

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
FORM S-1  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

**TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)  
2836  
(Primary Standard Industrial  
Classification Code Number)

34-2037594  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 800  
San Diego, California 92122  
(858) 550-0780  
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Charles P. Theuer, M.D., Ph.D.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 800  
San Diego, California 92122  
(858) 550-0780

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

*Copies to:*

Scott B. Brown, CPA  
Chief Accounting Officer  
TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 800  
San Diego, California 92122  
(858) 550-0780

Sean M. Clayton, Esq.  
Cooley LLP  
4401 Eastgate Mall  
San Diego, California 92121  
(858) 550-6000

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** As soon as practicable after the effective date of this registration statement.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933 check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act.

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

<b>Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered</b>	<b>Amount to be Registered<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Offering Price per Share<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price</b>	<b>Amount of Registration Fee</b>
Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share	6,192,087	\$1.90	\$11,764,965	\$1,527

(1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (Securities Act), this registration statement also covers any additional shares of common stock that may become issuable to prevent dilution resulting from stock splits, stock dividends and similar transactions.

(2) Pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act, calculated on the basis of the average high and low prices per share of the registrant's common stock reported on the Nasdaq Capital Market on June 25, 2020.

**The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment that specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.**

**The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. The selling stockholder may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and the selling stockholder is not soliciting offers to buy these securities, in any state where the offer or sale of these securities is not permitted.**

*PROSPECTUS, SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JUNE 30, 2020*



**6,192,087 Shares**

### **Common Stock**

This prospectus relates to the sale of up to 6,192,087 shares of our common stock by Aspire Capital Fund, LLC (Aspire Capital). Aspire Capital is also referred to in this prospectus as the selling stockholder. The prices at which the selling stockholder may sell the shares will be determined by the prevailing market price for the shares or in negotiated transactions. We will not receive proceeds from the sale of the shares by the selling stockholder. However, we may receive proceeds of up to \$15.0 million from the sale of our common stock to the selling stockholder, pursuant to a common stock purchase agreement (the Purchase Agreement) entered into with the selling stockholder on October 18, 2019, including proceeds that we have already received thereunder. As of the date hereof, we have sold approximately \$3.3 million of our common stock under the Purchase Agreement and approximately \$11.7 million of common stock remains available for sale.

The selling stockholder is an “underwriter” within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (Securities Act). We will pay the expenses of registering these shares, but all selling and other expenses incurred by the selling stockholder will be paid by the selling stockholder.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol “TCON.” On June 25, 2020, the last reported sale price of our common stock was \$1.89 per share.

You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, together with additional information described under the headings “[Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference](#)” and “[Where You Can Find More Information](#),” carefully before you invest in any of our securities.

We are an “emerging growth company” as defined by the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012 and, as such, we have elected to comply with certain reduced public company reporting requirements for this prospectus and future filings. Please see “[Prospectus Summary—Implications of Being an Emerging Growth Company](#).”

**Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. See “[Risk Factors](#)” on page 6 of this prospectus.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

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We incorporate by reference important information into this prospectus. You may obtain the information incorporated by reference without charge by following the instructions under “Where You Can Find More Information.” You should carefully read this prospectus as well as additional information described under “Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference,” before deciding to invest in our common stock.

Neither we nor the selling stockholder have authorized anyone to provide you with additional information or information different from that contained in this prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. The selling stockholder is offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, our common stock only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information contained in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of shares of our common stock. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

For investors outside the United States: Neither we nor the selling stockholder have done anything that would permit this offering or possession or distribution of this prospectus in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required, other than in the United States. Persons outside the United States who come into possession of this prospectus must inform themselves about, and observe any restrictions relating to, the offering of the shares of common stock and the distribution of this prospectus outside the United States.

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## PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

*The following summary highlights information contained or incorporated by reference elsewhere in this prospectus and does not contain all of the information that you should consider in making your investment decision. Before investing in our common stock, you should carefully read this entire prospectus, including our financial statements and the related notes and other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, as well as the information under the caption “Risk Factors” herein and under similar headings in the other documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus.*

*Except as otherwise indicated herein or as the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to “TRACON,” “the company,” “we,” “us” and “our” refer to TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*

### Company Overview

We are a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of novel targeted therapeutics for cancer and utilizing our product development platform to partner with ex-U.S. companies to develop and commercialize innovative products in the United States.

In December 2019, we entered into a collaboration and clinical trial agreement with 3D Medicines Co., Ltd. (3D Medicines) and Jiangsu Alphamab Biopharmaceuticals Co., Ltd. (Alphamab) for the development of envafolimab, also known as KN035, an investigational PD-L1 single-domain antibody administered by subcutaneous injection for the treatment of soft tissue sarcoma in North America. We intend to file an investigational new drug (IND) application and apply for orphan drug status in the first half of 2020, and initiate a potentially registration-enabling study of envafolimab in the sarcoma subtype of undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma (UPS) and myxofibrosarcoma (MFS) called the ENVASARC trial, in the second half of 2020. On May 8, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) agreed with the design and primary endpoint of objective response rate (ORR) of the ENVASARC trial during a Type B teleconference. The trial will include one cohort of approximately 80 patients who will receive single agent treatment with envafolimab and a second cohort of approximately 80 patients who will receive envafolimab in combination with Yervoy, a checkpoint inhibitor marketed by Bristol-Meyers Squib, with the primary endpoint in each of the cohorts being ORR, which could be the basis for accelerated approval of envafolimab by the FDA as a single agent and/or in combination with Yervoy. The trial will provide at least 86% power to determine the primary endpoint of ORR > 5% in each cohort, which is greater than the ORR of Pazopanib, the only approved treatment of refractory soft tissue sarcoma, which includes UPS and MFS. We estimate disclosing a summary of the independent data monitoring committee decisions following reviews of interim data in 2021, having a final response assessment in 2022, and, assuming positive data, submitting a biologics license application for accelerated approval in 2023. Additionally, assuming positive data from the ENVASARC trial, we plan to initiate a trial in multiple soft tissue sarcoma subtypes, which could include biomarker directed enrollment, to expand the target patient population.

Other clinical stage oncology product candidates include TRC102, which is a small molecule that is in Phase 1 and Phase 2 clinical development for the treatment of mesothelioma, lung cancer and solid tumors, TRC253, which is a small molecule for the treatment of metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer, that we licensed from Janssen Pharmaceutica N.V. (Janssen), and TJ004309, which is a CD73 antibody in Phase 1 clinical development for the treatment of solid tumors, that we licensed from I-Mab Biopharma (I-Mab) in November 2018.

TRC102 is a small molecule in clinical development to reverse resistance to specific chemotherapeutics by inhibiting base excision repair. In initial clinical trials of more than 100 patients, TRC102 has shown good tolerability and promising anti-tumor activity in combination with alkylating and antimetabolite chemotherapy in the treatment of cancer patients. TRC102 began Phase 2 testing in mesothelioma in combination with the approved chemotherapeutic Alimta in 2015. TRC102 is also being studied in three Phase 1 clinical trials: in combination with Alimta and cisplatin in solid tumor patients, in combination with chemoradiation in lung cancer patients, and in combination with Temodar in ovarian, lung and colorectal cancer patients. All current TRC102 trials are sponsored and funded by the National Cancer Institute. We retain global rights to develop and commercialize TRC102 in all indications.

TRC253 is being developed for the treatment of men with prostate cancer and is a novel small molecule high affinity competitive inhibitor of wild type androgen receptor (AR) and multiple AR mutant receptors containing point mutations that cause drug resistance to currently approved treatments. In April 2020, Janssen notified us that it was not exercising its exclusive option to reacquire the program following a review of the Phase 1/2 data in prostate cancer patients with acquired resistance to Xtandi or Erleada. As a result, we have retained worldwide development and commercialization rights, and are obligated to pay Janssen a total of up to \$45.0 million in development and regulatory milestones upon achievement of specified events, in addition to a low single digit royalty.

In the completed Phase 1/2 trial, TRC253 was dosed in 72 patients with metastatic castrate resistant prostate cancer who had progressed on prior treatment that included the wild type AR inhibitor Xtandi or Erleada, including patients with F877L androgen receptor mutation. The recommended Phase 2 dose of 280 mg orally per day was well tolerated with QTc prolongation being the most common adverse event. The prostate-specific antigen response rate in 63 patients evaluable for efficacy, including patients with the AR F877L mutation, patients with an undisclosed other point mutation of the AR or patients with another basis for resistance to Xtandi or Erleada, was 8%. Seventeen of 63 patients (27%) had stable disease for more than five months (and for as long as 12 months). TRC253 is as active as Xtandi in preclinical models of prostate cancer and has not been studied yet in patients without acquired resistance to Xtandi or Erleada. We believe TRC253 may be able to be developed in China, where standard of care therapies such as Xtandi and Erleada are not widely available and will look to license TRC253 in this territory. We do not intend to devote material resources to the continued development of TRC253 absent establishing a partnership in China.

