the benefit of the holders or surrender any right or power conferred upon us;
- (6) make any change that does not adversely affect the rights of any holder;
- (7) in connection with any share exchange event, provide that the notes are convertible into reference property, subject to the provisions described under "Conversion rights" "Settlement upon conversion" above, and make certain related changes to the terms of the notes to the extent expressly required by the indenture;
- (8) comply with any requirement of the SEC in connection with the qualification of the indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;
- (9) provide for the issuance of additional notes in accordance with the terms and conditions of the indenture; or
- (10) conform the provisions of the indenture to the "Description of notes" section in the preliminary prospectus supplement, as supplemented by the related pricing term sheet.

Holders do not need to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment. It will be sufficient if such holders approve the substance of the proposed amendment. After an amendment under the indenture becomes effective, we are required to mail to the holders a notice briefly describing such amendment. However, the failure to give such notice to all the holders, or any defect in the notice, will not impair or affect the validity of the amendment.

Table of Contents

Discharge

We may satisfy and discharge our obligations under the indenture by delivering to the securities registrar for cancellation all outstanding notes or by depositing with the trustee or delivering to the holders, as applicable, after the notes have become due and payable, whether at maturity, at any redemption date, at any fundamental change repurchase date, upon conversion or otherwise, cash or cash and/or shares of common stock, solely to satisfy outstanding conversions, as applicable, sufficient to pay all of the outstanding notes and paying all other sums payable under the indenture by us. Such discharge is subject to terms contained in the indenture.

Calculations in respect of notes

Except as otherwise provided above, we will be responsible for making all calculations called for under the notes. These calculations include, but are not limited to, determinations of the stock price, the last reported sale prices of our common stock, the daily VWAPs, the daily conversion values, the daily settlement amounts, accrued interest payable on the notes, any additional interest payable and the conversion rate of the notes. We will make all these calculations in good faith and, absent manifest error, our calculations will be final and binding on holders of notes. We will provide a schedule of our calculations to each of the trustee and the conversion agent, and each of the trustee and the conversion agent is entitled to rely conclusively upon the accuracy of our calculations without independent verification. The trustee will forward our calculations to any holder of notes upon the request of that holder.

Reports

The indenture provides that any documents or reports that we are required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act must be filed by us with the trustee within 15 days after the same are required to be filed with the SEC (giving effect to any grace period provided by Rule 12b-25 under the Exchange Act). Documents filed by us with the SEC via the EDGAR system will be deemed to be filed with the trustee as of the time such documents are filed via EDGAR.

Trustee

Wilmington Trust, National Association is the trustee, security registrar, paying agent, bid solicitation agent and conversion agent. Wilmington Trust, National Association, in each of its capacities, including without limitation as trustee, security registrar, paying agent, bid solicitation agent and conversion agent, assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information concerning us or our affiliates or any other party contained in this document or the related documents or for any failure by us or any other party to disclose events that may have occurred and may affect the significance or accuracy of such information.

We maintain banking relationships in the ordinary course of business with the trustee and its affiliates.

Governing law

The indenture provides that it and the notes, and any claim, controversy or dispute arising under or related to the indenture or the notes, will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

Book-entry, settlement and clearance

The global notes

The notes will be initially issued in the form of one or more registered notes in global form, without interest coupons (the global notes). Upon issuance, each of the global notes will be deposited with the trustee as custodian for DTC and registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a global note will be limited to persons who have accounts with DTC (DTC participants) or persons who hold interests through DTC participants. We expect that under procedures established by DTC:

upon deposit of a global note with DTC s custodian, DTC will credit portions of the principal amount of the global note to the accounts of the DTC participants designated by the underwriter; and

ownership of beneficial interests in a global note will be shown on, and transfer of ownership of those interests will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to interests of DTC participants) and the records of DTC participants (with respect to other owners of beneficial interests in the global note).

Beneficial interests in global notes may not be exchanged for notes in physical, certificated form except in the limited circumstances described below.

Book-entry procedures for the global notes

All interests in the global notes will be subject to the operations and procedures of DTC. We provide the following summary of those operations and procedures solely for the convenience of investors. The operations and procedures of DTC are controlled by that settlement system and may be changed at any time. Neither we nor the underwriter are responsible for those operations or procedures.

DTC has advised us that it is:

a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York;

a banking organization within the meaning of the New York State Banking Law;

a member of the Federal Reserve System;

a clearing corporation within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code; and

a clearing agency registered under Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC was created to hold securities for its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between its participants through electronic book-entry changes to the accounts of its participants. DTC s participants include securities brokers and dealers, including the underwriter; banks and trust companies; clearing corporations and other organizations. Indirect access to DTC s system is also available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies; these indirect participants clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a DTC participant, either directly or indirectly. Investors who are not DTC participants may beneficially own securities held by or on behalf of DTC only through DTC participants or indirect participants in DTC.

Edgar Filing: ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC - Form 424B5

So long as DTC's nominee is the registered owner of a global note, that nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the notes represented by that global note for all purposes under the indenture. Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in a global note:

will not be entitled to have notes represented by the global note registered in their names;

S-53

Table of Contents

will not receive or be entitled to receive physical, certificated notes; and

will not be considered the owners or holders of the notes under the indenture for any purpose, including with respect to the giving of any direction, instruction or approval to the trustee under the indenture.

As a result, each investor who owns a beneficial interest in a global note must rely on the procedures of DTC to exercise any rights of a holder of notes under the indenture (and, if the investor is not a participant or an indirect participant in DTC, on the procedures of the DTC participant through which the investor owns its interest).

Payments of principal and interest with respect to the notes represented by a global note will be made by the trustee to DTC's nominee as the registered holder of the global note. Neither we nor the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for the payment of amounts to owners of beneficial interests in a global note, for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of those interests by DTC, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records of DTC relating to those interests.

Payments by participants and indirect participants in DTC to the owners of beneficial interests in a global note will be governed by standing instructions and customary industry practice and will be the responsibility of those participants or indirect participants and DTC.

Transfers between participants in DTC will be effected under DTC's procedures and will be settled in same-day funds.

Certificated notes

Notes in physical, certificated form will be issued and delivered to each person that DTC identifies as a beneficial owner of the related notes only if:

DTC notifies us at any time that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for the global notes and a successor depository is not appointed within 90 days;

DTC ceases to be registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act and a successor depository is not appointed within 90 days; or

an event of default with respect to the notes has occurred and is continuing and such beneficial owner requests that its notes be issued in physical, certificated form.

Table of Contents

Description of capital stock

Common stock

We have the authority to issue 80,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share. As of March 31, 2014, 41,641,878 shares of our voting common stock were outstanding (not including 12,420 shares of common stock that were held in treasury), and a maximum of 7,629,870 shares of common stock were issuable upon the exercise of outstanding options.

The following description of our common stock is only a summary and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation. Holders of common stock have one vote per share and have no preemption rights. Holders of common stock have the right to participate ratably in all distributions, whether of dividends or assets in liquidation, dissolution or winding up, subject to any superior rights of holders of preferred stock outstanding at the time. See Preferred Stock below. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock.

Registrar and Transfer Company is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock. Their address is 10 Commerce Drive, Cranford, NJ 07016 and their telephone number is (800) 368-5948.

Preferred stock

We have the authority to issue 20,000,000 shares of preferred stock. As of March 31, 2014, no shares of our preferred stock were outstanding. The description of preferred stock provisions set forth below is only a summary and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and the certificate of designations relating to any series of preferred stock.

The board of directors has the right, without the consent of holders of common stock, to designate and issue one or more series of preferred stock, which may be convertible into common stock at a ratio determined by the board. A series of preferred stock may bear rights superior to common stock as to voting, dividends, redemption, distributions in liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, and other relative rights and preferences. The board may set the following terms of any series of preferred stock, and a prospectus supplement will specify these terms for any series offered:

the number of shares constituting the series and the distinctive designation of the series;

dividend rates, whether dividends are cumulative and, if so, from what date, and the relative rights of priority of payment of dividends;

voting rights and the terms of the voting rights;

conversion privileges and the terms and condition of conversion, including provision for adjustment of the conversion rate;

redemption rights and the terms and conditions of redemption, including the date or dates upon or after which shares may be redeemable and the amount per share payable in case of redemption, which may vary under different conditions and at different redemption dates;

sinking fund provisions for the redemption or purchase of shares;

rights in the event of voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the corporation, and the relative rights of priority of payment; and

any other relative powers, preferences, rights, privileges, qualifications, limitations and restrictions of the series. The preferred stock will, if issued, be fully paid and nonassessable. The rights of the holders of preferred stock will be subordinate to those of our general creditors.

