IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
Form S-3
April 21, 2006

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 21, 2006
Registration Statement No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	**04-3072298**
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

345 Vassar Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
(617) 679-5500
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant s principal executive offices)

Sudhir Agrawal, D. Phil.
Chief Executive Officer
Idera Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
345 Vassar Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
(617) 679-5500
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:
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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to public: As soon as practicable after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. o

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, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. þ

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. o___.

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. o___.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. o

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. o

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Shares to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share (2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, $0.001 par value per share	6,093,750	$ 0.65	$ 3,960,938	$ 424

(1) Consists of (a) 6,093,750 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of common stock purchase warrants and (b) additional shares, of a currently indeterminable amount, as may from time to time become issuable by reason of stock splits, stock dividends and other similar transactions, which shares are registered hereunder pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act.

(2) Estimated solely for purposes of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act and based upon the average of the high and low prices on the American Stock Exchange on April 19, 2006.

The Company hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Company shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), shall determine.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. The selling stockholder named in this prospectus 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 named in this prospectus is not soliciting offers to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to completion, dated April 21, 2006

PROSPECTUS

IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

6,093,750 SHARES OF COMMON STOCK

This prospectus relates to the resale from time to time of up to 6,093,750 shares of common stock of Idera Pharmaceuticals, Inc. by the selling stockholder identified in this prospectus. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares offered by this prospectus.

The selling stockholder identified in this prospectus, or its pledgees, donees, transferees or other successors-in-interest, may offer the shares from time to time through public or private transactions at prevailing market prices, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at privately negotiated prices.

Our common stock is traded on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol IDP. On April 20, 2006, the closing sale price of our common stock on the American Stock Exchange was $0.65 per share. You are urged to obtain current market quotations for the common stock.

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. See Risk Factors beginning on page 2.

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

The date of this prospectus is [_____] [__], 2006.

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We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. The selling stockholder is offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, shares of 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 of any sale of common stock.

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights important features of this offering and the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. This summary may not contain all of the information that is important to you. You should read the entire prospectus carefully, including Risk Factors beginning on page 2, before deciding to invest in our common stock.

Idera Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

We are engaged in the discovery and development of novel therapeutics that modulate immune responses through Toll-like Receptors, or TLRs, for the treatment of multiple diseases. We have developed proprietary DNA- and RNA-based compounds that modulate TLRs and are targeted to TLR7, TLR8 or TLR9. We believe that these immune modulatory oligonucleotides, or IMO compounds, are broadly applicable to large and growing markets where significant unmet medical needs exist, including oncology, asthma and allergies, infectious diseases and autoimmune diseases. IMO-2055, our lead drug candidate, is a synthetic DNA-based compound, which acts as an agonist for TLR9 and triggers the activation and modulation of the immune system. IMO-2055 is currently in a Phase 2 clinical trial as a monotherapy for renal cell carcinoma and a Phase 1/2 clinical trial in combination with chemotherapy agents for solid tumors. We have selected another TLR9 agonist, IMO-2125, as a lead compound for infectious diseases. We are also collaborating with Novartis International Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., or Novartis, to develop treatments for asthma and allergies using other of our TLR9 agonist compounds. Our IMO compounds targeted to TLR7 and TLR8 are in the discovery stage.

Corporate Information

Our executive offices are located at 345 Vassar Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, our telephone number is (617) 679-5500 and our Internet address is www.iderapharma.com. The information on our Internet website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus and should not be considered to be part of this prospectus. Our website address is included in this prospectus as an inactive technical reference only. Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to Idera Pharmaceuticals, we, us, and our refer to Idera Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Idera™, Amplivax™, IMO™ and Targeted Immune Therapy™ are our trademarks. IMOxine® and GEM® are our registered trademarks. All other trademarks and service marks appearing in this registration statement are the property of their respective owners.