TJ004309, also known as TJD5, is a novel humanized antibody against CD73 expressed on stromal cells and tumors that converts extracellular adenosine monophosphate (AMP) to the immunosuppressive metabolite adenosine. We are developing TJ004309 in collaboration with I-Mab under a strategic collaboration and clinical trial agreement that we entered into in November 2018 (the TJ004309 Agreement). In July 2019, we began enrolling a Phase 1 clinical trial to assess safety and preliminary efficacy of TJ004309 as a single agent and when combined with the PD-L1 checkpoint inhibitor Tecentriq in patients with advanced solid tumors. We also entered into a separate strategic collaboration and clinical trial agreement (the Bispecific Agreement) which allows for the development of up to five of I-Mab's proprietary bispecific antibody product candidates to be nominated within a five-year period for development and commercialization in North America, with the option to opt-in and acquire product rights outside of Greater China and Korea prior to completing the first pivotal clinical trial for any bispecific product candidate.

We utilize a product development platform that emphasizes capital efficiency. Our experienced clinical operations, data management, quality assurance, product development and regulatory affairs groups manage significant aspects of our clinical trials with internal resources. We use these internal resources to minimize the costs associated with utilizing contract research organizations (CROs), to conduct clinical trials. In our experience, this model has resulted in capital efficiencies and improved communication with clinical trial sites, which expedites patient enrollment and improves the quality of patient data as compared to a CRO-managed model. We have leveraged this platform in all of our sponsored clinical trials. We have also leveraged our product development platform to diversify our product pipeline without payment of upfront license fees through license agreements with 3D Medicines and Alphamab, I-Mab, and Janssen. We continue to evaluate ex-U.S. companies who would benefit from a rapid and capital-efficient U.S. drug development solution that includes U.S. and European Union clinical development expertise. We believe we will continue to be recognized as a preferred U.S. clinical development partner through a cost- and risk-sharing partnership structure which may include U.S. commercialization.

### **Corporate Information**

We were incorporated in the state of Delaware in October 2004 as Lexington Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and we subsequently changed our name to TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in March 2005, at which time we relocated to San Diego, California. Our principal executive offices are located at 4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 800, San Diego, California 92122, and our telephone number is (858) 550-0780. Our corporate website address is [www.traconpharma.com](http://www.traconpharma.com). The information contained on, or that can be accessed through, our website is not a part of this prospectus. We have included our website address in this prospectus solely as an inactive textual reference.

This prospectus contains references to our trademarks and to trademarks belonging to other entities. Solely for convenience, trademarks and trade names referred to in this prospectus, including logos, artwork and other visual

displays, may appear without the ® or TM symbols, but such references are not intended to indicate, in any way, that their respective owners will not assert, to the fullest extent under applicable law, their rights thereto. We do not intend our use or display of other companies' trademarks, trade names or service marks to imply a relationship with, or endorsement or sponsorship of us by, any other companies or products.

### **Implications of Being an Emerging Growth Company**

As a company with less than \$1.07 billion in revenue during our last fiscal year, we qualify as an "emerging growth company" as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012 (the JOBS Act). For so long as we remain an emerging growth company, we are permitted and intend to rely on exemptions from specified disclosure requirements that are applicable to other public companies that are not emerging growth companies. These exemptions include:

- being permitted to provide only two years of audited financial statements, in addition to any required unaudited interim financial statements, with correspondingly reduced "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" disclosure;
- not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements in the assessment of our internal control over financial reporting;
- reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our periodic reports, registration statements and proxy statements; and
- exemptions from the requirements of holding a nonbinding advisory vote on executive compensation and stockholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved.

We will cease to be an emerging growth company on December 31, 2020. In addition, the JOBS Act provides that an emerging growth company can take advantage of an extended transition period for complying with new or revised accounting standards. This provision allows an emerging growth company to delay the adoption of some accounting standards until those standards would otherwise apply to private companies. We have irrevocably elected not to avail ourselves of this exemption from new or revised accounting standards and, therefore, we will be subject to the same new or revised accounting standards as other public companies that are not emerging growth companies.

## The Offering

**Common stock being offered by the selling stockholder** Up to 6,192,087 shares.

**Common stock outstanding** 5,497,938 shares (as of March 31, 2020).

**Use of proceeds** The selling stockholder will receive all of the proceeds from the sale of the shares offered for sale by it under this prospectus. We will not receive proceeds from the sale of the shares by the selling stockholder. However, we may receive up to \$15.0 million in proceeds from the sale of our common stock to the selling stockholder under the common stock purchase agreement described below, including proceeds that we have already received thereunder. Proceeds that we receive under the common stock purchase agreement will be used to advance our research and development activities and for working capital and general corporate purposes.

**Risk factors** Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully review and consider the “[Risk Factors](#)” section and the other information included in this prospectus and incorporated by reference herein for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our common stock.

**Nasdaq Capital Market symbol** “TCON”.

The number of shares of our common stock outstanding referenced above is based on 5,497,938 shares of common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2020, and excludes:

- 608,379 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding as of March 31, 2020, at a weighted-average exercise price of \$23.23 per share;
- 1,561,903 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of common stock warrants outstanding as of March 31, 2020, at a weighted-average exercise price of \$24.25 per share;
- 50,570 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under our 2015 Equity Incentive Plan (2015 Plan) as of March 31, 2020; and
- 110,164 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under our 2015 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (ESPP) as of March 31, 2020.

Unless otherwise indicated, all information contained in this prospectus assumes or gives effect to no exercise of the outstanding options or warrants described above.

### ***Purchase Agreement with Aspire Capital***

On October 18, 2019, we entered into a common stock purchase agreement (the Purchase Agreement), with Aspire Capital Fund, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company (Aspire Capital or the selling stockholder), which provides that, upon the terms and subject to the conditions and limitations set forth therein, Aspire Capital is committed to purchase up to an aggregate of \$15.0 million of shares of our common stock over the term of the Purchase Agreement. In consideration for entering into the Purchase Agreement, concurrently with the execution of the Purchase Agreement, we issued to Aspire Capital 142,658 shares of our common stock as a commitment fee. Concurrently with entering into the Purchase Agreement, we also entered into a registration rights agreement with Aspire Capital (the Registration Rights Agreement) in which we agreed to file one or more registration statements, including the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, as permissible and necessary to register under

the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (Securities Act), the sale of the shares of our common stock that have been and may be issued to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement.

We previously registered the sale of up to 1,642,658 shares of our common stock under the Securities Act by Aspire Capital, all of which we have previously issued to Aspire Capital pursuant to the Purchase Agreement for aggregate proceeds of approximately \$3.3 million, and approximately \$11.7 million of common stock remains available for sale. Accordingly, pursuant to the Purchase Agreement and the Registration Rights Agreement, we are registering 6,192,087 shares of our common stock under the Securities Act that we may issue to Aspire Capital after this registration statement is declared effective under the Securities Act. All 6,192,087 shares of common stock are being offered pursuant to this prospectus.

However, pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, the aggregate number of shares that we may issue to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement may in no case exceed 1,099,527 shares of our common stock (which is equal to 19.99% of the common stock outstanding as of April 29, 2020) unless (i) stockholder approval is obtained to issue more, in which case this 1,099,527 share limitation will not apply, or (ii) stockholder approval has not been obtained and at any time the 1,099,527 share limitation is reached and at all times thereafter the average price paid for all shares issued under the Purchase Agreement is equal to or greater than \$1.89 per share, referred to as the Minimum Price; provided that at no one point in time shall Aspire Capital (together with its affiliates) beneficially own more than 19.99% of our common stock.

After the SEC has declared effective the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, on any trading day on which the closing sale price of our common stock exceeds \$0.25, we have the right, in our sole discretion, to present Aspire Capital with a purchase notice (each, a Purchase Notice), directing Aspire Capital (as principal) to purchase up to 15,000 shares of our common stock (not to exceed \$500,000 worth of shares) per trading day, up to \$15.0 million of our common stock in the aggregate at a per share price (the Purchase Price) calculated by reference to the prevailing market price of our common stock (as more specifically described below in the section titled “The Aspire Capital Transaction”).