S-55

Table of Contents

Material United States federal income tax considerations

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations of the ownership and disposition of notes and the shares of common stock into which the notes may be converted. This summary is based upon provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), as amended, applicable Treasury regulations, administrative rulings and judicial decisions in effect as of the date hereof, any of which may subsequently be changed, possibly retroactively, or interpreted differently by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"), so as to result in U.S. federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below. This summary deals only with a note or share of common stock held as a capital asset by a beneficial owner who purchased the note on original issuance at the offering price.

This summary does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation and does not deal with all tax consequences that may be relevant to investors in light of their personal circumstances or particular situations, such as:

tax consequences to investors who may be subject to special tax treatment, including dealers in securities, partnerships or other entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes, financial institutions, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, tax-exempt entities, insurance companies, or traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities;

tax consequences to persons holding notes or common stock as a part of an integrated or conversion transaction or a straddle or persons deemed to sell notes or common stock under the constructive sale provisions of the Code;

tax consequences to U.S. Holders (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar;

tax consequences to investors in pass-through entities;

alternative minimum tax consequences, if any;

any state, local or foreign tax consequences; and

estate or gift tax consequences, if any.

If a partnership holds notes or shares of common stock, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner in a partnership holding the notes or shares of common stock, you should consult your tax advisor.

As used herein, the term "U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of notes or shares of common stock received upon conversion of the notes that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

an individual citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

Edgar Filing: ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC - Form 424B5

an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust, if it (i) is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (ii) has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

S-56

Table of Contents

A Non-U.S. Holder is a beneficial owner (other than a partnership) of notes or shares of common stock received upon conversion of the notes that is not a U.S. Holder. Special rules may apply to certain Non-U.S. Holders such as controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies, corporations that accumulate earnings to avoid U.S. federal income tax or, in certain circumstances, individuals who are U.S. expatriates. Consequently, Non-U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors to determine the U.S. federal, state, local and other tax consequences that may be relevant to them.

Consequences to U.S. Holders***Payment of interest***

Interest on a note generally will be taxable to a U.S. Holder as ordinary interest income at the time it accrues or is received in accordance with the U.S. Holder's method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes. It is anticipated, and this discussion assumes, that the notes will be issued for an amount equal to the principal amount. If, however, the notes' principal amount exceeds the issue price by more than a *de minimis* amount, as determined under applicable Treasury regulations, a U.S. Holder will be required to include such excess in income as original issue discount, as it accrues, in accordance with a constant yield method based on a compounding of interest, before the receipt of cash payments attributable to this income.

Additional amounts paid pursuant to the obligations described under Description of notes - Additional amounts would be treated as ordinary interest income.

Sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of notes

Except as provided below under Consequences to U.S. Holders Conversion of the Notes into Common Stock and Consequences to U.S. Holders Conversion of the Notes into Common Stock and Cash, a U.S. Holder will generally recognize gain or loss upon the sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of a note equal to the difference between the amount realized (excluding accrued interest, which will be taxable as described under Payment of Interest above) upon the sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition and such U.S. Holder's tax basis in the note. A U.S. Holder's tax basis in a note will generally equal the amount that the U.S. Holder paid for the note. Any gain or loss recognized on a taxable disposition of the note will generally be capital gain or loss. If, at the time of the sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of the note, a U.S. Holder is treated as holding the note for more than one year, such gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss. Otherwise, such gain or loss will be short-term capital gain or loss. In the case of certain noncorporate U.S. Holders (including individuals), long-term capital gain generally will be subject to a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 20%. A U.S. Holder's ability to deduct capital losses may be limited.

Conversion of the notes into cash

If a U.S. Holder receives solely cash in exchange for notes upon conversion, the U.S. Holder's gain or loss will be determined in the same manner as if the U.S. Holder disposed of the notes in a taxable disposition (as described above under Consequences to U.S. Holders Sale, Exchange, Redemption or Other Taxable Disposition of Notes).

Conversion of the notes into common stock

If a U.S. Holder receives solely common stock in exchange for notes upon conversion, the U.S. Holder generally will not recognize gain or loss upon the conversion of the notes except to the extent of (i) cash received in lieu of a fractional share and (ii) amounts received with respect to accrued but unpaid interest (which will be treated as described above under Payment of Interest). The amount of gain or loss a U.S. Holder will recognize on the receipt of cash in lieu of a fractional share will equal the difference between the amount of cash the U.S.

Table of Contents

Holder receives in respect of the fractional share and the portion of the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the note that is allocable to the fractional share. Any such gain or loss generally will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss, if at the time of the conversion, the note has been held for more than one year. The tax basis of shares of common stock received upon a conversion (other than shares attributable to accrued but unpaid interest, the tax basis of which will equal their fair market value) will equal the adjusted tax basis of the note that was converted (excluding the portion of the adjusted tax basis that is allocable to any fractional share). The U.S. Holder's holding period for the shares of common stock will include the period during which the U.S. Holder held the notes, except that the holding period of any shares received with respect to accrued interest will commence on the day after the date of receipt.

Conversion of the notes into common stock and cash

The tax treatment of a conversion of a note into cash and common stock is uncertain, and U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the consequences of such a conversion. We intend to treat a conversion of a note into cash and common stock as a recapitalization, the treatment of which is described below.

Treatment as a Recapitalization. If a U.S. Holder receives a combination of cash and stock upon conversion of the notes, and the notes are treated as securities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the conversion could be treated as a recapitalization. In such case, gain, but not loss, would be recognized equal to the excess of the sum of the fair market value of the common stock and cash received (excluding any amounts attributable to accrued interest, which will be treated as described under *Payment of Interest* above, and cash in lieu of a fractional share) over a U.S. Holder's tax basis in the notes (excluding the portion of the tax basis that is allocable to any fractional share), but in no event would the gain recognized exceed the amount of cash received (other than cash received in lieu of a fractional share or cash attributable to accrued interest). The amount of gain or loss recognized on the receipt of cash in lieu of a fractional share would be equal to the difference between the amount of cash a U.S. Holder would receive in respect of the fractional share and the portion of the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the note that is allocable to the fractional share. Any gain or loss recognized on conversion generally would be a capital gain or loss and would be long-term capital gain or loss if, at the time of the conversion, the note has been held for more than one year.

The tax basis of the shares of common stock received upon such a conversion (other than common stock attributable to accrued interest, the tax basis of which would equal the fair market value at the time of receipt) would equal the tax basis of the note that was converted (excluding the portion of the tax basis that is allocable to any fractional share), reduced by the amount of any cash received (other than cash received in lieu of a fractional share or cash attributable to accrued interest), and increased by the amount of gain, if any, recognized (other than with respect to a fractional share). A U.S. Holder's holding period for shares of common stock received on conversion would include the period during which the U.S. Holder held the notes, except that the holding period of any common stock received with respect to accrued interest would commence on the day after the date of receipt.

Alternative Treatment as Part Conversion and Part Redemption. If the conversion of a note into cash and common stock were not treated as a recapitalization, the cash payment received may be treated as proceeds from the sale of a portion of the note and taxed in the manner described under *Consequences to U.S. Holders Sale, Exchange, Redemption or Other Taxable Disposition of Notes* above. Under this alternative characterization, a U.S. Holder would not recognize gain or loss with respect to the Company's common stock received except to the extent of any common stock received with respect to accrued interest. In that case, the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the note would generally be allocated *pro rata* among the common stock received and the portion of the note that is treated as sold for cash. The holding period for the common stock received in the conversion would include the holding period for the notes, except that the holding period for any common stock received with respect to accrued interest would commence on the day after the date of receipt.

Table of Contents

Alternative Treatment as Fully Taxable Exchange. Alternatively, the conversion of a note into cash and common stock might be treated as a fully taxable exchange of the entire note for a combination of cash and common stock.

U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the tax treatment of the receipt of cash and our common stock for notes upon conversion.

Distributions

Distributions, if any, made on our common stock generally will be included in a U.S. Holder's income as ordinary dividend income to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. Dividends received by non-corporate U.S. holders (including individuals) are generally taxed at the lower applicable long-term capital gains rates, provided certain holding period requirements are satisfied. Dividends received by a corporation may be eligible for a dividends received deduction, subject to applicable limitations. Distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will be treated as returns of capital to the extent of a U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the common stock and thereafter as capital gain from the sale or exchange of such common stock.