The Offering

Common Stock offered by selling stockholder	6,093,750 shares, consisting of 6,093,750 shares issuable upon the exercise of warrants held by the selling stockholder.
Use of proceeds	We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares in this offering.
American Stock Exchange symbol	IDP

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below in addition to the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus before purchasing our common stock. If any of the following risks actually occurs, our business, financial condition or results of operations would likely suffer, possibly materially. In that case, the trading price of our common stock could fall, and you may lose all or part of the money you paid to buy our common stock.

Risks Relating to Our Financial Results and Need for Financing

We have incurred substantial losses and expect to continue to incur losses. We will not be successful unless we reverse this trend.

We have incurred losses in every year since our inception, except for 2002 when our recognition of revenues under a license and collaboration agreement resulted in us reporting net income for that year. As of December 31, 2005, we had incurred operating losses of approximately $313.0 million. We expect to continue to incur substantial operating losses in future periods. These losses, among other things, have had and will continue to have an adverse effect on our stockholders equity, total assets and working capital.

We have received no revenues from the sale of drugs. To date, almost all of our revenues have been from collaborative and license agreements. We have devoted substantially all of our efforts to research and development, including clinical trials, and we have not completed development of any drugs. Because of the numerous risks and uncertainties associated with developing drugs, we are unable to predict the extent of any future losses, whether or when any of our products will become commercially available, or when we will become profitable, if at all.

We will need additional financing, which may be difficult to obtain. Our failure to obtain necessary financing or doing so on unattractive terms could adversely affect our discovery and development programs and other operations.

We will require substantial funds to conduct research and development, including preclinical testing and clinical trials of our drugs. We will also require substantial funds to conduct regulatory activities and to establish commercial manufacturing, marketing and sales capabilities. We believe that, based on our current operating plan, our existing cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments, together with the $8.9 million in net proceeds that we raised in March 2006 through the sale of common stock and warrants less $0.9 million in direct expenses associated with the financing commitment discussed below, will be sufficient to fund our operations through January 2007. In March 2006, we secured a commitment from an investor to purchase up to $9.8 million of our common stock upon drawdowns made at our discretion. Our ability to access this commitment and sell common stock to such investor is subject to stockholder approval of an increase in the number of authorized shares of common stock, which we plan to seek at our annual meeting of stockholders in June 2006, and the effectiveness of a registration statement covering the resale of the shares to be sold. If we are able to make drawdowns under this commitment and sell the full $9.8 million of common stock under it, we expect to have sufficient cash and investments to be able to pursue our clinical and preclinical development programs and continue operations through mid 2007.

We will need to raise additional funds to operate our business beyond such time. We believe that the key factors that will affect our ability to obtain additional funding are:

- the success of our clinical and preclinical development programs;
- the receptivity of the capital markets to financings by biotechnology companies; and
- our ability to enter into strategic collaborations with biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies and the success of such collaborations.

Additional financing may not be available to us when we need it or may not be available to us on favorable terms. We could be required to seek funds through arrangements with collaborators or others that may require us to

relinquish rights to some of our technologies, drug candidates or drugs which we would otherwise pursue on our own. In addition, if we raise additional funds by issuing equity securities, our then existing stockholders will experience dilution. The terms of any financing may adversely affect the holdings or the rights of existing stockholders. If we are unable to obtain adequate funding on a timely basis or at all, we may be required to significantly curtail one or more of our discovery or development programs. For example, we significantly curtailed expenditures on our research and development programs during 1999 and 2000 because we did not have sufficient funds available to advance these programs at planned levels.

Risks Relating to Our Business, Strategy and Industry

We are depending heavily on the success of our lead drug candidate, IMO-2055, which is in clinical development. If we are unable to commercialize this product, or experience significant delays in doing so, our business will be materially harmed.

We are investing a significant portion of our time and financial resources in the development of our lead drug candidate, IMO-2055. We anticipate that our ability to generate product revenues will depend heavily on the successful development and commercialization of this product. The commercial success of this product will depend on several factors, including the following:

acceptable safety profile during the trial and during commercial use;

successful completion of clinical trials;

receipt of marketing approvals from the FDA and equivalent foreign regulatory authorities;

establishing commercial manufacturing arrangements with third party manufacturers;

launching commercial sales of the product, whether alone or in collaboration with others; and

acceptance of the product in the medical community and with third party payors.