In addition, on any date on which we submit a Purchase Notice for 15,000 shares to Aspire Capital, we also have the right, in our sole discretion, to present Aspire Capital with a volume-weighted average price purchase notice (each, a VWAP Purchase Notice) directing Aspire Capital to purchase an amount of stock equal to up to 30% of the aggregate shares of our common stock traded on the Nasdaq Capital Market on the next trading day (the VWAP Purchase Date), subject to a maximum number of shares we may determine (the VWAP Purchase Share Volume Maximum) and a minimum trading price (the VWAP Minimum Price Threshold) (as more specifically described below). The purchase price per share pursuant to such VWAP Purchase Notice (the VWAP Purchase Price) is calculated by reference to the prevailing market price of our common stock (as more specifically described below in the section titled “The Aspire Capital Transaction”).

The Purchase Agreement provides that we and Aspire Capital shall not effect any sales under the Purchase Agreement on any purchase date where the closing sale price of our common stock is less than \$0.25 per share (the Floor Price). There are no trading volume requirements or restrictions under the Purchase Agreement, and we will control the timing and amount of any sales of our common stock to Aspire Capital. Aspire Capital has no right to require any sales by us, but is obligated to make purchases from us as we direct in accordance with the Purchase Agreement. There are no limitations on use of proceeds, financial or business covenants, restrictions on future fundings, rights of first refusal, participation rights, penalties or liquidated damages in the Purchase Agreement. Aspire Capital may not assign its rights or obligations under the Purchase Agreement. The Purchase Agreement may be terminated by us at any time, at our discretion, without any penalty or cost to us.

## RISK FACTORS

*Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should consider carefully the following risks and uncertainties as well as the risks and uncertainties described in the section entitled “Risk Factors” contained in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2020, as filed with SEC on May 13, 2020, as well as in our subsequent Quarterly and Annual Reports filed with the SEC, which descriptions are incorporated in this prospectus by reference in their entirety, as well as in any prospectus supplement hereto. These risks and uncertainties are not the only risks and uncertainties we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us, or that we currently view as immaterial, may also impair our business. If any of the risks or uncertainties described in our SEC filings or any additional risks and uncertainties actually occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flow could be materially and adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our common stock could decline and you might lose all or part of your investment. You should carefully consider the following information about risks, together with the other information contained in this prospectus, before making an investment in our common stock.*

***We will need to raise substantial additional capital in the future to fund our operations and we may be unable to raise such funds when needed and on acceptable terms.***

We will need to raise substantial additional capital in the future to fund our operations. The extent to which we utilize the Purchase Agreement with Aspire Capital as a source of funding will depend on a number of factors, including the prevailing market price of our common stock, the volume of trading in our common stock and the extent to which we are able to secure funds from other sources. The number of shares that we may sell to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement on any given day and during the term of the Purchase Agreement is limited. See [“The Aspire Capital Transaction”](#) for additional information. Additionally, we and Aspire Capital may not effect any sales of shares of our common stock under the Purchase Agreement during the continuance of an event of default or on any trading day that the closing sale price of our common stock is less than \$0.25 per share. Even if we are able to access the full \$15.0 million under the Purchase Agreement, we will still need additional capital to fully implement our business, operating and development plans.

***The sale of our common stock to Aspire Capital may cause substantial dilution to our existing stockholders and the sale of the shares of common stock acquired by Aspire Capital could cause the price of our common stock to decline.***

We are registering for sale up to 6,192,087 shares of our common stock that we may sell to Aspire Capital from time to time under the Purchase Agreement. It is anticipated that shares registered in this offering will be sold over a period of up to approximately 23 months from the date of this prospectus. The number of shares ultimately offered for sale by Aspire Capital under this prospectus is dependent upon the number of shares we elect to sell to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement. Depending on a variety of factors, including market liquidity of our common stock, the sale of shares under the Purchase Agreement may cause the trading price of our common stock to decline.

Aspire Capital may ultimately purchase all, some or none of the 6,192,087 shares of common stock that are the subject of this prospectus. Aspire Capital may sell all, some or none of our shares that it holds or comes to hold under the Purchase Agreement. Sales by us to Aspire Capital of shares pursuant to the Purchase Agreement may result in dilution to the interests of other holders of our common stock. The sale of a substantial number of shares of our common stock by Aspire Capital in this offering, or anticipation of such sales, could cause the trading price of our common stock to decline or make it more difficult for us to sell equity or equity-related securities in the future at a time and at a price that we might otherwise desire.

***Management will have broad discretion as to the use of the proceeds from the sale of shares under the Purchase Agreement to Aspire Capital, and may not use the proceeds effectively.***

This prospectus relates to shares of our common stock that may be offered and sold from time to time by Aspire Capital. We will not receive any proceeds upon the sale of shares by Aspire Capital. However, we may receive gross proceeds of up to \$15.0 million from the sale of shares under the Purchase Agreement to Aspire Capital, including proceeds that we have already received thereunder. This anticipated use of net proceeds from the sale of our common stock to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement represents our intentions based upon our current

plans and business conditions. Because we have not designated the amount of net proceeds from the sale of shares under the Purchase Agreement to be used for any particular purpose, our management will have broad discretion as to the application of the net proceeds from sales made under the Purchase Agreement and could use them for purposes other than those contemplated at the time of such sales. Our management may use the net proceeds for corporate purposes that may not improve our financial condition or market value.

## SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference herein, and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering contain forward-looking statements that reflect our management's beliefs and views with respect to future events and are subject to substantial risks and uncertainties within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (Exchange Act). These statements relate to future events or to our future operating or financial performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performances or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements may include, but are not limited to, statements about:

- the outcome, cost and timing of our and our collaborators' ongoing clinical trials and regulatory activities;
- our and our collaborators' plans to develop and commercialize our product candidates;
- the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our operations;
- the potential benefits of our collaboration arrangements and our ability to enter into additional collaboration arrangements;
- our and our collaborators' regulatory strategy and potential benefits associated therewith;
- the timing of, and our ability to, obtain and maintain regulatory approvals for our product candidates;
- the rate and degree of market acceptance and clinical utility of any approved product candidate;
- potential competitive products that are or may become available;
- the size and growth potential of the markets for our product candidates, and our ability to serve those markets;
- our commercialization, marketing and manufacturing capabilities and strategy;
- our intellectual property position;
- our estimates regarding expenses, future revenues, capital requirements, the sufficiency of our current and expected cash resources, and our need for and ability to obtain additional financing;
- our ability to realize the anticipated benefits associated with our capital efficiency focused initiatives;
- our ability to sell shares of common stock to Aspire Capital pursuant to the terms of the Purchase Agreement and our ability to register and maintain the registration of the shares issued and issuable thereunder; and
- our anticipated use of the net proceeds from the potential sale of shares of our common stock to Aspire Capital.

In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as "may," "will," "should," "could," "would," "expects," "plans," "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "projects," "predicts," "potential" and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events, are based on assumptions and are subject to risks and uncertainties. Given these uncertainties, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. We discuss in greater detail, and incorporate

by reference into this prospectus in their entirety, many of these risks under the headings “Risk Factors” of this prospectus and in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2020, which is incorporated herein by reference, as may be updated or superseded by the risks and uncertainties described under similar headings in the other documents that are filed after the date hereof and incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Also, these forward-looking statements represent our estimates and assumptions only as of the date of the document containing the applicable statement.

You should read this prospectus, the documents we have filed with the SEC that are incorporated by reference herein and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering completely and with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from what we expect. We qualify all of the forward-looking statements in the foregoing documents by these cautionary statements.

Unless required by law, we undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect new information or future events or developments. Thus, you should not assume that our silence over time means that actual events are bearing out as expressed or implied in such forward-looking statements.

#### **DIVIDEND POLICY**

We have never declared or paid any dividends on our common stock. We currently intend to retain all available funds and any future earnings, if any, to fund the development and expansion of our business and we do not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. In addition, pursuant to our loan and security agreement with Silicon Valley Bank, we are prohibited from paying cash dividends without the prior consent of Silicon Valley Bank. Any future determination related to our dividend policy will be made at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon, among other factors, our results of operations, financial condition, capital requirements, contractual restrictions, business prospects and other factors our board of directors may deem relevant.