Constructive distributions

The applicable conversion rate of the notes will be adjusted in certain circumstances. Adjustments (or failures to make adjustments) that have the effect of increasing a U.S. Holder's proportionate interest in our assets or earnings and profits may in some circumstances result in a deemed distribution to a U.S. Holder for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Adjustments to the applicable conversion rate made pursuant to a *bona fide* reasonable adjustment formula that has the effect of preventing the dilution of the interest of the beneficial owners of the notes, however, will generally not be considered to result in a deemed distribution to a U.S. Holder. Certain of the possible conversion rate adjustments provided in the notes (including, without limitation, adjustments in respect of cash or other taxable dividends to holders of our common stock) will not qualify as being made pursuant to a *bona fide* reasonable adjustment formula. If such adjustments are made, a U.S. Holder will be deemed to have received a distribution even though the U.S. Holder has not received any cash or property as a result of such adjustments. Any deemed distributions will be taxable as a dividend, return of capital or capital gain in accordance with the description above under *Distributions*. It is not clear whether a constructive dividend deemed paid to a U.S. Holder would be eligible for the preferential rates of U.S. federal income tax applicable in respect of certain dividends received. It is also unclear whether corporate U.S. Holders would be entitled to claim the dividends received deduction with respect to any such constructive dividends. Because a constructive dividend deemed received by a U.S. Holder would not give rise to any cash from which any applicable backup withholding could be satisfied, if backup withholding applies, any such backup withholding may be withheld from payments of cash and common stock payable on the notes (or, in certain circumstances, from any payments on the common stock).

Sale, certain redemptions or other taxable dispositions of common stock

Upon sale certain redemptions or other taxable dispositions of our common stock, a U.S. Holder generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between (i) the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received upon such taxable disposition and (ii) the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the common stock. Such capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder's holding period for the common stock is more than one year at the time of the taxable disposition. Long-term capital gains recognized by certain non-corporate U.S. Holders (including individuals) will generally be subject to a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 20%. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Table of Contents

Possible effect of the change in conversion consideration after a change in control or a modification and amendment

In certain situations, including a consolidation, merger or combination involving us or a transfer of all or substantially all of our property and assets, we may provide for the conversion of the notes into shares of an acquirer. Additionally, the indenture or the notes may be subject to certain modifications and amendments. Depending on the circumstances, such an adjustment or modification and amendment could result in a deemed taxable exchange to a U.S. Holder, and the modified note could be treated as newly issued at that time, potentially resulting in the recognition of taxable gain or loss.

Information reporting and backup withholding

Information reporting requirements generally will apply to payments of interest on the notes and dividends on shares of common stock and to the proceeds of a sale of a note or share of common stock paid to a U.S. Holder unless the U.S. Holder is an exempt recipient. Backup withholding will apply to those payments if the U.S. Holder fails to provide its correct taxpayer identification number, or certification of exempt status, or if the U.S. Holder is notified by the IRS that it has failed to report in full payments of interest and dividend income. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a refund or a credit against a U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is furnished timely to the IRS.

Medicare tax

A U.S. Holder that is an individual or estate, or a trust that does not fall into a special class of trusts that is exempt from such tax, will be subject to a 3.8% tax on the lesser of (1) the U.S. Holder's net investment income (in the case of individuals) or undistributed net investment income (in the case of estates and trusts) for the relevant taxable year and (2) the excess of the U.S. Holder's modified adjusted gross income (in the case of individuals) or adjusted gross income (in the case of estates and trusts) for the taxable year over a certain threshold (which in the case of individuals will be between \$125,000 and \$250,000, depending on the individual's circumstances). A U.S. Holder's net investment income generally includes the amounts of its interest or dividend income received in respect of the notes or common stock received upon conversion of the notes, and its gains from the sale or other disposition of notes or common stock. U.S. Holders that are individuals, estates or trusts should consult their tax advisors regarding the applicability of the Medicare tax to their income and gains in respect of their investment in the notes.

Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders

Payments of interest

The 30% U.S. federal withholding tax will not be applied to any payment of interest on a note to a Non-U.S. Holder, provided that:

interest paid on the note is not effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is not attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment);

the Non-U.S. Holder does not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock that are entitled to vote within the meaning of section 871(h)(3) of the Code;

the Non-U.S. Holder is not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to us (actually or constructively) through stock ownership; and

Table of Contents

the Non-U.S. Holder provides its name and address, and certifies, under penalties of perjury, that it is not a U.S. person (which certification may be made on an IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8BEN-E (or other applicable form)) or the Non-U.S. Holder holds the notes through certain foreign intermediaries or certain foreign partnerships, and the Non-U.S. Holder and the foreign intermediary or foreign partnership satisfies the certification requirements of applicable Treasury regulations.

Special certification rules apply to Non-U.S. Holders that are pass-through entities

If a Non-U.S. Holder cannot satisfy the requirements described above, payments of interest will be subject to the 30% U.S. federal withholding tax, unless the Non-U.S. Holder provides a properly executed (1) IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8BEN-E (or other applicable form) claiming an exemption from or reduction in withholding under the benefit of an applicable income tax treaty or (2) IRS Form W-8ECI (or other applicable form) stating that interest paid on the notes is not subject to withholding tax because it is effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States. If a Non-U.S. Holder is engaged in a trade or business in the United States and interest on the notes is effectively connected with the conduct of that trade or business and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, is attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment, then, although the Non-U.S. Holder will be exempt from the 30% withholding tax, provided the certification requirements discussed above are satisfied, the Non-U.S. Holder will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on that interest on a net-income basis in the same manner as if the Non-U.S. Holder were a U.S. Holder. In addition, if a Non-U.S. Holder is a foreign corporation, it may be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30% (or lesser rate under an applicable income tax treaty) of its earnings and profits for the taxable year, subject to adjustments, that are effectively connected with its conduct of a trade or business in the United States.

Dividends and constructive distributions

Any dividends paid to a Non-U.S. Holder with respect to the shares of common stock, and any deemed dividends resulting from certain adjustments, or failure to make adjustments, to the applicable conversion rate see Consequences to U.S. Holders Constructive Distributions above, will be subject to withholding tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty. However, dividends that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States by a Non-U.S. Holder and, where a tax treaty applies, are attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment, are not subject to the withholding tax, but instead are subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net-income basis in the same manner as if the Non-U.S. Holder were a U.S. Holder. Certain certification requirements and disclosure requirements must be complied with in order for effectively connected income to be exempt from withholding. Any such effectively connected income received by a foreign corporation may, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty. Because a constructive dividend deemed received by a Non-U.S. Holder would not give rise to any cash from which any applicable withholding tax could be satisfied, if withholding taxes are paid on behalf of a Non-U.S. Holder, any such payment may be withheld from payments of cash and common stock payable on the notes (or, in certain circumstances, from any payments on the common stock).

A Non-U.S. Holder of shares of common stock that wishes to claim the benefit of an applicable treaty rate is required to satisfy applicable certification and other requirements. If a Non-U.S. Holder is eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. withholding tax pursuant to an income tax treaty, it may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by timely filing an appropriate refund claim with the IRS.

Table of Contents

Sales, exchanges, certain redemptions, conversion or other taxable dispositions of notes or shares of common stock

Subject to the discussion below regarding backup withholding, gain realized by a Non-U.S. Holder on the sale, exchange, certain redemption or other taxable disposition of a note or common stock (as well as upon the conversion of a note into cash or into a combination of cash and stock) will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax unless:

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

the Non-U.S. Holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of that disposition, and certain other conditions are met; or

our stock constitutes U.S. real property interests within the meaning of the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 (FIRPTA). Although we believe that currently our stock does not constitute U.S. real property interests, and that therefore FIRPTA does not currently apply, there can be no assurance that our stock will not constitute U.S. real property interests depending on the facts in existence at the time of any redemption, repurchase, conversion or retirement of our stock, in which case a Non-U.S. Holder would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on any gain recognized on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of common stock or notes and may be subject to 10 % withholding on any amounts payable on the redemption, repurchase, conversion or retirement of our stock.

If you are a Non-U.S. Holder who is an individual described in the first bullet point above, you will be subject to tax at regular graduated U.S. federal income tax rates on the net gain derived from the sale, exchange, redemption, conversion or other taxable disposition of a note or common stock, generally in the same manner as if you were a U.S. Holder. If you are an individual described in the second bullet point above, you will be subject to a flat 30% tax on the gain recognized on the sale, exchange, redemption, conversion or other taxable disposition of a note or common stock (which gain may be offset by U.S.-source capital losses), even though you are not considered a resident of the United States. If you are a foreign corporation described in the first bullet point above, you will be subject to tax at regular graduated U.S. federal income tax rates on the net gain derived from the sale, exchange, redemption, conversion or other taxable disposition of a note or common stock, generally in the same manner as if you were a U.S. Holder. Holder and, in addition, you may be subject to the branch profits tax equal to 30% of your effectively connected earnings and profits for that taxable year, or at such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty. Any amounts (including common stock) that a Non-U.S. Holder receives on a sale, exchange, redemption, conversion or other taxable disposition of a note that are attributable to accrued interest will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in accordance with the rules for taxation of interest described above under Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders Payments of Interest.