Our efforts to commercialize this product are at an early stage, as we are currently conducting a Phase 2 clinical trial in patients with metastatic or recurrent clear cell renal carcinoma. If we are not successful in commercializing this product, or are significantly delayed in doing so, our business will be materially harmed.

If our clinical trials are unsuccessful, or if they are significantly delayed, we may not be able to develop and commercialize our products.

We may not be able to successfully complete any clinical trial of a potential product within any specified time period. In some cases, we may not be able to complete the trial at all. Moreover, clinical trials may not show our potential products to be both safe and efficacious. Thus, the FDA and other regulatory authorities may not approve any of our potential products for any indication.

In order to obtain regulatory approvals for the commercial sale of our products, we will be required to complete extensive clinical trials in humans to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of our drug candidates. We may not be able to obtain authority from the FDA or other equivalent foreign regulatory agencies to complete these trials or commence and complete any other clinical trials.

The results from preclinical testing of a drug candidate that is under development may not be predictive of results that will be obtained in human clinical trials. In addition, the results of early human clinical trials may not be predictive of results that will be obtained in larger scale, advanced stage clinical trials. A failure of one or more of our clinical trials can occur at any stage of testing. Further, there is to date little data on the long-term clinical safety of our lead compounds under conditions of prolonged use in humans, nor on any long-term consequences subsequent to human use. We may experience numerous unforeseen events during, or as a result of, preclinical testing and the clinical trial process that could delay or inhibit our ability to receive regulatory approval or commercialize our products, including:

regulators or institutional review boards may not authorize us to commence a clinical trial or conduct a clinical trial at a prospective trial site;

our preclinical tests or clinical trials may produce negative or inconclusive results, and we may decide, or regulators may require us, to conduct additional preclinical testing or clinical trials or we may abandon projects that we expect may not be promising;

we might have to suspend or terminate our clinical trials if the participating patients are being exposed to unacceptable health risks;

regulators or institutional review boards may require that we hold, suspend or terminate clinical research for various reasons, including noncompliance with regulatory requirements;

the cost of our clinical trials may be greater than we currently anticipate; and

the effects of our products may not be the desired effects or may include undesirable side effects or the products may have other unexpected characteristics.

As an example, in 1997, after reviewing the results from the clinical trial of GEM91, a first generation antisense compound and our lead drug candidate at the time, we determined not to continue the development of GEM91 and suspended clinical trials of this product candidate.

The rate of completion of clinical trials is dependent in part upon the rate of enrollment of patients. The statistical design of our ongoing Phase 2 clinical trial of IMO-2055 in renal cell carcinoma was originally based on patients who had already failed one course of therapy, whom we refer to as second-line patients. As of October 2005, our enrollment of second-line patients was less than anticipated, whereas the enrollment of treatment-naïve patients was more than expected. As a result, the trial protocol was amended in October 2005 to accommodate statistical endpoints for both treatment-naïve and second-line patients, thus extending the completion of the trial beyond the time we expected. Patient accrual is a function of many factors, including:

the size of the patient population,

the proximity of patients to clinical sites,

the eligibility criteria for the study,

the nature of the study,

the existence of competitive clinical trials, and

the availability of alternative treatments.

Our product development costs will increase if we experience delays in our clinical trials. We do not know whether planned clinical trials will begin as planned, will need to be restructured or will be completed on schedule, if at all. Significant clinical trial delays also could allow our competitors to bring products to market before we do and impair our ability to commercialize our products.

We face substantial competition which may result in others discovering, developing or commercializing drugs before or more successfully than us.