## THE ASPIRE CAPITAL TRANSACTION

### General

On October 18, 2019, we entered into the Purchase Agreement, which provides that, upon the terms and subject to the conditions and limitations set forth therein, Aspire Capital is committed to purchase up to an aggregate of \$15.0 million of our shares of common stock over the term of the Purchase Agreement. In consideration for entering into the Purchase Agreement, concurrently with the execution of the Purchase Agreement, we issued to Aspire Capital the 142,658 shares of our common stock as a commitment fee. Concurrently with entering into the Purchase Agreement, we also entered into the Registration Rights Agreement, in which we agreed to file one or more registration statements as permissible and necessary to register under the Securities Act, the sale of the shares of our common stock that have been and may be issued to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement.

We previously registered the sale of up to 1,642,658 shares of our common stock under the Securities Act by Aspire Capital, all of which we have previously issued to Aspire Capital pursuant to the Purchase Agreement for aggregate proceeds of approximately \$3.3 million, and approximately \$11.7 million of common stock remains available for sale. Accordingly, pursuant to the Purchase Agreement and the Registration Rights Agreement, we are registering 6,192,087 shares of our common stock under the Securities Act, which we may issue to Aspire Capital after this registration statement is declared effective under the Securities Act. All 6,192,087 shares of common stock are being offered pursuant to this prospectus. Under the Purchase Agreement, we have the right but not the obligation to issue more than the 6,192,087 shares of common stock included in this prospectus to Aspire Capital under some circumstances.

However, pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, the aggregate number of shares that we may issue to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement may in no case exceed 1,099,527 shares of our common stock (which is equal to 19.99% of the common stock outstanding as of April 29, 2020) unless (i) stockholder approval is obtained to issue more, in which case this 1,099,527 share limitation will not apply, or (ii) stockholder approval has not been obtained and at any time the 1,099,527 share limitation is reached and at all times thereafter the average price paid for all shares issued under the Purchase Agreement is equal to or greater than \$1.89, referred to as the Minimum Price; provided that at no one point in time shall Aspire Capital (together with its affiliates) beneficially own more than 19.99% of our common stock.

After the SEC has declared effective the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, on any trading day on which the closing sale price of our common stock is not less than \$0.25 per share, we have the right, in our sole discretion, to present Aspire Capital with a Purchase Notice, directing Aspire Capital (as principal) to purchase up to 15,000 shares of our common stock per business day, up to \$15.0 million of our common stock in the aggregate over the term of the Purchase Agreement, at a Purchase Price calculated by reference to the prevailing market price of our common stock over the preceding 10-business day period (as more specifically described below); however, no sale pursuant to a Purchase Notice may exceed \$500,000 per trading day.

In addition, on any date on which we submit a Purchase Notice for 15,000 shares to Aspire Capital, we also have the right, in our sole discretion, to present Aspire Capital with a VWAP Purchase Notice directing Aspire Capital to purchase an amount of stock equal to up to 30% of the aggregate shares of our common stock traded on the Nasdaq Capital Market on the next trading day, subject to the VWAP Purchase Share Volume Maximum and the VWAP Minimum Price Threshold. The VWAP Purchase Price is calculated by reference to the prevailing market price of our common stock (as more specifically described below).

The Purchase Agreement provides that we and Aspire Capital shall not effect any sales under the Purchase Agreement on any purchase date where the closing sale price of our common stock is less than the Floor Price. There are no trading volume requirements or restrictions under the Purchase Agreement, and we will control the timing and amount of any sales of our common stock to Aspire Capital. Aspire Capital has no right to require any sales by us, but is obligated to make purchases from us as we direct in accordance with the Purchase Agreement. There are no limitations on use of proceeds, financial or business covenants, restrictions on future financings, rights of first refusal, participation rights, penalties or liquidated damages in the Purchase Agreement.

Aspire Capital may not assign its rights or obligations under the Purchase Agreement. The Purchase Agreement may be terminated by us at any time, at our discretion, without any penalty or cost to us.

### **Purchase of Shares under the Purchase Agreement**

Under the Purchase Agreement, on any trading day selected by us on which the closing sale price of our common stock exceeds \$0.25 per share, we may direct Aspire Capital to purchase up to 15,000 shares of our common stock per trading day. The Purchase Price of such shares is equal to the lesser of:

- the lowest sale price of our common stock on the purchase date; or
- the average of the three lowest closing sale prices for our common stock during the ten consecutive trading days ending on the trading day immediately preceding the purchase date.

In addition, on any date on which we submit a Purchase Notice to Aspire Capital for the purchase of up to 15,000 shares, we also have the right to direct Aspire Capital to purchase an amount of stock equal to up to 30% of the aggregate shares of our common stock traded on the Nasdaq Capital Market on the next trading day, subject to the VWAP Purchase Share Volume Maximum and the VWAP Minimum Price Threshold, which is equal to the greater of (a) 80% of the closing price of our common stock on the business day immediately preceding the VWAP Purchase Date or (b) such higher price as set forth by us in the VWAP Purchase Notice. The VWAP Purchase Price of such shares is the lower of:

- the closing sale price on the VWAP Purchase Date; or
- 97% of the volume-weighted average price for our common stock traded on the Nasdaq Capital Market:
  - on the VWAP Purchase Date, if the aggregate shares to be purchased on that date have not exceeded the VWAP Purchase Share Volume Maximum or
  - during that portion of the VWAP Purchase Date until such time as the sooner to occur of (i) the time at which the aggregate shares traded on the Nasdaq Capital Market exceed the VWAP Purchase Share Volume Maximum or (ii) the time at which the sale price of our common stock falls below the VWAP Minimum Price Threshold.

The Purchase Price will be adjusted for any reorganization, recapitalization, non-cash dividend, stock split, or other similar transaction occurring during the trading day(s) used to compute the Purchase Price. We may deliver multiple Purchase Notices and VWAP Purchase Notices to Aspire Capital from time to time during the term of the Purchase Agreement, so long as the most recent purchase has been completed.

### **Minimum Share Price**

Under the Purchase Agreement, we and Aspire Capital may not effect any sales of shares of our common stock under the Purchase Agreement on any trading day that the closing sale price of our common stock is less than \$0.25 per share.

### **Events of Default**

Generally, Aspire Capital may terminate the Purchase Agreement upon the occurrence of any of the following, among other, events of default:

- the effectiveness of any registration statement that is required to be maintained effective pursuant to the terms of the Registration Rights Agreement between us and Aspire Capital lapses for any reason (including, without limitation, the issuance of a stop order) or is unavailable to Aspire Capital for sale of our shares of common stock, and such lapse or unavailability continues for a period of ten consecutive business days or for more than an aggregate of 30 business days in any 365-day period, which is not in connection with a post-effective amendment to any such registration statement; in connection with any post-effective amendment to such registration statement that is required to be declared effective by the SEC such lapse or unavailability may continue for a period of no more than 30 consecutive business days;
- the suspension from trading or failure of our common stock to be listed on our principal market for a period of three consecutive business days;
- the delisting of our common stock from our principal market, provided our common stock is not immediately thereafter trading on the New York Stock Exchange, the NYSE American, the Nasdaq Capital Market, the Nasdaq Global Select Market or the Nasdaq Global Market;
- our transfer agent's failure to issue to Aspire Capital shares of our common stock which Aspire Capital is entitled to receive under the Purchase Agreement within five business days after an applicable purchase date;
- any breach by us of the representations or warranties or covenants contained in the Purchase Agreement or any related agreements which could have a material adverse effect on us, subject to a cure period of five business days;
- if we become insolvent or are generally unable to pay our debts as they become due; or
- if we become a party to insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings by or against us.

#### **Our Termination Rights**

The Purchase Agreement may be terminated by us at any time, at our discretion, without any penalty or cost to us.

#### **No Short-Selling or Hedging by Aspire Capital**

Aspire Capital has agreed that neither it nor any of its agents, representatives and affiliates shall engage in any direct or indirect short-selling or hedging of our common stock during any time prior to the termination of the Purchase Agreement.

#### **Effect of Performance of the Purchase Agreement on Our Stockholders**

The Purchase Agreement does not limit the ability of Aspire Capital to sell any or all of the 6,192,087 shares registered in this offering. It is anticipated that shares registered in this offering will be sold over a period of up to approximately 23 months from the date of this prospectus. The sale by Aspire Capital of a significant amount of shares registered in this offering at any given time could cause the market price of our common stock to decline and/or to be highly volatile. Aspire Capital may ultimately purchase all, some or none of the 6,192,087 shares of common stock registered in this offering. After it has acquired such shares, it may sell all, some or none of such shares. Therefore, sales to Aspire Capital by us pursuant to the Purchase Agreement also may result in substantial dilution to the interests of other holders of our common stock. However, we have the right to control the timing and amount of any sales of our shares to Aspire Capital and the Purchase Agreement may be terminated by us at any time at our discretion without any penalty or cost to us.