Information reporting and backup withholding

Generally, we must report annually to the IRS and to Non-U.S. Holders the amount of interest and dividends paid to Non-U.S. Holders and the amount of tax, if any, withheld with respect to those payments. Copies of the information returns reporting such interest, dividends and withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which a Non-U.S. Holder resides, under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty.

In general, a Non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to backup withholding with respect to payments of interest or dividends that we make, provided the statement described above in the last bullet point under Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders Payments of Interest has been received (and the withholding agent does not have actual

Table of Contents

knowledge or reason to know that the beneficial owner is a U.S. person, as defined under the Code, that is not an exempt recipient). In addition, a Non-U.S. Holder will be subject to information reporting and, depending on the circumstances, backup withholding with respect to payments of the proceeds of the sale of a note or share of common stock within the United States or conducted through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries, unless the statement described above has been received (and the withholding agent does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that a holder is a U.S. person, as defined under the Code, that is not an exempt recipient) or the Non-U.S. Holder otherwise establishes an exemption. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a refund or a credit against a Non-U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability provided the required information is furnished timely to the IRS.

Foreign account tax compliance

Legislation enacted in 2010 (commonly referred to as FATCA) generally imposes a withholding tax of 30% on interest and dividends paid on, and the gross proceeds of a disposition of, debt obligations or stock in a United States corporation paid to (i) a foreign financial institution (FFI), whether as a beneficial owner or intermediary, unless such institution enters into an agreement with the U.S. government to collect and provide to the U.S. tax authorities substantial information regarding U.S. account holders of such institution (which would include certain equity and debt holders of such institution, as well as certain account holders that are foreign entities with U.S. owners), or qualifies for an exemption from these rules, and (ii) a foreign entity that is not a financial institution (whether as a beneficial owner or intermediary for another foreign entity that is not a financial institution) unless such entity either (i) provides the withholding agent with a certification identifying the substantial U.S. owners of the entity, which generally include any U.S. persons who directly or indirectly own more than 10% of the entity, or (ii) qualifies for an exemption from these rules. A person that receives payments through one or more FFIs may receive reduced payments as a result of FATCA withholding taxes if (i) any such FFI does not enter into such an agreement with the U.S. government and does not otherwise establish an exemption, or (ii) such person is (a) a recalcitrant account holder or (b) itself an FFI that fails to enter into such an agreement or establish an exemption. Foreign governments may enter into agreements with the IRS to implement FATCA in a different manner.

The final Treasury regulations and recent administrative guidance provide that the FATCA withholding rules will apply to payments of dividends made on or after July 1, 2014 and to payments of gross proceeds from a sale or other disposition of stock on or after January 1, 2017. Such rules would not apply to debt securities such as the notes outstanding on July 1, 2014, unless the debt securities are treated as significantly modified on or after such date.

Investors are encouraged to consult their tax advisors regarding the implications of this legislation on their investment in our common stock.

Table of Contents**Underwriting**

We will enter into an underwriting agreement with J.P. Morgan Securities LLC. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, we have agreed to sell to the underwriter, and the underwriter has agreed to purchase from us, the entire principal amount of the notes.

The underwriting agreement provides that the underwriter is obligated to purchase all of the notes if any are purchased. The obligations of the underwriter under the underwriting agreement are subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions.

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

The underwriter initially proposes to offer the notes to the public at the public offering price that appears on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. The underwriter may offer the notes to selected dealers at the public offering price minus a concession of up to % of the principal amount. In addition, the underwriter may allow, and those selected dealers may reallocate, a concession of up to % of the principal amount to certain other dealers. After the initial offering, the underwriter may change the public offering price and any other selling terms. The underwriter may offer and sell notes through certain of its affiliates.

The following table shows the underwriting discounts and commissions to be paid to the underwriter by us in connection with this offering, assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriter's over-allotment option described below.

Paid by us

	No exercise	Full exercise
Per note	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$

We estimate that the expenses for this offering payable by us (other than discounts and commissions set forth in the table above) will be approximately \$. The underwriter has agreed to reimburse us for certain expenses related to the offering.

Option to purchase additional notes

We have granted the underwriter the right to purchase, exercisable within a 30-day period from the date of this prospectus supplement, up to an additional \$ principal amount of notes from us solely to cover over-allotments. If any additional notes are purchased with this option, the underwriter will offer such additional notes on the same terms as those on which the notes are being offered.

New issue of notes

The notes are a new issue of securities, and there is currently no established trading market for such notes. We do not intend to apply for the notes to be listed on any securities exchange or to arrange for the notes to be quoted on any quotation system.

The underwriter has advised us that it intends to make a market in the notes, but it is not obligated to do so. The underwriter may discontinue any market-making in the notes at any time in its sole discretion without notice. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that a liquid trading market will develop for the notes. If an active

Table of Contents

trading market for the notes does not develop, the market price and liquidity of the notes may be adversely affected. If the notes are traded, they may trade at a discount from their initial public offering price depending on prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, our performance and other factors.

No sale of similar securities

We and our directors and our executive officers have agreed that, for a period of 90 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, neither we nor they will, without the prior consent of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, offer, pledge, sell (or enter into any agreement to offer or sell), directly or indirectly, any shares of common stock or any securities convertible into, or exercisable or exchangeable for, shares of common stock, enter into any swap or other arrangement that transfers to another, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of the common stock or such other securities, or file or participate in the filing of a registration statement with the SEC in respect of such common stock or securities, or publicly announce an intention to effect one of these transactions.

Notwithstanding the above, the underwriter has agreed in the underwriting agreement that the lock-up agreement applicable to us does not apply to (1) the sale of the securities in this offering, (2) any shares of our common stock or restricted stock issued upon the exercise of options granted or the vesting of restricted stock our equity compensation plans existing at the date of the underwriting agreement, (3) shares of our common stock issued in connection with any acquisition or other strategic transaction including licensing and collaborations undertaken by us, provided that the recipient shall execute a lock-up agreement agreeing not to dispose of such shares during 90-day period referenced above and provided further, that the number of shares of our common stock issued pursuant to this clause (3) shall not exceed 10% of the shares of our common stock then outstanding, (4) any employee stock options or restricted stock issued pursuant to our equity compensation plans existing at the date of the underwriting agreement, (5) the issuances of shares of our common stock upon the conversion of any securities sold in this offering and (6) the issuances of options, restricted stock or other awards to newly hired employees, provided such awards do not vest or are not exercisable during the 90-day period referenced above.

In addition, notwithstanding the lock-up agreements applicable to our directors and our executive officers, the underwriter has agreed that such directors and executive officers may transfer shares of common stock (A) pursuant to a contract, instruction or plan in effect on the date hereof complying with Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act and disclosed to the underwriter; (B) by gift, will or intestacy, including transfers by gift, will or intestacy to family members or to a settlement or trust; (C) if the shares are held by a partnership, to a partner or affiliated partnership; (D) if the shares are held by a trust, to its trustees, beneficiaries or settlors; (E) pursuant to operation of law with respect to a domestic relations order or in connection with a divorce settlement; and (F) in connection with the receipt, exercise, cashless or net exercise, vesting or forfeiture of, or removal or lapse of restrictions on, stock options, common stock issued on exercise of a stock option, restricted stock or other awards pursuant to any of our employee benefit plans or agreements, so long as such transaction or event does not involve the sale or transfer of any shares of common stock other than to us; provided that, in the case of clauses (B) through (E), (i) the transferee agrees to be bound by the lock-up restrictions, (ii) any such transfer shall not involve a disposition for value and (iii) no party shall be required to, nor shall it voluntarily, file a report under the Exchange Act or otherwise voluntarily effect any public filing, report or announcement of such entry and no transfer or sale under such a plan occurs during the lock-up period.

The underwriter has also agreed that such directors and executive officers may enter into any contract, instruction or plan complying with Rule 10b5-1 of the Exchange Act, so long as (A) such directors and executive officers do not sell (or enter into any agreement to offer or sell), directly or indirectly, any shares of common

Table of Contents

stock or any securities convertible into, or exercisable or exchangeable for, shares of common stock, enter into any swap or other arrangement that transfers to another, in whole or in part, any of the economic consequences of ownership of the common stock or such other securities, or file or participate in the filing of a registration statement with the SEC in respect of such common stock or securities and (B) no party shall be required to, nor shall it voluntarily, file a report under the Exchange Act or otherwise voluntarily effect any public filing, report or announcement of such entry and no transfer or sale under such a plan occurs during the lock-up period.