The biotechnology industry is highly competitive and characterized by rapid and significant technological change. We face, and will continue to face, intense competition from organizations such as pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, as well as academic and research institutions and government agencies. Some of these organizations are pursuing products based on technologies similar to our technologies. Other of these organizations have developed and are marketing products, or are pursuing other technological approaches designed to produce

products, that are competitive with our product candidates in the therapeutic effect these competitive products have on diseases targeted by our product candidates. Our competitors may discover, develop or commercialize products or other novel technologies that are more effective, safer or less costly than any that we are developing. Our competitors may also obtain FDA or other regulatory approval for their products more rapidly than we may obtain approval for ours. As examples, the FDA recently approved Sutent® and Nexavar® for use in renal cell carcinoma, which is the indication for which we are evaluating IMO-2055 monotherapy in our Phase 2 trial. Two of our competitors are currently evaluating TLR9 agonists in Phase 3 clinical trials.

Many of our competitors are substantially larger than we are and have greater capital resources, research and development staffs and facilities than we have. In addition, many of our competitors are more experienced than we are in drug discovery, development and commercialization, obtaining regulatory approvals and drug manufacturing and marketing.

We anticipate that the competition with our products and technologies will be based on a number of factors including product efficacy, safety, availability and price. The timing of market introduction of our products and competitive products will also affect competition among products. We expect the relative speed with which we can develop products, complete the clinical trials and approval processes and supply commercial quantities of the products to the market to be important competitive factors. Our competitive position will also depend upon our ability to attract and retain qualified personnel, to obtain patent protection or otherwise develop proprietary products or processes and to secure sufficient capital resources for the period between technological conception and commercial sales.

Because the products that we may develop will be based on new technologies and therapeutic approaches, the market may not be receptive to these products upon their introduction.

The commercial success of any of our products for which we may obtain marketing approval from the FDA or other regulatory authorities will depend upon their acceptance by the medical community and third party payors as clinically useful, cost-effective and safe. Many of the products that we are developing are based upon technologies or therapeutic approaches that are relatively new and unproven. The FDA has not granted marketing approval to any products based on IMO technology or TLR9 agonists and no such products are currently being marketed. The FDA has also approved a small molecule against TLR7 which 3M Pharmaceuticals is selling under the name Aldara cream for the treatment of genital warts, basal cell carcinoma and actinic keratosis. As a result, it may be more difficult for us to achieve regulatory approval or market acceptance of our products. Our efforts to educate the medical community on these potentially unique approaches may require greater resources than would be typically required for products based on conventional technologies or therapeutic approaches. The safety, efficacy, convenience and cost-effectiveness of our products as compared to competitive products will also affect market acceptance.

Competition for technical and management personnel is intense in our industry, and we may not be able to sustain our operations or grow if we are unable to attract and retain key personnel.

Our success is highly dependent on the retention of principal members of our technical and management staff, including Sudhir Agrawal and Robert Karr. Dr. Agrawal serves as our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Scientific Officer. Dr. Karr serves as our President. Dr. Agrawal has made significant contributions to the field of antisense technology, and has led the development of IMO Technology. He is named as an inventor on over 230 patents and patent applications worldwide. Dr. Karr has extensive experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Drs. Agrawal and Karr provide us the leadership for management, research and development activities. The loss of either Dr. Agrawal s or Dr. Karr s services would be detrimental to our ongoing scientific progress and the execution of our business plan.

We are a party to an employment agreement with Dr. Agrawal for a term ending on October 19, 2008, subject to annual renewals. This agreement may be terminated by us or Dr. Agrawal for any reason or no reason at any time upon notice to the other party. We do not carry key man life insurance for Dr. Agrawal.

We are a party to an employment agreement with Dr. Karr for a term ending on December 5, 2007, subject to annual renewals. This agreement may be terminated by us or Dr. Karr for any reason or no reason at any time upon notice to the other party. We do not carry key man life insurance for Dr. Karr.

