CURIS INC Form DEF 14A April 19, 2011 Table of Contents

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant x

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant "

Check the appropriate box:

- " Preliminary Proxy Statement
- " Confidential, For Use of the Commission

- " Definitive Additional Materials
 - " Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

x Definitive Proxy Statement

CURIS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

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- x No fee required.
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 - (1) Amount previously paid:
 - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
 - (3) Filing Party:
 - (4) Date Filed:

CURIS, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD JUNE 1, 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of stockholders of Curis, Inc. will be held on June 1, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, 60 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109 for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following matters:

- 1. To elect three Class III directors, each for a term of three years;
- 2. To ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year;
- 3. To approve an advisory vote on executive compensation; and

4. To hold an advisory vote on the frequency of future executive compensation advisory votes. The stockholders will also act on any other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The board of directors has fixed the close of business on April 4, 2011 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting and at any adjournments thereof. Your vote is important regardless of the number of shares you own. Our stock transfer books will remain open for the purchase and sale of our common stock.

In accordance with rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, we are now furnishing proxy materials to many of our stockholders on the Internet, rather than mailing paper copies of the materials to each stockholder. If you received only a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, or Notice, by mail or e-mail, you will not receive a paper copy of the proxy materials unless you request one. Instead, the Notice will provide you with instructions on how to access and view the proxy materials on the Internet. The Notice will also instruct you as to how you may access your proxy card to vote over the Internet or by telephone. If you received a Notice by mail or e-mail and would like to receive a paper copy of our proxy materials, free of charge, please follow the instructions included in the Notice.

The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials is being mailed to our stockholders on or about April 20, 2011 and sent by e-mail to our stockholders who have opted for such means of delivery on or about April 20, 2011.

Please promptly submit your proxy over the Internet, by phone or by mail. You may revoke your proxy at any time before the 2011 Annual Meeting by following the procedures described in the proxy statement.

All stockholders are cordially invited to attend the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Michael P. Gray

Michael P. Gray, Secretary

Lexington, Massachusetts

April 20, 2011

Table of Contents

WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, WE URGE YOU TO VOTE YOUR SHARES OVER THE INTERNET OR BY TELEPHONE, OR COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD IN THE ACCOMPANYING ENVELOPE. NO POSTAGE NEED BE AFFIXED IF THE PROXY CARD IS MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTING	1
SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT	5
PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS	8
Directors and Nominees for Director	8
Board Recommendation	11
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE	12
Corporate Governance Guidelines	12
Determination of Independence	12
Board Meetings and Attendance	12
Board Leadership Structure	13
Board s Role in Risk Oversight	13
Board Committees	13
Executive and Director Compensation Processes	15
Risks Arising From Compensation Policies and Practices	16
Director Nomination Process	16
Communicating with the Independent Directors	16
Code of Business Conduct and Ethics	17
Policies and Procedures for Related Person Transactions	17
Audit Committee Report	18
Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm s Fees and Other Matters	19
EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR COMPENSATION AND RELATED MATTERS	20
Compensation Discussion and Analysis	20
Summary Compensation Table	31
Grants of Plan-Based Awards	32
Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End	33
Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control	37
Director Compensation Table	39
Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans	42
Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation	42
Compensation Committee Report	42
PROPOSAL 2 RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	43
Board Recommendation	43
PROPOSAL 3 ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION	44
Board Recommendation	45
PROPOSAL 4 ADVISORY VOTE ON THE FREQUENCY OF FUTURE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION ADVISORY VOTES	46
Board Recommendation	40 46
OTHER MATTERS	46
Stockholder Proposals for 2012 Annual Meeting	47
Solicitation of Proxies	47
Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance	47
Householding of Annual Meeting Materials	47

CURIS, INC.

4 Maguire Road

Lexington, Massachusetts 02421

PROXY STATEMENT FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held on June 1, 2011

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTING

This proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the board of directors of Curis, Inc. of proxies for use at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held on June 1, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the offices of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, 60 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109 and at any adjournments thereof. Except where the context otherwise requires, references to Curis, we, us, our, and similar terms refer to Curis, Inc. and any of its subsidiaries.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for

the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be Held on June 1, 2011:

The proxy statement is available at www.proxyvote.com.

In accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, rules, instead of mailing a printed copy of our proxy materials to each stockholder of record, we are furnishing the proxy materials, including this proxy statement, our 2010 annual report and the proxy card for the 2011 annual meeting, to many of our stockholders of record as of the record date via the Internet. We will send the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to these stockholders no later than April 22, 2011. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials contains instructions for accessing and reviewing our proxy materials as well as instructions for voting your proxy via the Internet. If you prefer to receive printed copies of the proxy materials, you can request printed copies of the proxy card, (ii) vote via the Internet in accordance with the instructions on the proxy card or (iii) vote via telephone (toll free) in the United States or Canada in accordance with the instructions on the proxy card or telephone must be completed by 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time on May 31, 2011. If you choose not to receive printed copies of the proxy materials, you can vote via the Internet in accordance with the instructions contained in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials.

If you received a paper copy of these proxy materials, included with such copy is a proxy card or a voter instruction card for the annual meeting.

What is the purpose of the annual meeting?

At the annual meeting, stockholders will consider and vote on the following matters:

- 1. The election of three Class III directors for a term of three years expiring at the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders;
- 2. The ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2011;
- 3. The approval of an advisory vote on executive compensation;

4. The holding of an advisory vote on the frequency of future executive compensation advisory votes; and

5. The transaction of other business, if any, that may properly come before the annual meeting or any adjournment of the meeting. **Who can vote?**

To be able to vote on the above matters, you must have been a stockholder of record at the close of business on April 4, 2011, the record date for the annual meeting. The number of shares entitled to vote at the meeting is 76,349,956 shares of our common stock, which is the number of shares that were issued and outstanding on the record date.

How many votes do I have?

Each share of our common stock that you owned on the record date entitles you to one vote on each matter that is voted on.

Is my vote important?

Your vote is important regardless of how many shares you own. Please take the time to read the instructions below and vote. Choose the method of voting that is easiest and most convenient for you and please cast your vote as soon as possible.

How can I vote?

Stockholder of record: Shares registered in your name. If you are a stockholder of record, that is, your shares are registered in your own name, not in street name by a bank or brokerage firm, then you can vote in any one of the following two ways:

- *1.* You may vote over the Internet. If you have Internet access, you may vote your shares from any location in the world at www.proxyvote.com, by following the instructions on that site or on the Vote by Internet instructions on the enclosed proxy card.
- 2. You may vote by telephone. You may vote your shares by calling 1-800-6903 and following the instructions provided, or following the Vote by Phone instructions on the enclosed proxy card.
- 3. You may vote by mail. To vote by mail, you need to complete, date and sign the proxy card that accompanies this proxy statement and promptly mail it in the enclosed postage-prepaid envelope. You do not need to put a stamp on the enclosed envelope if you mail it in the United States. The persons named in the proxy card will vote the shares you own in accordance with your instructions on the proxy card you mail. If you return the proxy card, but do not give any instructions on a particular matter described in this proxy statement, the persons named in the proxy card will vote the shares you own in accordance with the recommendations of our board of directors. Our board of directors recommends that you vote FOR proposals 1, 2 and 3 and that you vote for a frequency of every three years on proposal 4.
- 4. You may vote in person. If you attend the annual meeting, you may vote by delivering your completed proxy card in person or you may vote by completing a ballot at the meeting. Ballots will be available at the meeting.

Beneficial owner: Shares held in street name. If the shares you own are held in street name by a bank or brokerage firm, then your bank or brokerage firm, as the record holder of your shares, is required to vote your shares according to your instructions. In order to vote your shares, you will need to follow the directions your bank or brokerage firm provides you. Many banks and brokerage firms also offer the option of voting over the Internet or by telephone, instructions for which would be provided by your bank or brokerage firm on your vote instruction form. If you do not give instructions to your bank or brokerage firm, it will still be able to vote your shares with respect to certain discretionary items, but will not be allowed to vote your shares with respect to certain non-discretionary items. The ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm is considered to be a discretionary item on which banks and brokerage firms may vote. The election of directors, the advisory vote on executive compensation and the advisory vote on the frequency of future executive compensation advisory votes are considered to be non-discretionary items on which banks and brokerage firm will not be able to vote on **your behalf with respect to these three proposals.** In the case of non-discretionary items, the shares will be treated as broker non-votes. *Broker non-votes* are shares that are held in street name by a bank or brokerage firm that indicates on its proxy that it does not have discretionary authority to vote on a particular matter.