In addition, each of our directors and our executive officers has agreed that, without the prior written consent of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, he or she will not, during the period commencing on the date of his or her lock-up agreement and ending 90 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, make any demand for, or exercise any right with respect to, the registration of any shares of our common stock or any security convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for shares of our common stock. J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, in its sole discretion, may release any of the securities subject to this lock-up agreement at any time without notice.

Price stabilization and short positions; repurchase of common stock

In connection with the offering of the notes, the underwriter may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions and syndicate covering transactions in the notes and our common stock. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which creates a short position for the underwriter. Stabilizing transactions involve bids to purchase the notes or our common stock in the open market for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the notes. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the notes or our common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions. Stabilizing transactions and syndicate covering transactions may cause the price of the notes or our common stock to be higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of those transactions.

These acquisitions could have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock above levels that would otherwise have prevailed, or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our common stock. See Use of proceeds.

A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the web sites maintained by the underwriter, or selling group members, if any, participating in the offering. The underwriter may agree to allocate a number of shares to selling group members for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Internet distributions will be allocated by the underwriter and selling group members that may make Internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations.

Foreign jurisdictions

Other than in the United States, no action has been taken by us or the underwriter that would permit a public offering of the notes in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required. The notes may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, nor may this prospectus supplement or any other offering material or advertisements in connection with the offer and sale of any such securities be distributed or published in any jurisdiction, except under circumstances that will result in compliance with the applicable rules and regulations of that jurisdiction. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement comes are advised to inform themselves about and to observe any restrictions relating to the offering and the distribution of this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any notes in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or a solicitation is unlawful.

Table of Contents

Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area (each, a Relevant Member State), no offer of notes may be made to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

- A. to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- B. to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives; or
- C. in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of notes shall require the Company or the representatives to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

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

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

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

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

In addition, in the United Kingdom, this document is being distributed only to, and is directed only at, and any offer subsequently made may only be directed at persons who are qualified investors (as defined in the Prospectus Directive) (i) who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within

Table of Contents

Article 19 (5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, as amended (the Order) and/or (ii) who are high net worth companies (or persons to whom it may otherwise be lawfully communicated) falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons). This document must not be acted on or relied on in the United Kingdom by persons who are not relevant persons. In the United Kingdom, any investment or investment activity to which this document relates is only available to, and will be engaged in with, relevant persons.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Switzerland

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

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

Notice to Prospective Investors in the Dubai International Financial Centre

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

Notice to Prospective Investors in Australia

No placement document, prospectus, product disclosure statement or other disclosure document has been lodged with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), in relation to the offering. This prospectus does not constitute a prospectus, product disclosure statement or other disclosure document under the Corporations Act 2001 (the Corporations Act), and does not purport to include the information required for a prospectus, product disclosure statement or other disclosure document under the Corporations Act.

Any offer in Australia of the notes may only be made to persons (the Exempt Investors) who are sophisticated investors (within the meaning of section 708(8) of the Corporations Act), professional investors (within the meaning of section 708(11) of the Corporations Act) or otherwise pursuant to one or more exemptions contained in section 708 of the Corporations Act so that it is lawful to offer the notes without disclosure to investors under Chapter 6D of the Corporations Act.

The notes applied for by Exempt Investors in Australia must not be offered for sale in Australia in the period of 12 months after the date of allotment under the offering, except in circumstances where disclosure to investors

Table of Contents

under Chapter 6D of the Corporations Act would not be required pursuant to an exemption under section 708 of the Corporations Act or otherwise or where the offer is pursuant to a disclosure document which complies with Chapter 6D of the Corporations Act. Any person acquiring notes must observe such Australian on-sale restrictions.

This prospectus contains general information only and does not take account of the investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any particular person. It does not contain any securities recommendations or financial product advice. Before making an investment decision, investors need to consider whether the information in this prospectus is appropriate to their needs, objectives and circumstances, and, if necessary, seek expert advice on those matters.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Hong Kong

The notes have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold in Hong Kong, by means of any document, other than (a) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong and any rules made under that Ordinance; or (b) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of that Ordinance. No advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes has been or may be issued or has been or may be in the possession of any person for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance and any rules made under that Ordinance.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Japan

The notes have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (Law No. 25 of 1948, as amended) and, accordingly, will not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Japan, or for the benefit of any Japanese Person or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to any Japanese Person, except in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines promulgated by relevant Japanese governmental or regulatory authorities in effect at the relevant time. For the purposes of this paragraph, Japanese Person shall mean any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Singapore

This prospectus has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275, of the SFA, or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

- (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or

Table of Contents

(b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor, securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the notes pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 of the SFA except:

(c) to an institutional investor or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) or Section 276(4)(i)(B) of the SFA;

(d) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer;

(e) where the transfer is by operation of law;

(f) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA; or

(g) as specified in Regulation 32 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Shares and Debentures) Regulations 2005 of Singapore.

You should be aware that the laws and practices of certain countries require investors to pay stamp taxes and other charges in connection with purchases of securities.

Other relationships

The underwriter and its affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include sales and trading, commercial and investment banking, advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, market making, brokerage and other financial and non-financial activities and services. The underwriter and its affiliates have provided in the past and may provide from time to time in the future certain commercial banking, financial advisory, investment banking and other services for us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of their business, for which they have received and may continue to receive customary fees and commissions.

In addition, from time to time, the underwriter and its affiliates may effect transactions for their own account or the account of customers, and hold on behalf of themselves or their customers, long or short positions in our debt or equity securities or loans, and may do so in the future.

Table of Contents

Legal matters

The validity of the notes and the common stock issuable upon their conversion will be passed upon for us by Covington & Burling LLP, New York, New York, and for the underwriter by Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, New York.

Independent registered public accounting firm

The consolidated financial statements of Acorda Therapeutics, Inc. appearing in the Company's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2013 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Where you can find more information

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the SEC. Certain information in the registration statement has been omitted from this prospectus in accordance with the rules of the SEC. We are a public company and file proxy statements and annual, quarterly and special reports and other information with the SEC. The registration statement, such reports and other information can be inspected and copied at the Public Reference Room of the SEC located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. Copies of such materials, including copies of all or any portion of the registration statement, can be obtained from the Public Reference Room of the SEC at prescribed rates. You can call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 to obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room. Such materials may also be accessed electronically by means of the SEC's home page on the Internet (www.sec.gov).

Table of Contents

Incorporation of information by reference

We incorporate into this prospectus information contained in documents which we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We are disclosing important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information which we incorporate by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and certain information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below, and any future filings we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, filed on March 3, 2014;

quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2014, filed on May 9, 2014;

current reports on Form 8-K, filed on April 14, 2014, April 22, 2014, May 2, 2014, May 14, 2014 and June 10, 2014;

the information contained in our proxy statement dated April 25, 2014 that is incorporated by reference into Part III of our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013; and

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A (File No. 000-50513) filed on January 31, 2006, including any amendment or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

You may access our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to any of these reports, free of charge on the SEC's website. Information contained on, or that can be accessed through, our website is not part of this prospectus.

In addition, we will furnish without charge to you, on written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents incorporated by reference, other than exhibits to those documents. You should direct any requests for documents to:

Acorda Therapeutics, Inc.

420 Saw Mill River Road

Ardsley, New York 10502

Attention: Corporate Secretary

(914) 347-4300

S-72

Table of Contents

Acorda Therapeutics, Inc.

Common stock

Preferred stock

Debt securities

Warrants

Units

We may offer under this prospectus from time to time, at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions at the time we make the offer, our:

- common stock;
- preferred stock;
- debt securities, including debt securities that are convertible into our common stock;
- warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock, or debt securities; or
- any combination of the above, separately or as units.

You should read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and free writing prospectus, together with any documents we incorporate by reference, before you invest in our securities. The prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus may also add to, update, supplement or clarify information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus may not be used to sell our securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol ACOR.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described under Risk Factors on page 5 as well as in the applicable prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus and other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, before making a decision to invest in our securities.