#### **Percentage of Outstanding Shares after Giving Effect to the Purchased Shares Issued to Aspire Capital**

In connection with entering into the Purchase Agreement, we authorized the sale to Aspire Capital of up to \$15.0 million of our shares of common stock. However, we estimate that we will sell no more than 6,192,087 shares to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement, all of which are included in this offering. Subject to any required

approval by our board of directors, we have the right but not the obligation to issue more than the 6,192,087 shares to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement under some circumstances. In the event we elect to issue more than 6,192,087 shares under the Purchase Agreement, we will be required to file a new registration statement and have it declared effective by the SEC. The number of shares ultimately offered for sale by Aspire Capital in this offering is dependent upon the number of shares purchased by Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement as well as the price per share at which shares are sold to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement. The following table sets forth the number and percentage of outstanding shares to be held by Aspire Capital after giving effect to the sale of shares of common stock sold to Aspire Capital at varying purchase prices, but assuming that we will not sell in excess of 1,099,527 shares of our common stock (which is equal to 19.99% of the common stock outstanding as of April 29, 2020) unless the average price paid for all shares issued under the Purchase Agreement is equal to or greater than \$1.89 per share:

Assumed Average Purchase Price	Proceeds from the Sale of Shares to Aspire Capital Under the Purchase Agreement Registered in this Offering	Number of Shares to be Issued in this Offering at the Assumed Average Purchase Price	Total Number of Outstanding Shares After Giving Effect to the Shares Issued to Aspire Capital(1)	Percentage of Outstanding Shares After Giving Effect to the Purchased Shares Issued to Aspire Capital(2)
\$ 0.50	\$ 549,763.50	1,099,527	6,597,465	16.67%
\$ 1.00	\$ 1,099,527.00	1,099,527	6,597,465	16.67%
\$ 1.50	\$ 1,649,290.50	1,099,527	6,597,465	16.67%
\$ 2.00	\$ 11,703,046.00	5,851,523	11,349,461	51.56%
\$ 3.00	\$ 11,703,046.00	3,901,015	9,398,953	41.50%
\$ 4.00	\$ 11,703,046.00	2,925,762	8,423,700	34.73%
\$ 5.00	\$ 11,703,046.00	2,340,609	7,838,547	29.86%

- (1) Based on 5,497,938 shares of common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2020, which includes the 0.2 million shares previously issued to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement as of that date and the assumed number of shares set forth in the preceding adjacent column that we would have sold to Aspire Capital.
- (2) The numerator is the number of shares set forth in the column titled, "Number of Shares to be Issued in this Offering at the Assumed Average Purchase Price." The denominator is set forth in the preceding adjacent column. Pursuant to the terms of the Purchase Agreement, at no one point in time may Aspire Capital (together with its affiliates) beneficially own more than 19.99% of our common stock.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

This prospectus relates to shares of our common stock that may be offered and sold from time to time by Aspire Capital. We will not receive any proceeds upon the sale of shares by Aspire Capital. However, we may receive gross proceeds of up to \$15.0 million from the sale of shares under the Purchase Agreement to Aspire Capital, including proceeds that we have already received thereunder. As of the date hereof, we have sold approximately \$3.3 million of common stock under the Purchase Agreement, and approximately \$11.7 million of common stock remains available for sale. The proceeds will be used for the advancement of our research and development activities, working capital and general corporate purposes. This anticipated use of net proceeds from the sale of our common stock to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement represents our intentions based upon our current plans and business conditions.

## SELLING STOCKHOLDER

The selling stockholder may from time to time offer and sell any or all of the shares of our common stock set forth below pursuant to this prospectus. When we refer to the “selling stockholder” in this prospectus, we mean the entity listed in the table below, and its respective pledgees, donees, permitted transferees, assignees, successors and others who later come to hold any of the selling stockholder’s interests in shares of our common stock other than through a public sale.

The following table sets forth, as of the date of this prospectus, the name of the selling stockholder for whom we are registering shares for sale to the public, the number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by the selling stockholder prior to this offering, the total number of shares of common stock that the selling stockholder may offer pursuant to this prospectus and the number of shares of common stock that the selling stockholder will beneficially own after this offering. Except as noted below, the selling stockholder does not have, or within the past three years has not had, any material relationship with us or any of our predecessors or affiliates and the selling stockholder is not or was not affiliated with registered broker-dealers.

Based on the information provided to us by the selling stockholder, assuming that the selling stockholder sells all of the shares of our common stock beneficially owned by it that have been registered by us and does not acquire any additional shares during the offering, the selling stockholder will not own any shares, as reflected in the column entitled “Beneficial Ownership After This Offering.” We cannot advise you as to whether the selling stockholder will in fact sell any or all of such shares of common stock. In addition, the selling stockholder may have sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of, or may sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of, at any time and from time to time, the shares of our common stock in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act after the date on which it provided the information set forth in the table below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned Prior to this Offering</u>	<u>Shares of Common Stock Being Offered</u>	<u>Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned After this Offering<sup>(1)</sup></u>	
			<u>Number of Shares</u>	<u>%</u>
Aspire Capital Fund, LLC <sup>(2)</sup>	142,658 <sup>(3)</sup>	6,192,087	-	0%

- (1) Assumes the sale of all shares of common stock registered pursuant to this prospectus, although the selling stockholder is under no obligation known to us to sell any shares of common stock at this time. The number of shares ultimately offered for sale by Aspire Capital in this offering is dependent upon the number of shares purchased by Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement as well as the price per share at which shares are sold to Aspire Capital under the Purchase Agreement.
- (2) Aspire Capital Partners LLC (Aspire Partners) is the Managing Member of Aspire Capital Fund LLC (Aspire Fund). SGM Holdings Corp (SGM) is the Managing Member of Aspire Partners. Mr. Steven G. Martin (Mr. Martin) is the president and sole shareholder of SGM, as well as a principal of Aspire Partners. Mr. Erik J. Brown (Mr. Brown) is the president and sole shareholder of Red Cedar Capital Corp (Red Cedar), which is a principal of Aspire Partners. Mr. Christos Komissopoulos (Mr. Komissopoulos) is president and sole shareholder of Chrisko Investors Inc. (Chrisko), which is a principal of Aspire Partners. Mr. William F. Blank, III (Mr. Blank) is president and sole shareholder of WML Ventures Corp. (WML Ventures), which is a principal of Aspire Partners. Each of Aspire Partners, SGM, Red Cedar, Chrisko, WML Ventures, Mr. Martin, Mr. Brown, Mr. Komissopoulos and Mr. Blank may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of common stock held by Aspire Fund. Each of Aspire Partners, SGM, Red Cedar, Chrisko, WML Ventures, Mr. Martin, Mr. Brown, Mr. Komissopoulos and Mr. Blank disclaims beneficial ownership of the common stock held by Aspire Fund.
- (3) As of the date of this offering, Aspire Capital owns (i) 142,658 shares of common stock that we issued to Aspire as a commitment fee concurrently with the execution of the Purchase Agreement and (ii) 106,194

shares of common stock acquirable upon exercise of warrants. The warrants contain provisions that restrict exercise of the warrants if the holder's beneficial ownership would exceed 9.99% of our common stock. We may elect in our sole discretion to sell to Aspire Capital up to an additional 6,192,087 shares under the Purchase Agreement but Aspire Capital does not presently beneficially own those shares as determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC.

## PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The common stock may be sold or distributed from time to time by the selling stockholder directly to one or more purchasers or through brokers, dealers, or underwriters who may act solely as agents at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to the prevailing market prices, at negotiated prices, or at fixed prices, which may be changed. The sale of the common stock offered by this prospectus may be effected in one or more of the following methods:

- ordinary brokers' transactions;
- transactions involving cross or block trades;
- through brokers, dealers, or underwriters who may act solely as agents;
- "at the market" into an existing market for the common stock;
- in other ways not involving market makers or established business markets, including direct sales to purchasers or sales effected through agents;
- in privately negotiated transactions; or
- any combination of the foregoing.

In order to comply with the securities laws of certain states, if applicable, the shares may be sold only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in certain states, the shares may not be sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and complied with.

The selling stockholder may transfer the shares of common stock by other means not described in this prospectus.