If you wish to come to the meeting to personally vote your shares held in street name, you will need to obtain a proxy card from the holder of record (i.e., your brokerage firm or bank).

Can I change my vote after I have mailed my proxy card?

Yes. If you are a stockholder of record, you can change your vote and revoke your proxy at any time before the polls close at the annual meeting by doing any one of the following things:

signing and returning another proxy card with a later date;

giving our corporate secretary a written notice before or at the meeting that you want to revoke your proxy; or

voting in person at the meeting. Your attendance at the meeting alone will not revoke your proxy.

If you own shares in street name, your bank or brokerage firm should provide you with appropriate instructions for changing your vote.

What constitutes a quorum?

In order for business to be conducted at the meeting, a quorum must be present. A quorum consists of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock issued, outstanding and entitled to vote at the meeting, that is, at least 38,174,979 shares.

Shares of our common stock represented in person or by proxy (including broker non-votes and shares that abstain or do not vote with respect to one or more of the matters to be voted upon) will be counted for the purpose of determining whether a quorum exists.

If a quorum is not present, the meeting will be adjourned until a quorum is obtained.

What vote is required for each item?

Election of Directors (Proposal 1). The affirmative vote of the holders of a plurality of the votes cast by the stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting is required for the election of directors.

Other Matters. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the votes cast will be required for: approval of the ratification of the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm (Proposal 2); approval of the advisory vote on executive compensation (Proposal 3); and approval of one of the three frequency options under the advisory vote on the frequency of future executive compensation advisory votes (Proposal 4).

How will votes be counted?

Each share of common stock will be counted as one vote, whether executed by you directly or on a ballot voted in person at the meeting.

Shares that abstain from voting and broker non-votes will not be counted as votes in favor of, or with respect to, any of the proposals and will also not be counted as votes cast. Accordingly, abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of any of the proposals. With respect to Proposal 4, if none of the three frequency options receives the vote of the holders of a majority of the votes cast, we will consider the frequency option (one year, two years or three years) receiving the highest number of votes cast by stockholders to be the frequency that has been recommended by stockholders. However, as described in more detail in Proposal 4, because this proposal is non-binding, our board of directors may decide that it is in the best interests of our stockholders and Curis to hold future executive compensation advisory votes more or less frequently.

Who will count the votes?

Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. will count, tabulate and certify the votes.

How does the board of directors recommend that I vote on the proposals?

Our board of directors recommends that you vote:

FOR the election of three Class III directors for a term of three years expiring at the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders;

FOR the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2011 fiscal year;

FOR the approval of the compensation of our named executive officers; and

FOR a frequency of three years for how frequently you prefer we conduct an advisory vote of stockholders on the compensation of our named executive officers.

Will any other business be conducted at the annual meeting or will other matters be voted on?

We are not aware of any other business to be conducted or matters to be voted upon at the meeting. If any other matter properly comes before the meeting, the persons named in the proxy card that accompanies this proxy

statement will exercise their judgment in deciding how to vote, or otherwise act, at the meeting with respect to that matter or proposal. Our bylaws establish the process for a stockholder to bring a matter before a meeting. See Stockholder Proposals for 2012 Annual Meeting on page 47 of this proxy statement.

Where can I find the voting results?

We will report the voting results from the annual meeting in a Form 8-K filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, within four business days following the annual meeting.

Who bears the costs of soliciting proxies?

We will bear the costs of soliciting proxies. In addition to solicitations by mail, our directors, officers and regular employees may, without additional remuneration, solicit proxies by telephone, facsimile and personal interviews. We will also request brokerage houses, custodians, nominees and fiduciaries to forward copies of the proxy material to those persons for whom they hold shares and request instructions for voting the proxies. We will reimburse such brokerage houses and other persons for their reasonable expenses in connection with this distribution.

How can I obtain a copy of Curis Annual Report on Form 10-K?

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K is available in the Investors section of our website at www.curis.com. Alternatively, if you would like us to send you a copy, without charge, please contact:

Curis, Inc.