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

We may offer and sell our securities to or through one or more agents, underwriters, dealers or other third parties or directly to one or more purchasers on a continuous or delayed basis. If we use any agents, underwriters or dealers to sell our securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement. The price to the public of our securities and the net proceeds we expect to receive from the sale of such securities will also be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

The date of this prospectus is June 16, 2014

Table of Contents

We are responsible for the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and in any related free-writing prospectus we prepare or authorize. We have not authorized anyone to give you any other information, and we take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We are not making offers to sell or seeking offers to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of the date on the front of this prospectus or incorporated document only, as the case may be. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

Table of contents

<u>About this prospectus</u>	1
<u>Our company</u>	2
<u>Forward-looking statements</u>	4
<u>Risk factors</u>	5
<u>Ratio of earnings to fixed charges</u>	6
<u>Use of proceeds</u>	7
<u>Description of securities</u>	8
<u>Delaware law and certain charter and bylaw provisions</u>	15
<u>Plan of distribution</u>	17
<u>Legal matters</u>	18
<u>Experts</u>	18
<u>Where you can find more information</u>	18
<u>Incorporation of information by reference</u>	19

Table of Contents

About this prospectus

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this process, we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we offer to sell securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of that offering. A prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. To the extent that any information we provide in a prospectus supplement is inconsistent with information in this prospectus, the information in the prospectus supplement will modify or supersede this prospectus.

You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the headings "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Information by Reference." This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus and may not contain all of the information that is important to you. We encourage you to read this prospectus in its entirety, including the "Risk Factors" section and the documents incorporated by reference herein.

We own several registered trademarks in the U.S. and in other countries. These registered trademarks include, in the U.S., the marks "Acorda Therapeutics," our stylized Acorda Therapeutics logo, "Ampyra," "Zanaflex," "Zanaflex Capsules," and "Qutenza." Also, our mark "Fampyra" is a registered mark in the European Community Trademark Office and we have registrations or pending applications for this mark in other jurisdictions. Our trademark portfolio also includes several registered trademarks and pending trademark applications (e.g., "Plumiaz") in the U.S. and worldwide for potential product names or for disease awareness activities. Third party trademarks, trade names, and service marks used in this report are the property of their respective owners.

Table of Contents**Our company**

We are a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the identification, development and commercialization of novel therapies that improve the lives of people with multiple sclerosis, or MS, epilepsy, and other neurological disorders. We have both marketed products as well as developmental stage products, and we are working to bring important new therapies to people with nervous system disorders. Our goal is to help patients to a better future, while building a leading neurology company with a portfolio of innovative products. The first product for which we completed clinical development, Ampyra (dalfampridine) Extended Release Tablets, 10mg was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, in January 2010 as a treatment to improve walking in patients with MS. This was demonstrated by an increase in walking speed. Ampyra is an extended release tablet formulation of dalfampridine (4-aminopyridine, 4-AP), which was previously referred to as fampridine. Ampyra demonstrated efficacy in people with all four major types of MS (relapsing remitting, secondary progressive, progressive relapsing and primary progressive). To our knowledge, Ampyra is the first and only product indicated to improve walking in people with MS.

Ampyra was made commercially available in the U.S. in March 2010, and had net revenue of \$302.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. Since the March 2010 launch of Ampyra, more than 90,000 people with MS in the U.S. have tried Ampyra. Acorda now has five Orange Book patents providing protection up to 2027.

Ampyra is marketed as Fampyra outside the U.S. by Biogen Idec International GmbH, or Biogen Idec, under a license and collaboration agreement that we entered into in June 2009. Fampyra has been approved in a number of countries across Europe, Asia and the Americas. Biogen Idec anticipates making Fampyra commercially available in additional markets in 2014. We recorded \$9.3 million of royalty revenue and \$9.1 million of amortized license revenue in 2013 related to Fampyra.

We also sell Zanaflex Capsules and Zanaflex tablets, which contain tizanidine hydrochloride, a short-acting drug approved by the FDA for the management of spasticity. In 2012, we launched tizanidine hydrochloride capsules, an authorized generic version of Zanaflex Capsules, under our agreement with Watson Pharma, Inc., a subsidiary of Actavis, Inc. (formerly Watson Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), following the launch by Apotex, Inc. of its generic tizanidine hydrochloride capsules. In 2013, Mylan Laboratories Limited also launched generic tizanidine hydrochloride capsules. The commercial launch of generic tizanidine hydrochloride capsules has caused a significant decline in net revenue of Zanaflex Capsules, and the launch of generic versions and the potential launch of other generic versions are expected to continue to cause our net revenues from Zanaflex Capsules to further decline in 2014 and beyond.

We are developing what we believe is one of the industry's leading pipelines of novel neurological therapies. We are currently developing six clinical-stage therapies and one pre-clinical stage therapy that address a range of disorders including post-stroke deficits, epilepsy, stroke, peripheral nerve damage, spinal cord injury, neuropathic pain, and heart failure.

We are developing Plumiaz (our trade name for Diazepam Nasal Spray), a proprietary nasal spray formulation of diazepam, for the treatment of people with epilepsy who experience cluster seizures, also known as acute repetitive seizures. In 2013, we submitted a New Drug Application, or NDA, filing for Plumiaz to the FDA. In May 2014, the FDA issued a Complete Response Letter, or CRL, for the Plumiaz NDA. A Complete Response Letter is a communication from the FDA that informs a company that their review of the NDA is complete and the application cannot be approved in its present form. We are evaluating the CRL, and expect to work closely with the FDA to address items outlined in the letter, which will include additional clinical work, and refile the NDA. Once we have refiled the NDA, we expect that the FDA will respond to our submission within six months. Based on the requirements for approval outlined in the letter, we do not expect Plumiaz to receive FDA approval in 2014. We anticipate that our current infrastructure can support sales and marketing of this product if it receives FDA approval. We believe this product, if approved, has the potential to generate peak annual sales significantly higher than \$100 million.

Table of Contents

In July 2013, we acquired rights in the U.S., Canada, Latin America and certain other countries to two neuropathic pain management assets from NeurogesX, Inc., including: Qutenza, a dermal patch containing 8% prescription strength capsaicin which is approved by the FDA for the management of neuropathic pain associated with post-herpetic neuralgia, also known as post-shingles pain; and NP-1998, a Phase 3 ready, prescription strength capsaicin topical solution, being assessed for the treatment of neuropathic pain. NeurogesX had discontinued active promotion of Qutenza by the time of our purchase, but we re-launched the product in January 2014 using our existing commercial organization, including our specialty neurology sales force.

NP-1998 is a topical solution containing 20% prescription strength capsaicin. We believe this liquid formulation of the capsaicin-based therapy has key advantages over the patch, and we are currently designing a plan to expedite development of this product as both a stand-alone therapy and as an adjunct to existing systemic therapies for neuropathic pain. NP-1998 has the potential to treat multiple neuropathies. We are planning to pursue HIV-related neuropathy as the first indication for NP-1998, and we are also exploring the potential for additional indications, including painful diabetic neuropathy.

We are focused on continuing to grow as a fully-integrated biopharmaceutical company by commercializing our FDA approved products, developing our product candidates and advancing our research and development programs for underserved markets. We are seeking to leverage our financial strength to invest in our pipeline of research and development programs and potentially to acquire additional products that will fit with our commercial structure and expertise in both neurology and specialty pharmaceuticals. Our goal is to create a balanced portfolio that creates significant near-term value, as well as intermediate and longer-term opportunities for further value accretion.

Our corporate information

We were incorporated in 1995 as a Delaware corporation. Our principal executive offices are located at 420 Saw Mill River Road, Ardsley, New York 10502. Our telephone number is (914) 347-4300. Our website is www.acorda.com. Please note that all references to www.acorda.com in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement and documents incorporated by reference herein are inactive textual references only and that the information contained on Acorda's website is neither incorporated by reference nor intended to be used in connection with this offering.

Table of Contents

Forward-looking statements

This prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference contain forward-looking statements relating to future events and our future performance within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. You are cautioned that such statements involve risks and uncertainties, including:

our ability to successfully market and sell Ampyra in the U.S.;

third party payers (including governmental agencies) may not reimburse for the use of Ampyra or our other products at acceptable rates or at all and may impose restrictive prior authorization requirements that limit or block prescriptions;

the risk of unfavorable results from future studies of Ampyra or from our other research and development programs, including Plumiaz (our trade name for Diazepam Nasal Spray) or any other acquired or in-licensed programs;

we may not be able to complete development of, obtain regulatory approval for, or successfully market Plumiaz or other products under development;

the occurrence of adverse safety events with our products;

delays in obtaining or failure to obtain regulatory approval of or to successfully market Fampyra outside of the U.S. and our dependence on our collaboration partner Biogen Idec in connection therewith;

competition, including the impact of generic competition on Zanaflex Capsules revenues;

failure to protect our intellectual property, to defend against the intellectual property claims of others, or to obtain third party intellectual property licenses needed for the commercialization of our products;

failure to comply with regulatory requirements could result in adverse action by regulatory agencies; and the ability to obtain additional financing to support our operations.

These forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts and projections about the industry and markets in which we operate and management's beliefs and assumptions. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus regarding our strategy, future operations, future financial position, future revenues, projected costs, prospects, plans and objectives of management are forward-looking statements. The words anticipates, believes, estimates, expects, intends, may, projects, will, would, and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. Actual results or events could differ materially from the plans, intentions and expectations disclosed in the forward-looking statements we make, and investors should not place undue reliance on these statements. In addition to the risks and uncertainties described above, we have included important factors in the cautionary statements in this prospectus and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, particularly in the Risk Factors section, which may be updated in future quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, that we believe could cause actual results or events to differ materially from the forward-looking statements that we make. Our forward-looking statements do not reflect the potential impact of any future acquisitions, mergers, dispositions, joint ventures or investments that we may make. Forward-looking statements in this report are made only as of the date hereof, and we do not assume any obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements as a result of developments occurring after the date of this report.

Table of Contents

Risk factors

Our business is subject to numerous risks, as more fully described in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in Item 1A of our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 and as may be described in future quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as well the other information contained in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. You should also carefully consider the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, the accompanying prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus. Each of the risks described in these documents could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, and could result in a partial or complete loss of your investment.

Table of Contents**Ratio of earnings to fixed charges**

The following table sets forth our ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated (deficiencies in thousands):

	Three months ended March 31,			Year ended December 31,			
	2014	2013	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(1)	7	*	8	9	9	*	*
Deficiency		\$ (2,914)				\$ (11,769)	\$ (83,940)

* Less than one to one coverage

(1) The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing earnings by fixed charges. Earnings consist of income before income taxes plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, including amortized discounts, premiums and capitalized expenses related to indebtedness.

Table of Contents

Use of proceeds

Unless we state otherwise in a prospectus supplement, we will use the net proceeds from the sale of securities by us under this prospectus for general corporate purposes, including capital expenditures. Until we use net proceeds for these purposes, we intend to invest them primarily in short-term, investment-grade, interest-bearing securities.

Table of Contents

Description of securities

The descriptions of the securities contained in this prospectus, together with the applicable prospectus supplements, summarize the material terms and provisions of the various types of securities that we may offer. We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to any securities the particular terms of the securities offered by that prospectus supplement. If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms of the securities that we offer may differ from the terms summarized below. We will also include information in the prospectus supplement, where applicable, about material United States federal income tax considerations relating to the securities, and the securities exchange, if any, on which the securities will be listed.

We may sell, from time to time, in one or more offerings:

- common stock;
- preferred stock;
- debt securities; and
- warrants.

Common stock

We have the authority to issue 80,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share. As of March 31, 2014, 41,641,878 shares of our voting common stock were outstanding (not including 12,420 shares of common stock that were held in treasury), and a maximum of 7,629,870 shares of common stock were issuable upon the exercise of outstanding options.

The following description of our common stock is only a summary and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation. Holders of common stock have one vote per share and have no preemption rights. Holders of common stock have the right to participate ratably in all distributions, whether of dividends or assets in liquidation, dissolution or winding up, subject to any superior rights of holders of preferred stock outstanding at the time. See Preferred Stock below. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock.

Registrar and Transfer Company is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock. Their address is 10 Commerce Drive, Cranford, NJ 07016 and their telephone number is (800) 368-5948.

Preferred stock

We have the authority to issue 20,000,000 shares of preferred stock. As of March 31, 2014, no shares of our preferred stock were outstanding. The description of preferred stock provisions set forth below is only a summary and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and the certificate of designations relating to any series of preferred stock.

The board of directors has the right, without the consent of holders of common stock, to designate and issue one or more series of preferred stock, which may be convertible into common stock at a ratio determined by the board. A series of preferred stock may bear rights superior to common stock as to voting, dividends, redemption, distributions in liquidation, dissolution, or winding up, and other relative rights and preferences. The board may set the following terms of any series of preferred stock, and a prospectus supplement will specify these terms for any series offered:

- the number of shares constituting the series and the distinctive designation of the series;

- dividend rates, whether dividends are cumulative and, if so, from what date, and the relative rights of priority of payment of dividends;

Table of Contents

voting rights and the terms of the voting rights;

conversion privileges and the terms and condition of conversion, including provision for adjustment of the conversion rate;

redemption rights and the terms and conditions of redemption, including the date or dates upon or after which shares may be redeemable and the amount per share payable in case of redemption, which may vary under different conditions and at different redemption dates;

sinking fund provisions for the redemption or purchase of shares;

rights in the event of voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the corporation, and the relative rights of priority of payment; and

any other relative powers, preferences, rights, privileges, qualifications, limitations and restrictions of the series.

The preferred stock will, if issued, be fully paid and nonassessable. The rights of the holders of preferred stock will be subordinate to those of our general creditors.

Debt securities

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the indenture and of any debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any future debt securities we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any debt securities we may offer under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below. For any debt securities that we may offer, an indenture (and any relevant supplemental indenture) will contain additional important terms and provisions and will be incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes this prospectus, or as an exhibit to a current report on Form 8-K, incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

With respect to any debt securities that we issue, we will issue such debt securities under an indenture, which we would enter into with the trustee named in the indenture. The form of indenture is an exhibit incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Any indenture would be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

General

With respect to any debt securities that we issue, we will describe in each prospectus supplement the following terms relating to a series of debt securities:

the title;

the principal amount being offered, and if a series, the total amount authorized and the total amount outstanding;

any limit on the amount that may be issued;

whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form, and if so, the terms and who the depository will be;

the maturity date;

the principal amount due at maturity;

Table of Contents

whether and under what circumstances, if any, we will pay additional amounts on any debt securities held by a person who is not a United States person for tax purposes, and whether we can redeem the debt securities if we have to pay such additional amounts;

the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

whether or not the debt securities will be convertible into shares of common stock or preferred stock and, if so, the terms of such conversion;

whether or not the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and the terms of any secured debt;

the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;

the place where payments will be payable;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

our right, if any, to defer payment or interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the date, if any, after which and the conditions upon which, and the price at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional or provisional redemption provisions and the terms of those redemptions provisions;

the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund or analogous fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities and the currency or currency unit in which the debt securities are payable;

whether the indenture will restrict our ability to pay dividends or will require us to maintain any asset ratios or reserves;

whether we will be restricted from incurring any additional indebtedness, issuing additional securities, or entering into a merger, consolidation or sale of our business;

a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;

information describing any book-entry features;

provisions for a sinking fund purchase or other analogous fund, if any;

any provisions for payment of additional amounts for taxes;

whether the debt securities are to be offered at a price such that they will be deemed to be offered at an original issue discount as defined in paragraph (a) of Section 1273 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than minimum denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

events of default;

whether we and/or the trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders;

Table of Contents

the form of debt security and how it may be exchanged and transferred;

description of the trustee and paying agent, and the method of payments; and

any other specified terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities and any terms that may be required by us or advisable under applicable laws or regulations.

Events of Default

The following are events of default under the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities issued:

we fail to pay interest when due and such failure continues for 90 days, unless the time for payment has been properly extended or deferred in accordance with the terms of the particular series;

we fail to pay the principal or any premium when due, unless the maturity has been properly extended in accordance with the terms of the particular series;

we fail to observe or perform any other covenant or agreement contained in the debt securities or the indentures, other than a covenant or agreement specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and such failure continues for 90 days after we receive a notice of default from the trustee or from the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all of the affected series;

certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency, whether voluntary or not; and
any additional events of default that may be established with respect to a particular series of debt securities under the indentures, as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If, with regard to any series of debt securities, an event of default resulting from a failure to pay principal, any premium or interest occurs and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may declare the principal of all debt securities of that series immediately due and payable.

If an event of default other than a failure to pay principal, any premium or interest occurs and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all affected series (all such series voting together as a single class) may declare the principal of all debt securities of such affected series immediately due and payable.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all affected series (voting together as a single class) may waive any past default with respect to such series and its consequences, except a default or events of default regarding payment of principal, any premium or interest, in which case the holders of the outstanding debt securities of each affected series shall vote to waive such default or event of default as a separate class. Such a waiver will eliminate the default.

Concerning the Trustee

The trustee, except when there is an event of default, will perform only those duties as are specifically stated in the indenture, including the authentication and delivery of the debt securities. If an event of default has occurred with respect to any series of debt securities, the trustee must exercise with respect to such debt securities the rights and powers it has under the indenture and use the same degree of care and skill as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs.