Brokers, dealers, underwriters, or agents participating in the distribution of the shares as agents may receive compensation in the form of commissions, discounts, or concessions from the selling stockholder and/or purchasers of the common stock for whom the broker-dealers may act as agent. Aspire Capital has informed us that each such broker-dealer will receive commissions from Aspire Capital which will not exceed customary brokerage commissions.

The selling stockholder and its affiliates have agreed not to engage in any direct or indirect short selling or hedging of our common stock during the term of the Purchase Agreement.

The selling stockholder is an "underwriter" within the meaning of the Securities Act. We have agreed to provide indemnification and contribution to the selling stockholder against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

We have advised the selling stockholder that while it is engaged in a distribution of the shares included in this prospectus, it is required to comply with Regulation M promulgated under the Exchange Act. With certain exceptions, Regulation M precludes the selling stockholder, any affiliated purchasers, and any broker-dealer or other person who participates in the distribution from bidding for or purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of the distribution until the entire distribution is complete. Regulation M also prohibits any bids or purchases made in order to stabilize the price of a security in connection with the distribution of that security. All of the foregoing may affect the marketability of the shares offered hereby this prospectus.

We may suspend the sale of shares by the selling stockholder pursuant to this prospectus for certain periods of time for certain reasons, including if the prospectus is required to be supplemented or amended to include additional material information.

This offering as it relates to Aspire Capital will terminate on the date that all shares offered by this prospectus have been sold by Aspire Capital.

## LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the common stock offered hereby is being passed upon for us by Cooley LLP, San Diego, California.

## EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2019, as set forth in their report (which contains an explanatory paragraph describing conditions that raise substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern as described in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements), which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement. Our financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's report, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-1 under the Securities Act, with respect to the common stock being offered by this prospectus. This prospectus does not contain all of the information in the registration statement and its exhibits. For further information with respect to us and the securities offered by this prospectus, we refer you to the registration statement and its exhibits. Statements contained in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract or any other document referred to are not necessarily complete, and in each instance, we refer you to the copy of the contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement. Each of these statements is qualified in all respects by this reference.

We are subject to the information and periodic reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, and we file periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You can read our SEC filings, including the registration statement, over the Internet at the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). You may also request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing us at 4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 800, San Diego, California 92122 or telephoning us at (858) 550-0780. We also maintain a website at [www.traconpharma.com](http://www.traconpharma.com), at which you may access these materials free of charge after they are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC. The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, our website is not incorporated by reference in, and is not part of, this prospectus.

## INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information from other documents that we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus and the registration statement of which this prospectus form a part the information or documents listed below that we have filed with the SEC, and any future filings we will make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of the initial filing of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and prior to effectiveness of such registration statement, and until the termination of the offering of the shares covered by this prospectus (other than information furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K):

- our Annual Report on [Form 10-K](#) for the year ended December 31, 2019 filed with the SEC on February 28, 2020;
- our Quarterly Report on [Form 10-Q](#) for the quarter ended March 31, 2020 filed with the SEC on May 13, 2020;

- our Definitive Proxy Statement on [Schedule 14A](#) (other than information furnished rather than filed) filed with the SEC on April 24, 2020;
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K (other than information furnished rather than filed) filed with the SEC on [January 13, 2020](#), [February 7, 2020](#), [February 28, 2020](#), [March 10, 2020](#), [March 13, 2020](#), [March 19, 2020](#), [April 15, 2020](#), [April 24, 2020](#), [May 4, 2020](#), [May 14, 2020](#), and [June 11, 2020](#); and
- the description of our common stock which is registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act, in our registration statement on [Form 8-A](#), filed on January 27, 2015, including any amendments or reports filed for the purposes of updating such description.

Any statement contained in this prospectus or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or any other subsequently filed document that is deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus modifies or supersedes the statement. Any statements so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We will furnish without charge to you, on written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, including exhibits to these documents. You should direct any requests for documents to TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 800, San Diego, California 92122; telephone: (858) 550-0780.

You also may access these filings on our website at [www.traconpharma.com](http://www.traconpharma.com). We do not incorporate the information on our website into this prospectus or any supplement to this prospectus and you should not consider any information on, or that can be accessed through, our website as part of this prospectus or any supplement to this prospectus (other than those filings with the SEC that we specifically incorporate by reference into this prospectus).

#### **DISCLOSURE OF COMMISSION POSITION ON INDEMNIFICATION FOR SECURITIES ACT LIABILITY**

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to our directors, officers and controlling persons, we have been advised that in the opinion of the SEC this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore, unenforceable.

**6,192,087 Shares**

**Common Stock**

**PROSPECTUS**

, 2020

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## PART II

### INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

#### Item 13. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution

The following table sets forth the expenses to be incurred in connection with the offering described in this registration statement, all of which will be paid by the registrant. All amounts are estimates except the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration fee.

	<b>Amount</b>
SEC registration fee	\$ 1,527
Accounting fees and expenses	10,000
Legal fees and expenses	50,000
Printing and miscellaneous expenses	5,000
Total expenses	\$ 66,527

#### Item 14. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

We are incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides that a Delaware corporation may indemnify any persons who were, are, or are threatened to be made, parties to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of such corporation), by reason of the fact that such person is or was an officer, director, employee or agent of such corporation, or is or was serving at the request of such corporation as an officer, director, employee or agent of another corporation or enterprise. The indemnity may include expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, provided that such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the corporation's best interests and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was illegal. A Delaware corporation may indemnify any persons who were, are, or are threatened to be made, a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of such corporation, or is or was serving at the request of such corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or enterprise. The indemnity may include expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit provided such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the corporation's best interests except that no indemnification is permitted without judicial approval if the officer or director is adjudged to be liable to the corporation. Where an officer or director is successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any action referred to above, the corporation must indemnify him or her against the expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws provide for the indemnification of our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted under the Delaware General Corporation Law.

Section 102(b)(7) of the Delaware General Corporation Law permits a corporation to provide in its certificate of incorporation that a director of the corporation shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duties as a director, except for liability for any:

- transaction from which the director derives an improper personal benefit;
- act or omission not in good faith or that involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- unlawful payment of dividends or redemption of shares; or
- breach of a director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation includes such a provision. Expenses incurred by any officer or director in defending any such action, suit or proceeding in advance of its final disposition will be paid by us upon

delivery to us of an undertaking, by or on behalf of such director or officer, to repay all amounts so advanced if it shall ultimately be determined that such director or officer is not entitled to be indemnified by us.

Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides, among other things, that a director who willfully or negligently approves of an unlawful payment of dividends or an unlawful stock purchase or redemption, may be held liable for such actions. A director who was either absent when the unlawful actions were approved or dissented at the time may avoid liability by causing his or her dissent to such actions to be entered in the books containing minutes of the meetings of the board of directors at the time such action occurred or immediately after such absent director receives notice of the unlawful acts.

As permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, we have entered into, and continue to enter, into separate indemnity agreements with each of our directors and executive officers that require us to indemnify such persons against any and all costs and expenses (including attorneys', witness or other professional fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such persons in connection with any action, suit or proceeding (including derivative actions), whether actual or threatened, to which any such person may be made a party by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director or officer or is or was acting or serving as an officer, director, employee or agent of ours or any of our affiliated enterprises. Under these agreements, we are not required to provide indemnification for certain matters, including:

- indemnification beyond that permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law;
- indemnification for any proceeding with respect to the unlawful payment of remuneration to the director or officer;
- indemnification for certain proceedings involving a final judgment that the director or officer is required to disgorge profits from the purchase or sale of our stock;
- indemnification for proceedings involving a final judgment that the director's or officer's conduct was in bad faith, knowingly fraudulent or deliberately dishonest or constituted willful misconduct or a breach of his or her duty of loyalty, but only to the extent of such specific determination;
- indemnification for proceedings or claims brought by an officer or director against us or any of our directors, officers, employees or agents, except for (1) claims to establish a right of indemnification or proceedings, (2) claims approved by our board of directors, (3) claims required by law, (4) when there has been a change of control as defined in the indemnification agreement with each director or officer, or (5) by us in our sole discretion pursuant to the powers vested to us under the Delaware General Corporate Law;
- indemnification for settlements the director or officer enters into without our consent; or
- indemnification in violation of any undertaking required by the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), or in any registration statement we file.

The indemnification agreements also set forth certain procedures that will apply in the event of a claim for indemnification thereunder.

There is at present no pending litigation or proceeding involving any of our directors or executive officers as to which indemnification is required or permitted, and we are not currently aware of any threatened litigation or proceeding that may result in a claim for indemnification.