4 Maguire Road

Lexington, MA 02421

Attention: Secretary

(617) 503-6500

If you would like us to send you a copy of the exhibits listed on the exhibit index of the Annual Report on Form 10-K, we will do so upon your payment of our reasonable expenses in furnishing a requested exhibit.

Whom should I contact if I have any questions?

If you have any questions about the annual meeting or your ownership of our common stock, please contact our secretary at the address, telephone number listed above.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth certain information, as of December 31, 2010, with respect to the beneficial ownership of shares of our common stock by:

each person known to us to beneficially own more than 5% of the outstanding shares of common stock,

each director named in this proxy statement,

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each of the principal executive officer, the principal financial officer, the three other most highly compensated executive officers who were serving as executive officers on December 31, 2010, and

all directors and executive officers as a group.

The number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by each person is determined under rules promulgated by the SEC. Under these rules, a person is deemed to have beneficial ownership of any shares over which that person has voting or investment power, or shares such power, plus any shares that the person may acquire within 60 days, including through the exercise of stock options. For each person named in the table, the number in the Shares Acquirable Within 60 Days column consists of shares underlying stock options or warrants that may be exercised within 60 days after December 31, 2010. Unless otherwise indicated, each person in the table has sole voting and investment power over the shares listed. The inclusion in the table of any shares does not constitute an admission of beneficial ownership of those shares by the named stockholder. For each person, the Number of Shares Beneficially Owned column may include shares of common stock attributable to the person due to that person s voting or investment power or other relationship.

Unless otherwise indicated, the address for each of the stockholders in the table below is c/o Curis, Inc., 4 Maguire Road, Lexington, Massachusetts 02421.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned (1)	+	Shares Acquirable Within 60 Days	=	Total Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Common Stock Beneficially Owned (2)
5% Stockholder:						
First Eagle Investment Management, LLC (3)	17,386,067		245,073		17,631,140	23.2%
BlackRock, Inc. (4)	4,262,432				4,262,432	5.6%
Directors and Executive Officers:						
James R. McNab, Jr. (5)	1,130,663		695,000		1,825,663	2.4%
Susan B. Bayh	20,000		306,250		326,250	*
Joseph M. Davie, Ph.D., M.D.	20,000		305,000		325,000	*
Martyn D. Greenacre	35,138		430,000		465,138	*
Kenneth I. Kaitin, Ph.D.	20,000		165,000		185,000	*
Marc Rubin, M.D.	26,596		25,000		51,596	*
James R. Tobin (6)	92,477		480,000		572,477	*
Daniel R. Passeri	65,000		2,982,149		3,047,149	3.9%
Michael P. Gray	86,613		1,198,094		1,284,707	1.7%
Changgeng Qian, Ph.D., M.D.	5,014		877,000		882,014	1.2%
Mark W. Noel	27,540		721,035		748,575	*
Mitchell Keegan, Ph.D.			181,875		181,875	*
All current directors and executive officers as						
a group (12 persons)	1,529,041		8,366,403		9,895,444	11.8%

* Less than 1% of the outstanding common stock.

(1) None of our directors or named executive officers have pledged any of their shares as security.

(2) The percent of ownership for each stockholder on December 31, 2010 is calculated by dividing (1) the stockholder s Total Beneficial Ownership (i.e., the total number of shares beneficially owned plus the shares acquirable within 60 days) by (2) the sum of 75,756,161 shares of our common stock that were outstanding on December 31, 2010 plus shares of common stock subject to options, warrants or other rights held by such person that will be exercisable within 60 days of December 31, 2010.

- (3) First Eagle Investment Management, LLC (FEIM) (formerly known as Arnhold and S. Bleichroeder Advisers, LLC), may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of 17,631,140 shares (assuming exercise of warrants to acquire 245,073 shares), or 23.2% of the shares believed to be outstanding, as a result of acting as investment adviser to various clients. 21 April Fund, Ltd., a Cayman Islands company for which FEIM acts as investment adviser, may be deemed to beneficially own 6,563,573 of the 17,631,140 shares (assuming exercise of warrants to acquire 68,250 shares). First Eagle Value in Biotechnology Master Fund, Ltd., a Cayman Islands company for which FEIM acts as investment adviser, may be deemed to beneficially own 5,463,162 of the 17,631,140 shares (assuming exercise of warrants to acquire 70,073 shares). This information is based on a Schedule 13G/A filed on March 16, 2011 by FEIM. The principal business address of FEIM is 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10105.
- (4) This information is based on a Schedule 13G filed on February 4, 2011 by BlackRock, Inc., the parent holding company of BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A., BlackRock Fund Advisors, BlackRock Advisors LLC, and BlackRock Investment Management LLC. The principal business address of BlackRock, Inc. is 40 East 52nd Street, New York, New York 10022.
- (5) Consists of 799,688 shares held directly by Mr. McNab, 130,975 shares held by the McNab Family LLC, and 200,000 shares held by the JR & MW McNab Operating LP.
- (6) Includes 46,239 shares of common stock and options to purchase 227,500 shares of common stock that Mr. Tobin transferred pursuant to a property settlement agreement by and between Mr. Tobin and his spouse that was approved on October 4, 2010. Mr. Tobin disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares.

PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Directors and Nominees for Directors

Our board of directors is divided into three classes, with one class being elected each year and members of each class holding office for a three-year term. Our board of directors currently consists of three Class III directors, Susan B. Bayh, Martyn D. Greenacre and Kenneth I. Kaitin, two Class I directors, James R. McNab, Jr. and James R. Tobin, and three Class II directors, Joseph M. Davie, Daniel R. Passeri and Marc Rubin. The Class III, Class I and Class II, directors will serve until the annual meetings of stockholders to be held in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively, and until their respective successors are elected and qualified. At the Annual Meeting, Class III directors will stand for election.

Our board of directors has nominated Ms. Bayh, Mr. Greenacre and Dr. Kaitin as nominees for election as Class III directors, each to serve for three-year terms, until the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders or until their respective successors are elected and qualified. Each of the nominees is currently serving as a director. All of the nominees have indicated their willingness to serve, if elected; however, if any nominee should be unable to serve, the shares of common stock represented by proxies will be voted for a substitute nominee designated by the board of directors.

For each member of the board whose term of office as a director continues after the meeting, including those who are nominees for election as Class III directors, there follows information given by each concerning his or her principal occupation and business experience for at least the past five years, the names of other publicly-held companies for which he or she serves as a director or has served as a director during the past five years, his or her age and length of service as our director and the specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that led to the conclusion that the person should serve as a director of Curis. There are no familial relationships among any of our directors, nominees for director and executive officers. In addition to the detailed information presented below for each of our directors, we also believe that each of our directors is qualified to serve on our board and has the integrity, business acumen, knowledge and industry experience, diligence, freedom from conflicts of interest and the ability to act in the interests of our stockholders.

The following table sets forth our directors and their respective ages and positions as of December 31, 2010:

Name	Age	Position
Susan B. Bayh (1)(3)	51	Director
Joseph M. Davie, Ph.D., M.D.	71	Director
Martyn D. Greenacre (2)(3)	69	Director
Kenneth I. Kaitin, Ph.D. (1)(2)	57	Director
James R. McNab, Jr. (3)	66	Chairman of the Board
Daniel R. Passeri	50	President and Chief Executive Officer, Director
Marc Rubin, M.D. (2)	55	Director
James R. Tobin (1)	66	Director

(1) Member of the compensation committee.

(2) Member of the nominating and corporate governance committee.

(3) Member of the audit committee.

Susan B. Bayh has served on our board since October 2000. From 1994 to 2001, Ms. Bayh served as the Commissioner of the International Commission between the United States and Canada, overseeing compliance with environmental and water level treaties for the United States-Canadian border. From 1994 to 2004, Ms. Bayh also served as Distinguished Visiting Professor at the College of Business Administration at Butler University. From 1989 to 1994, Ms. Bayh served as an attorney in the Pharmaceutical Division of Eli Lilly and Company, a pharmaceutical company. Ms. Bayh serves as a director of Dyax Corporation, Dendreon Corporation, Wellpoint, Inc. and Emmis Communications Corporation. Previously, within the past five years, Ms. Bayh served as a director of Nastech Pharmaceutical Company Inc. and MDRNA, Inc. Ms. Bayh received a J.D. from the University of Southern California Law Center and a B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley. We believe that Ms. Bayh s qualifications to serve on our board include her experience in regulatory and compliance matters as well as her considerable experience as a director of other public companies, including companies that are focused on the research and development of cancer therapies.