

CELL THERAPEUTICS INC
Form 8-K
March 22, 2013

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): March 22, 2013 (March 21, 2013)

CELL THERAPEUTICS, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Washington
(State or Other Jurisdiction of

Incorporation or Organization)

001-12465
(Commission

File Number)

91-1533912
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification No.)

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3101 Western Avenue, Suite 600

Seattle, Washington
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(206) 282-7100

98121
(Zip Code)

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Not applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- .. Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 240.425)
- .. Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

(e) Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On March 21, 2013, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors (the Compensation Committee) of Cell Therapeutics, Inc. (the Company) approved the Company's entering into a severance agreement with Dr. Matthew Plunkett, the Company's Executive Vice President, Corporate Development (the Severance Agreement). The Severance Agreement provides that if Dr. Plunkett is discharged from employment by the Company without cause (as defined in the agreement) or resigns for good reason (as defined in the agreement), he will receive the following severance benefits: (i) cash severance equal to 18 months of his base salary, plus an amount equal to the greater of the average of his three prior years' bonuses or thirty percent of his base salary, (ii) reimbursement for up to 18 months by the Company for COBRA premiums to continue his medical coverage and that of his eligible dependents, and (iii) continued payment for up to 18 months by the Company of premiums to maintain life insurance paid for by the Company at the time of his termination. In addition, Dr. Plunkett would be entitled to accelerated vesting of all of his then-outstanding and unvested stock-based compensation. Dr. Plunkett's right to receive these severance benefits is conditioned upon his executing a release of claims in favor of the Company and not breaching his inventions and proprietary information agreement with the Company. The foregoing summary is qualified in its entirety by the provisions of the Severance Agreement, which is filed herewith as Exhibit 10.1.

Item 8.01 Other Events.

The Company previously adopted a long-term incentive program, effective as of January 3, 2012 (the Effective Date), that provided for grants of performance-based equity awards to the Company's executive officers and directors. The awards currently outstanding under the program were granted to James A. Bianco, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and President, Louis A. Bianco, the Company's Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration, and Jack W. Singer, M.D., the Company's Executive President, Global Medical Affairs and Translational Medicine. In addition, each of the Company's directors who are not employed by the Company, including John H. Bauer, Vartan Gregorian, Richard L. Love, Mary O. Munding, Phillip N. Nudelman, Frederick W. Telling and Reed V. Tuckson (the Non-Employee Directors), holds an outstanding award under the program. These awards are scheduled to expire on December 31, 2014 to the extent the related performance goals have not been attained.

On March 21, 2013, the Compensation Committee approved, for the awards held by executive officers, an extension of the performance period by one year to December 31, 2015 and several modifications to the program, and the Board of Directors approved similar changes for the awards held by the Non-Employee Directors. As modified, the Performance Goals for the program are as follows:

The Performance Goals are as follows:

- (a) completion of a Phase III trial for Pacritinib that satisfies the primary endpoint set forth in the statistical plan then in effect on or before December 31, 2015 (Pacritinib Phase III);
- (b) approval of a new drug application or a marketing authorization application for Pacritinib on or before December 31, 2015 (Pacritinib Approval);
- (c) approval of a new drug application for Opaxio on or before December 31, 2015 (Opaxio NDA Approval);
- (d) achievement of fiscal year sales equal to or greater than \$50,000,000 with respect to any fiscal year beginning on or after January 1, 2012 and ending on or before December 31, 2015 (the \$50M Sales Goal);
- (e) achievement of fiscal year sales equal to or greater than \$100,000,000 with respect to any fiscal year beginning on or after January 1, 2012 and ending on or before December 31, 2015 (the \$100M Sales Goal);

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- (f) achievement of cash flow break even for any two consecutive fiscal quarters beginning on or after January 1, 2012 and ending on or before December 31, 2015 (the Cash Flow Break Even);
- (g) achievement of earnings per share in any fiscal year beginning on or after January 1, 2012 and ending on or before December 31, 2015 equal to or greater than \$0.30 per share of Common Stock (the EPS Goal); and
- (h) achievement of a market capitalization of \$1.0 billion or greater at any time during the period beginning on January 1, 2012 and ending on December 31, 2015 based on the average of the closing prices of the Common Stock over a period of five (5) consecutive trading days during such period (the Market Cap Goal).

The modifications to the program approved by the Compensation Committee include the addition of the Pacritinib Phase III and Pacritinib Approval goals, as well as the cancellation of a Performance Goal under the original program related to the approval of a new drug application for Pixuvri. The Compensation Committee also increased the requirement for the Cash Flow Break Even goal to two consecutive fiscal quarters (as opposed to any one fiscal quarter) and reduced the threshold for the Market Cap Goal from \$1.2 billion to \$1.0 billion. The Compensation Committee also approved awards under the program for Steven E. Benner, the Company's Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer, and for Dr. Plunkett.

In all other respects, the program terms are the same as originally approved by the Compensation Committee (and by the Board of Directors as to grants to the Non-Employee Directors). Each award recipient will be entitled to receive a number of shares of common stock of the Company under the Company's 2007 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended and restated (the Plan), if he or she continues to be employed by or provide services to the Company or any of its subsidiaries through the first to occur of either of the following: (1) the Company's achievement, on or after the Effective Date and on or before December 31, 2015, of one or more of the Performance Goals set forth above, or (2) the occurrence of a Change in Control. A Change in Control for this purpose generally includes certain persons becoming the beneficial owners of 50% or more of the Company's then outstanding voting securities, a sale or disposition by the Company of all or substantially all of the Company's assets, and certain majority changes in the Board over a period of not more than two years.