We have an insurance policy in place that covers our officers and directors with respect to certain liabilities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act or otherwise.

#### **Item 15. Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities**

The following list sets forth information regarding all unregistered securities issued by us since January 1, 2017 through the date of the prospectus that is a part of this registration statement:

- (1) In January 2017, we entered into a second amendment to an amended and restated loan and security agreement with Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) under which SVB provided us with an \$8.0 million loan, and in

connection with the loan, we issued SVB a warrant to purchase 4,669 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$51.40 per share.

- (2) On March 14, 2017, we issued 22,223 shares of our common stock at \$45.00 per share to Aspire Capital Fund, LLC (Aspire Capital), and further issued 19,573 shares of our common stock to Aspire Capital.
- (3) On March 22, 2018, we entered into a definitive securities purchase agreement with certain purchasers pursuant to which we sold an aggregate of approximately 1.2 million shares of our common stock at a purchase price of \$27.00 per share, pre-funded warrants to purchase approximately 0.2 million shares of our common stock at a purchase price of \$26.90 per share and an exercise price of \$0.10 per share, and warrants to purchase approximately 1.4 million shares of our common stock at a purchase price of \$1.25 per share and an exercise price of \$27.00 per share, for aggregate gross proceeds of approximately \$38.7 million. The pre-funded warrants are exercisable for a period of seven years and the common warrants are exercisable for a period of six years.
- (4) On May 3, 2018, we entered into a third amendment to our amended and restated loan and security agreement with SVB to borrow \$7.0 million, pursuant to which we issued warrants to purchase up to 53,639 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$2.61 per share. The warrants are fully exercisable and expire on May 3, 2025.
- (5) On October 18, 2019, we entered into the Common Stock Purchase Agreement with Aspire Capital. Pursuant to the terms of this agreement, we issued 142,658 shares of our common stock to Aspire Capital in consideration for entering into the agreement.
- (6) On March 24, 2020, in connection with a certain consulting agreement, we issued 100,000 shares of our common stock to the consultant valued at \$126,000 at an issuance price of \$1.26 per share.

The offers, sales and issuances of the securities described in this Item 15 were deemed to be exempt from registration under the Securities Act in reliance on Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act and Rule 506 promulgated under Regulation D promulgated thereunder as transactions by an issuer not involving a public offering. The recipients of securities in each of these transactions acquired the securities for investment only and not with a view to or for sale in connection with any distribution thereof and appropriate legends were affixed to the securities issued in these transactions. Each of the recipients of securities in these transactions was an accredited investor within the meaning of Rule 501 of Regulation D under the Securities Act and had adequate access, through employment, business or other relationships, to information about the Company. No underwriters were involved in these transactions.

## Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

### (a) Exhibits

Exhibit Number	Description of Document
3.1(1)	<a href="#">Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation.</a>
3.2(11)	<a href="#">Certificate of Amendment of Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation.</a>
3.3(1)	<a href="#">Amended and Restated Bylaws.</a>
4.1(2)	<a href="#">Form of Common Stock Certificate of the Registrant.</a>
4.2(2)	<a href="#">Amended and Restated Investors' Rights Agreement by and among the Registrant and certain of its stockholders, dated September 19, 2014.</a>
4.3(7)	<a href="#">Investor Agreement by and between the Registrant and Johnson &amp; Johnson Innovation-JJDC, Inc. dated September 27, 2016.</a>
4.4(7)	<a href="#">Stock Purchase Agreement by and between the Registrant and Johnson &amp; Johnson-JJDC, Inc. dated September 27, 2016.</a>

- 4.5(10) [Registration Rights Agreement, dated October 18, 2019, by and between the Registrant and Aspire Capital Fund, LLC](#)
- 4.6(13) [Securities Purchase Agreement, dated March 22, 2018, among TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and the purchasers listed on Exhibit A thereto.](#)
- 4.7(13) [Form of Pre-Funded Warrant dated March 27, 2018.](#)
- 4.8(13) [Form of Common Warrant dated March 27, 2018.](#)
- 5.1 [Opinion of Cooley LLP.](#)
- 10.1+(2) [Form of Indemnity Agreement by and between the Registrant and its directors and officers.](#)
- 10.2+(2) [TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2011 Equity Incentive Plan and Forms of Stock Option Agreement and Notice of Exercise thereunder.](#)
- 10.3+(3) [TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2015 Equity Incentive Plan and Forms of Stock Option Grant Notice, Stock Option Agreement, Notice of Exercise and Restricted Stock Unit Agreement thereunder, as amended December 14, 2015.](#)
- 10.4+(16) [TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Non-Employee Director Compensation Policy, as amended January 31, 2020.](#)
- 10.5+(4) [TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2015 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.](#)
- 10.6+(16) [TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Bonus Plan, as amended January 28, 2020.](#)
- 10.7+(15) [Amended and Restated Employment Agreement by and between the Registrant and Charles P. Theuer, M.D., Ph.D., dated February 5, 2019.](#)
- 10.8+(15) [Employment Agreement by and between the Registrant and Mark Wiggins, dated May 29, 2018.](#)
- 10.9+(15) [Severance Agreement by and between the Registrant and Mark Wiggins, dated May 29, 2018.](#)
- 10.10+(16) [Employment Agreement by and between the Registrant and Scott Brown, dated January 28, 2020.](#)
- 10.11+(16) [Severance Agreement by and between the Registrant and Scott Brown, dated December 4, 2019.](#)
- 10.12+(2) [TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Severance Plan and Summary Plan Description.](#)
- 10.13\*(2) [License Agreement by and between the Registrant and Roswell Park Cancer Institute and Health Research, Inc., dated November 1, 2005, as amended on November 12, 2009, February 11, 2010 and September 18, 2014.](#)
- 10.14\*(2) [License Agreement by and between the Registrant and Case Western Reserve University, dated August 2, 2006.](#)
- 10.15\*(4) [Amendment to License Agreement by and between the Registrant and Case Western Reserve University, dated April 3, 2015.](#)
- 10.16\*(16) [Collaboration and Clinical Trial Agreement by and among the Registrant, 3D Medicines \(Beijing\) Co., LTD. and Jiangsu Alphamab Biopharmaceuticals Co., LTD. dated December 20, 2019.](#)
- 10.17\*(9) [License and Option Agreement by and between the Registrant and Janssen Pharmaceutica N.V. dated September 27, 2016.](#)
- 10.18(2) [Warrant to Purchase Stock issued to Silicon Valley Bank on November 14, 2013.](#)
- 10.19(2) [Warrant to Purchase Stock issued to Silicon Valley Bank on June 4, 2014.](#)
- 10.20(4) [Warrant to Purchase Stock issued to Silicon Valley Bank on May 13, 2015.](#)
- 10.21(8) [Warrant to Purchase Stock issued to Silicon Valley Bank on January 25, 2017.](#)
- 10.22(13) [Warrant to Purchase Stock issued to Silicon Valley Bank on May 3, 2018.](#)
- 10.23(14) [Capital on Demand<sup>TM</sup> Sales Agreement, dated as of September 6, 2018, by and between TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and JonesTrading Institutional Services LLC.](#)
- 10.24\*(15) [Amendment One to License and Option Agreement between the Registrant and Janssen Pharmaceutica N.V. dated January 15, 2019.](#)
- 10.25(12) [Amendment No. 1 to Capital on Demand<sup>TM</sup> Sales Agreement, dated as of February 28, 2019, by and between the Registrant and JonesTrading Institutional Services LLC.](#)
- 10.26(4) [Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement by and between the Registrant and Silicon Valley Bank, dated May 13, 2015.](#)
- 10.27(6) [First Amendment to Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement by and between the Registrant and Silicon Valley Bank, dated August 9, 2016.](#)

- 10.28(8) [Second Amendment to Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement by and between the Registrant and Silicon Valley Bank, dated January 25, 2017.](#)
- 10.29(13) [Third Amendment to Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement between the Registrant and Silicon Valley Bank dated May 3, 2018.](#)
- 10.30\*(2) [Cooperative Research and Development Agreement by and between the Registrant and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as represented by National Cancer Institute, dated December 22, 2010.](#)
- 10.31(5) [Amendment #2 to Cooperative Research and Development Agreement by and between the Registrant and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as represented by National Cancer Institute, dated November 12, 2015.](#)
- 10.32\*(2) [Cooperative Research and Development Agreement by and between the Registrant and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as represented by National Cancer Institute, dated January 28, 2011, as amended on March 12, 2013.](#)
- 10.33(5) [Amendment #2 to Cooperative Research and Development Agreement by and between the Registrant and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as represented by National Cancer Institute, dated January 27, 2016.](#)
- 10.34\*(2) [Cooperative Research and Development Agreement by and between the Registrant and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as represented by National Cancer Institute, dated August 7, 2012.](#)
- 10.35\*(2) [Sponsored Research Agreement by and between the Registrant and Tufts Medical Center, Inc., dated December 16, 2014.](#)
- 10.36(12) [Common Stock Purchase Agreement, dated October 18, 2019 between TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Aspire Capital Fund, LLC.](#)
- 10.37(17) [Deferral agreement to Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement between the Registrant and Silicon Valley Bank dated April 10, 2020.](#)
- 10.38(18) [First Amendment to Common Stock Purchase Agreement, dated April 29, 2020 between TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Aspire Capital Fund, LLC](#)
- 23.1 [Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.](#)
- 23.2 [Consent of Cooley LLP \(included in Exhibit 5.1\).](#)
- 24.1 [Power of Attorney. Reference is made to the signature page hereto.](#)

+ Indicates management contract or compensatory plan.