Table of Contents

Discharge

The indenture provides that, subject to the terms of the indenture and any limitation otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus applicable to a particular series of debt securities, we can elect to be discharged from our obligations with respect to one or more series of debt securities, except for specified obligations, including obligations to:

register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series;

replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series;

maintain paying agencies;

maintain an office or agency where debt securities may be presented for payment or transfer and exchange and where notices and demands upon us in respect of such debt securities may be given or served;

hold monies for payment in trust;

recover excess money held by the trustee;

compensate and indemnify the trustee; and

appoint any successor trustee.

In order to exercise our rights to be discharged, we must deposit with the trustee money or government obligations sufficient to pay all the principal of, any premium and interest on, the debt securities of the series on the dates payments are due.

Warrants

The following description, together with the additional information we may include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of any warrants that we may offer under this prospectus and the related warrant agreements and warrant certificates. While the terms summarized below will apply generally to any warrants that we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any series of warrants in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any warrants offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below. With respect to any warrants that we offer, specific warrant agreements will contain additional important terms and provisions and will be incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement that includes this prospectus or as an exhibit to a current report on Form 8-K, incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

General. With respect to any warrants that we offer, we will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of warrants, including:

the offering price and aggregate number of warrants offered;

Edgar Filing: ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC - Form 424B5

the currency for which the warrants may be purchased;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security or each principal amount of such security;

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

in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, purchasable upon the exercise of one warrant and the price at which these shares may be purchased upon exercise;

Table of Contents

in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of one warrant and the price at which, and currency in which, this principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon exercise;

the effect of any merger, consolidation, sale or other disposition of our business on the warrant agreement and the warrants;

the terms of any rights to redeem or call the warrants;

any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the exercise price or number of securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants;

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

the manner in which the warrant agreement and warrants may be modified;

federal income tax consequences of holding or exercising the warrants;

the terms of the securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of or restrictions on the warrants.

Before exercising their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including:

in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the right to receive payments of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities purchasable upon exercise or to enforce covenants in the applicable indenture; or

in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the right to receive dividends, if any, or, payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up or to exercise voting rights, if any.

Exercise of warrants. With respect to any warrants that we issue, each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase the securities that we specify in the applicable prospectus supplement at the exercise price that we describe in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants at any time up to 5:00 P.M. New York time on the expiration date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void.

Holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants by delivering the warrant certificate representing the warrants to be exercised together with specified information, and paying the required amount to the warrant agent in immediately available funds, as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will set forth on the reverse side of the warrant certificate and in the applicable prospectus supplement the information that the holder of the warrant will be required to deliver to the warrant agent.

Upon receipt of the required payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue and deliver the securities purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate are exercised, then we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining amount of warrants. If we so indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the warrants may surrender securities as all or part of the exercise price for the warrants (cashless exercise).

Enforceability of rights by holders of warrants. With respect to any warrants that we issue, each warrant agent will act solely as our agent under the applicable warrant agreement and will not assume any obligation or

Table of Contents

relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any warrant. A single bank or trust company may act as warrant agent for more than one issue of warrants. A warrant agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable warrant agreement or warrant, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a warrant may, without the consent of the related warrant agent or the holder of any other warrant, enforce by appropriate legal action its right to exercise, and receive the securities purchasable upon exercise of, its warrants.

Table of Contents

Delaware law and certain charter and bylaw provisions

Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law

We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which, subject to certain exceptions, prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination with any interested stockholder for a period of three years following the time that such stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless:

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

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

at or subsequent to such time, the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock which is not owned by the interested stockholder.

In general, Section 203 defines **business combination** to include the following:

any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the stockholder;

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

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

any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock or any class or series of the corporation beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or

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

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

Certificate of incorporation and bylaws

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws include a number of provisions that may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying or preventing changes in control or our management. For example, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation authorizes the issuance of up to 20,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.001 per share. The board of

Edgar Filing: ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC - Form 424B5

directors has the authority, without approval of the stockholders, to issue and determine the rights and preferences of series of preferred stock. The ability to authorize and issue preferred stock with voting or other rights or preferences makes it possible for our board of directors to issue preferred stock with super voting, special approval, dividend or other rights or preferences on a discriminatory basis that could impede the success of any attempt to acquire us.

Table of Contents

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws also provide that our board of directors is divided into three classes, each serving staggered three-year terms ending at the annual meeting of our stockholders. All directors elected to our classified board of directors will serve until the election and qualification of their respective successors or their earlier resignation or removal. Members of the board of directors may only be removed for cause and only by the affirmative vote of 75% of our outstanding voting stock. These provisions are likely to increase the time required for stockholders to change the composition of our board of directors.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws provide that a meeting of stockholders may only be called by our board of directors, the chairman of our board of directors or our chief executive officer. Our amended and restated bylaws also specify requirements as to the form and content of a stockholder's notice. The provisions may delay or preclude stockholders from calling a meeting of stockholders, bringing matters before a meeting of stockholders or from making nominations for directors at a stockholders' meeting, which could delay or deter takeover attempts or changes in management. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation also does not provide for cumulative voting. The absence of cumulative voting may make it more difficult for stockholders owning less than a majority of our stock to elect any directors to our board of directors.

Table of Contents

Plan of distribution

We may sell securities under this prospectus in public offerings:

through one or more underwriters or dealers
through other agents; or
directly to purchasers.

The securities that we may sell under this prospectus may be priced:

at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed from time to time;
at market prices prevailing at the times of sale;
at prices calculated by a formula based on prevailing market prices;
at negotiated prices; or
in a combination of any of the above pricing methods.

If we use underwriters for an offering, they will acquire securities for their own account and may resell them from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. We may offer the securities to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. Subject to certain conditions, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities offered by the prospectus supplement. The public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may change from time to time. Only underwriters named in a prospectus supplement are underwriters of the securities offered by that prospectus supplement.

We may also sell securities directly or through agents. We will name any agent involved in an offering and we will describe any commissions we will pay the agent in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, our agents will act on a best-efforts basis.

We may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by certain types of institutional investors to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. We will describe the conditions of these contracts and the commissions we must pay for solicitation of these contracts in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may provide agents and underwriters with indemnification against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the agents or underwriters may make with respect to such liabilities. Underwriters or agents may engage in transactions with us, or perform services for us, in the ordinary course of business. We may also use underwriters or agents with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe the nature of any such relationship in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Legal matters

Unless otherwise specified in any applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the securities covered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Covington & Burling LLP, New York, New York.

Experts

The consolidated financial statements of Acorda Therapeutics, Inc. appearing in the Company's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2013 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Where you can find more information

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the SEC. Certain information in the registration statement has been omitted from this prospectus in accordance with the rules of the SEC. We are a public company and file proxy statements and annual, quarterly and current reports and other information with the SEC. The registration statement, such reports and other information can be inspected and copied at the Public Reference Room of the SEC located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. Copies of such materials, including copies of all or any portion of the registration statement, can be obtained from the Public Reference Room of the SEC at prescribed rates. You can call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 to obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room. Such materials may also be accessed electronically by means of the SEC's home page on the Internet (www.sec.gov).

Table of Contents

Incorporation of information by reference

We incorporate into this prospectus information contained in documents which we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We are disclosing important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information which we incorporate by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and certain information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below, and any future filings we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, filed on March 3, 2014;

quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2014, filed on May 9, 2014;

current reports on Form 8-K, filed on April 14, 2014, April 22, 2014, May 2, 2014, May 14, 2014 and June 10, 2014;

the information contained in our proxy statement dated April 25, 2014 that is incorporated by reference into Part III of our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013; and

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A (File No. 000-50513) filed on January 31, 2006, including any amendment or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

You may access our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to any of these reports, free of charge on the SEC's website. Information contained on, or that can be accessed through, our website is not part of this prospectus.

In addition, we will furnish without charge to you, on written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents incorporated by reference, other than exhibits to those documents. You should direct any requests for documents to Corporate Secretary, Acorda Therapeutics, Inc., 420 Saw Mill River Road, Ardsley, New York 10502, or call (914) 347-4300.

We are responsible for the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and in any related free-writing prospectus we prepare or authorize. We have not authorized anyone to give you any other information, and we take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We are not making offers to sell or seeking offers to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of the date on the front of this prospectus or incorporated document only, as the case may be. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

Table of Contents

\$300,000,000

% Convertible Senior Notes due 2021

Prospectus

Sole book-running manager

J.P. Morgan

June , 2014