Furthermore, our future growth will require hiring a significant number of qualified technical and management personnel. Accordingly, recruiting and retaining such personnel in the future will be critical to our success. There is intense competition from other companies and research and academic institutions for qualified personnel in the areas of our activities. If we are not able to continue to attract and retain, on acceptable terms, the qualified personnel necessary for the continued development of our business, we may not be able to sustain our operations or grow.

Regulatory Risks

We may not be able to obtain marketing approval for products resulting from our development efforts.

All of the products that we are developing or may develop in the future will require additional research and development, extensive preclinical studies and clinical trials and regulatory approval prior to any commercial sales. This process is lengthy, often taking a number of years, is uncertain and is expensive. Since our inception, we have conducted clinical trials of a number of compounds. In 1997, we determined not to continue clinical development of GEM91, our lead product candidate at the time. Currently, we are conducting clinical trials of IMO-2055.

We may need to address a number of technological challenges in order to complete development of our products. Moreover, these products may not be effective in treating any disease or may prove to have undesirable or unintended side effects, unintended alteration of the immune system over time, toxicities or other characteristics that may preclude our obtaining regulatory approval or prevent or limit commercial use.

We are subject to comprehensive regulatory requirements, which are costly and time consuming to comply with; if we fail to comply with these requirements, we could be subject to adverse consequences and penalties.

The testing, manufacturing, labeling, advertising, promotion, export and marketing of our products are subject to extensive regulation by governmental authorities in Europe, the United States and elsewhere throughout the world.

In general, submission of materials requesting permission to conduct clinical trials may not result in authorization by the FDA or any equivalent foreign regulatory agency to commence clinical trials. Further, permission to continue ongoing trials may be withdrawn by the FDA or other regulatory agency at any time after initiation, based on new information available after the initial authorization to commence clinical trials. In addition, submission of an application for marketing approval to the relevant regulatory agency following completion of clinical trials may not result in the regulatory agency approving the application if applicable regulatory criteria are not satisfied, and may result in the regulatory agency requiring additional testing or information.

Any regulatory approval of a product may contain limitations on the indicated uses for which the product may be marketed or requirements for costly post-marketing testing and surveillance to monitor the safety or efficacy of the product. Any product for which we obtain marketing approval, along with the facilities at which the product is manufactured, any post-approval clinical data and any advertising and promotional activities for the product will be subject to continual review and periodic inspections by the FDA and other regulatory agencies.

Both before and after approval is obtained, violations of regulatory requirements may result in:

the regulatory agency s delay in approving, or refusal to approve, an application for approval of a product;

restrictions on such products or the manufacturing of such products;

withdrawal of the products from the market;

warning letters;

voluntary or mandatory recall;

fines;

suspension or withdrawal of regulatory approvals;

product seizure;

refusal to permit the import or export of our products;

injunctions or the imposition of civil penalties; and

criminal penalties.

We have only limited experience in regulatory affairs and our products are based on new technologies; these factors may affect our ability or the time we require to obtain necessary regulatory approvals.

We have only limited experience in filing the applications necessary to gain regulatory approvals. Moreover, the products that result from our research and development programs will likely be based on new technologies and new therapeutic approaches that have not been extensively tested in humans. The regulatory requirements governing these types of products may be more rigorous than for conventional drugs. As a result, we may experience a longer regulatory process in connection with obtaining regulatory approvals of any product that we develop.

Risks Relating to Collaborators

We need to establish collaborative relationships in order to succeed.

An important element of our business strategy includes entering into collaborative relationships for the development and commercialization of products based on our discoveries. We face significant competition in seeking appropriate collaborators. Moreover, these arrangements are complex to negotiate and time-consuming to document. We may not be successful in our efforts to establish collaborative relationships or other alternative arrangements.