\* Confidential treatment has been granted or requested with respect to certain portions of this exhibit. Omitted portions have been filed separately with the SEC.

- (1) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on February 4, 2015.
- (2) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-201280), as amended.
- (3) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on December 17, 2015.
- (4) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2015, filed with the SEC on May 14, 2015.
- (5) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed with the SEC on February 19, 2016.
- (6) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2016, filed with the SEC on August 11, 2016.
- (7) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2016, filed with the SEC on November 9, 2016.
- (8) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on January 31, 2017.

- (9) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q/A for the quarter ended September 30, 2016, filed with the SEC on February 16, 2017.
- (10) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on October 21, 2019.
- (11) Incorporated by reference to TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on November 6, 2019.
- (12) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2019, filed with the SEC on November 5, 2019.
- (13) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2018, filed with the SEC on May 9, 2018.
- (14) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2018, filed with the SEC on November 7, 2018.
- (15) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed with the SEC on March 1, 2019.
- (16) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed with the SEC on February 28, 2020.
- (17) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on April 15, 2020
- (18) Incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on May 4, 2020

**(b) Financial Statement Schedules**

No financial statement schedules are provided because the information called for is not required or is shown either in the financial statements or related notes, which are incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 17. Undertakings**

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

- (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
- (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and
- (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;  
*provided, however,* that the undertakings set forth in paragraphs (1)(i), (1)(ii) and (1)(iii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) that are incorporated by reference in this registration statement or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of this registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof; and

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

- (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:
- (i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
  - (ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.
- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser: (i) any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424; (ii) any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant; (iii) the portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and (iv) any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.
- (6) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (7) That for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, (i) the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of the registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in the form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be a part of the registration statement as of the time it was declared effective; and (ii) each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted for our directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation or Amended and Restated Bylaws, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses

incurred or paid by a director, officer, or controlling person in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer, or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by the registrant is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of San Diego, State of California on June 30, 2020.

**TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**

By:           /s/ Charles P. Theuer, M.D., Ph.D.            
Charles P. Theuer, M.D., Ph.D.  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Charles P. Theuer, M.D., Ph.D. and Scott B. Brown, CPA, and each and either of them, his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, each with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place, and stead, in any and all capacities, to (i) act on, sign and file with the Securities and Exchange Commission any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this registration statement together with all schedules and exhibits thereto and any subsequent registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, together with all schedules and exhibits thereto, (ii) act on, sign and file such certificates, instruments, agreements and other documents as may be necessary or appropriate in connection therewith, (iii) act on and file any supplement to any prospectus included in this registration statement or any such amendment or any subsequent registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and (iv) take any and all actions which may be necessary or appropriate to be done, as fully for all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or their or his substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on the dates indicated.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>          /s/ Charles P. Theuer, M.D., Ph.D.          </u> Charles P. Theuer, M.D., Ph.D.	President, Chief Executive Officer and Member of the Board of Directors <i>(Principal Executive and Financial Officer)</i>	June 30, 2020
<u>          /s/ Scott B. Brown, CPA                  </u> Scott B. Brown, CPA	Chief Accounting Officer <i>(Principal Accounting Officer)</i>	June 30, 2020
<u>          /s/ William R. LaRue                    </u> William R. LaRue	Member of the Board of Directors	June 30, 2020
<u>          /s/ Martin A. Mattingly, Pharm. D.      </u> Martin A. Mattingly, Pharm.D.	Member of the Board of Directors	June 30, 2020

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<u>/s/ Sandra Pelletier</u> Sandra Pelletier	Member of the Board of Directors	June 30, 2020
<u>/s/ J. Rainer Twiford, J.D., Ph.D.</u> J. Rainer Twiford, J.D., Ph.D.	Member of the Board of Directors	June 30, 2020
<u>/s/ Paul Walker</u> Paul Walker	Member of the Board of Directors	June 30, 2020
<u>/s/ Stephen T. Worland, Ph.D.</u> Stephen T. Worland, Ph.D.	Member of the Board of Directors	June 30, 2020



SEAN M. CLAYTON  
+1 858 550 6034  
sclayton@cooley.com

June 30, 2020

TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92122

Ladies and Gentlemen:

You have requested our opinion with respect to certain matters in connection with the filing by TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "**Company**"), of a Registration Statement on Form S-1 (the "**Registration Statement**") with the Securities and Exchange Commission, covering the registration for resale of up to 6,192,087 shares (the "**Shares**") of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.001 (the "**Common Stock**") that may be issued from time to time pursuant to a Common Stock Purchase Agreement dated October 18, 2019 (the "**Purchase Agreement**"), between the Company and Aspire Capital Fund, LLC.

In connection with this opinion, we have examined and relied upon the Registration Statement and related prospectus, the Company's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and its Amended and Restated Bylaws, each as currently in effect, the Purchase Agreement and originals or copies certified to our satisfaction of such other records, documents, certificates, memoranda and other instruments as in our judgment are necessary or appropriate to enable us to render the opinion expressed below.

We have assumed the genuineness and authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conformity to originals of all documents submitted to us as copies thereof and the due execution and delivery of all documents by all persons other than the Company where due execution and delivery are a prerequisite to the effectiveness thereof. As to certain factual matters, including without limitation the receipt by the Company of the purchase price for the Shares as provided in the Purchase Agreement, we have relied upon a certificate of an officer of the Company and have not sought independently to verify such matters.

We have assumed (i) that each sale of Shares will be duly authorized by the Board of Directors of the Company, a duly authorized committee thereof or a person or body pursuant to an authorization granted in accordance with Section 152 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the "**DGCL**"), (ii) the gross sales price of the Shares to be sold under the Purchase Agreement will not exceed \$15,000,000, and (iii) that the price at which the Shares are sold will equal or exceed the par value of the Common Stock. We express no opinion to the extent that future issuances of securities of the Company and/or anti-dilution adjustments to outstanding securities of the Company cause the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding or issuable upon conversion or exercise of outstanding securities of the Company to exceed the number of Shares then issuable under the Purchase Agreement.

Our opinion is expressed only with respect to the DGCL. We express no opinion as to whether the laws of any particular jurisdiction are applicable to the subject matter hereof. We are not rendering any opinion as to compliance with any federal or state antifraud law, rule or regulation relating to securities, or to the sale or issuance thereof.

On the basis of the foregoing, and in reliance thereon, we are of the opinion that the Shares, when sold and issued by the Company in accordance with the Registration Statement and the terms of the Purchase Agreement, will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

Cooley LLP 4401 Eastgate Mall San Diego, CA 92121  
t: (858) 550-6000 f: (858) 550-6420 cooley.com

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We consent to the reference to our firm under the caption "Legal Matters" in the Registration Statement and in the related prospectus and to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement.

Sincerely,

Cooley LLP

By: /s/ Sean M. Clayton  
Sean M. Clayton

Cooley LLP 4401 Eastgate Mall San Diego, CA 92121  
t: (858) 550-6000 f: (858) 550-6420 cooley.com

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We consent to the reference to our firm under the caption “Experts” in the Registration Statement (Form S-1) and related Prospectus of TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. for the registration of 6,192,087 shares of its common stock and to the incorporation by reference therein of our report dated February 27, 2020, with respect to the consolidated financial statements of TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc. included in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2019, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

San Diego, California  
June 30, 2020