If one or more of the Performance Goals are timely achieved, an award recipient will be entitled to receive a number of shares of Company common stock (subject to the share limits of the Plan) determined by multiplying (1) the award percentage corresponding to that particular Performance Goal (as set forth below) by (2) the total number of outstanding shares of Company common stock, determined on a non-fully diluted basis, as of the date that particular Performance Goal is achieved. The award percentages corresponding to the various Performance Goals (after giving effect to the modifications described above) for each of the award recipients are set forth in the following table:

Performance Goals and Applicable Award Percentages

Name	Pacritinib		Opaxio	\$50M	\$100M	Cash	EPS	Market
	Phase III	Pacritinib Approval	NDA Approval	Sales Goal	Sales Goal	Flow Break Even	Goal	Cap Goal
James A. Bianco	0.281%	0.563%	0.085%	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	0.124%	0.75%
Louis A. Bianco	0.114%	0.228%	0.034%	0.122%	0.243%	0.122%	0.061%	0.305%
Jack W. Singer	0.114%	0.228%	0.034%	0.122%	0.243%	0.122%	0.061%	0.305%
Steven E. Benner	0.084%	0.169%	0.025%	0.09%	0.18%	0.09%	0.037%	0.225%

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Matthew Plunkett	0.084%	0.169%	0.025%	0.09%	0.18%	0.09%	0.037%	0.225%
John H. Bauer	0.047%	0.094%	0.008%	0.03%	0.06%	0.03%	0.013%	0.075%
Vartan Gregorian	0.047%	0.094%	0.008%	0.03%	0.06%	0.03%	0.013%	0.075%
Richard L. Love	0.047%	0.094%	0.008%	0.03%	0.06%	0.03%	0.013%	0.075%
Mary O. Munding	0.047%	0.094%	0.008%	0.03%	0.06%	0.03%	0.013%	0.075%
Phillip N. Nudelman	0.071%	0.141%	0.013%	0.045%	0.09%	0.045%	0.018%	0.1125%
Frederick W. Telling	0.047%	0.094%	0.008%	0.03%	0.06%	0.03%	0.013%	0.075%
Reed V. Tuckson	0.047%	0.094%	0.008%	0.03%	0.06%	0.03%	0.013%	0.075%

A Performance Goal will not be considered achieved unless and until the date on which the Compensation Committee of the Board certifies that it has been achieved. A portion of each of these awards (other than the awards to Dr. Benner and Dr. Plunkett) has been granted in the form of restricted shares issued on the Effective Date. However, the restricted shares so issued are subject to forfeiture if the related Performance Goal is not achieved, and in all events the number of shares an award recipient will be entitled to receive or retain as to a particular Performance Goal will not exceed the award percentage corresponding to that particular Performance Goal, multiplied by the total number of outstanding shares of Company common stock, determined on a non-fully diluted basis, as of the date that particular Performance Goal is achieved. Any restricted shares granted to an award recipient that vest in connection with the achievement of a particular Performance Goal will reduce the number of shares otherwise deliverable to that individual. Once a particular Performance Goal has been achieved, the award recipient will not be entitled to any additional shares or other payment upon a future achievement of that same Performance Goal.

If a Change in Control of the Company occurs, and if the award recipient is then still employed by or is providing services to the Company or one of its subsidiaries, the award recipient will generally be entitled to receive the full number of shares allocated to any Performance Goal which was not otherwise achieved before the date of the Change in Control (as though that Performance Goal had been fully achieved as of the time of the Change in Control). With respect to the Market Cap Goal, however, in such circumstances (to the extent the goal was not otherwise achieved before the date of the Change in Control), the recipient will receive the full number of shares allocated to the Market Cap Goal only if the Company's market capitalization based on the price per share of Company common stock in the Change in Control transaction (or, if there is no such price in the transaction, the last closing price of a share of Company common stock (on the principal exchange upon which the Company's common stock is then listed or admitted to trade) on the last trading day preceding the date of the Change in Control) equals or exceeds \$1.0 billion. If the Company's market capitalization is less than \$1.0 billion on the date of the Change in Control, the recipient will not be entitled to receive or retain any of the shares allocated to the Market Cap Goal.

In addition, on March 21, 2013, the Compensation Committee approved awards of restricted stock to each of the Company's named executive officers as follows: Dr. Bianco - 989,017 shares; Mr. Bianco - 296,705 shares; Dr. Singer - 296,705 shares; Dr. Benner - 296,705 shares; and Dr. Plunkett - 296,705 shares. Each of these awards was effective on the date of grant and will vest in three semi-annual installments over 18 months after the date of grant, subject to the executive's continued employment with the Company through the applicable vesting date. On March 21, 2013, the Board approved an award of 164,836 shares to Dr. Nudelman and awards of 109,891 shares to each of the other Non-Employee Directors. Each of these awards to the Non-Employee Directors was fully vested on the date of grant.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

10.1 Severance Agreement, dated as of March 21, 2013, between the Company and Matthew Plunkett.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

CELL THERAPEUTICS, INC.

(Registrant)

By: /s/ James A. Bianco, M.D.
James A. Bianco, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: March 22, 2013

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
10.1	Severance Agreement, dated as of March 21, 2013, between the Company and Matthew Plunkett.