The success of collaboration arrangements will depend heavily on the efforts and activities of our collaborators. Our collaborators will have significant discretion in determining the efforts and resources that they will apply to these collaborations. The risks that we face in connection with these collaborations include the following:

disputes may arise in the future with respect to the ownership of rights to technology developed with collaborators;

disagreements with collaborators could delay or terminate the research, development or commercialization of products, or result in litigation or arbitration;

we may have difficulty enforcing the contracts if one of our collaborators fails to perform;

our collaborators may terminate their collaborations with us, which could make it difficult for us to attract new collaborators or adversely affect the perception of us in the business or financial communities;

collaborators have considerable discretion in electing whether to pursue the development of any additional drugs and may pursue technologies or products either on their own or in collaboration with our competitors that are similar to or competitive with our technologies or products that are the subject of the collaboration with us; and

our collaborators may change the focus of their development and commercialization efforts. Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies historically have re-evaluated their priorities following mergers and consolidations, which have been common in recent years in these industries. The ability of our products to

reach their potential could be limited if our collaborators decrease or fail to increase spending relating to such products.

Given these risks, it is possible that any collaborative arrangements into which we enter may not be successful. In May 2005, we entered into collaborative arrangements with Novartis involving our IMO technology for application in asthma and allergies. Previous collaborative arrangements to which we were a party with F. Hoffmann-La Roche and G.D. Searle & Co., involving our antisense technology, were terminated prior to the development of any product. The failure of any of our collaborative relationships could delay our drug development or impair commercialization of our products.

Risks Relating to Intellectual Property

If we are unable to obtain patent protection for our discoveries, the value of our technology and products will be adversely affected.

Our patent positions, and those of other drug discovery companies, are generally uncertain and involve complex legal, scientific and factual questions.

Our ability to develop and commercialize drugs depends in significant part on our ability to:

obtain patents;

obtain licenses to the proprietary rights of others on commercially reasonable terms;

operate without infringing upon the proprietary rights of others;

prevent others from infringing on our proprietary rights; and

protect trade secrets.

We do not know whether any of our patent applications or those patent applications which we license will result in the issuance of any patents. Our issued patents and those that may issue in the future, or those licensed to us, may be challenged, invalidated or circumvented, and the rights granted thereunder may not provide us proprietary protection or competitive advantages against competitors with similar technology. Furthermore, our competitors may independently develop similar technologies or duplicate any technology developed by us. Because of the extensive time required for development, testing and regulatory review of a potential product, it is possible that, before any of our products can be commercialized, any related patent may expire or remain in force for only a short period following commercialization, thus reducing any advantage of the patent.

Because patent applications in the United States and many foreign jurisdictions are typically not published until 18 months after filing, or in some cases not at all, and because publications of discoveries in the scientific literature often lag behind actual discoveries, neither we nor our licensors can be certain that we or they were the first to make the inventions claimed in issued patents or pending patent applications, or that we or they were the first to file for protection of the inventions set forth in these patent applications.

Third parties may own or control patents or patent applications and require us to seek licenses, which could increase our development and commercialization costs, or prevent us from developing or marketing products.

We may not have rights under some patents or patent applications related to our products. Third parties may own or control these patents and patent applications in the United States and abroad. Therefore, in some cases, to develop, manufacture, sell or import some of our products, we or our collaborators may choose to seek, or be required to seek, licenses under third party patents issued in the United States and abroad or under patents that might issue from United States and foreign patent applications. In such an event, we would be required to pay license fees or royalties or both to the licensor. If licenses are not available to us on acceptable terms, we or our collaborators may not be able to develop, manufacture, sell or import these products.

We may lose our rights to patents, patent applications or technologies of third parties if our licenses from these third parties are terminated. In such an event, we might not be able to develop or commercialize products covered by the licenses.

We are party to seven royalty-bearing license agreements in the field of antisense technology under which we have acquired rights to patents, patent applications and technology of third parties. Under these licenses we are obligated to pay royalties on net sales by us of products or processes covered by a valid claim of a patent or patent application licensed to us. We also are required in some cases to pay a specified percentage of any sublicense income that we may receive. These licenses impose various commercialization, sublicensing, insurance and other obligations on us. Our failure to comply with these requirements could result in termination of the licenses. These licenses generally will otherwise remain in effect until the expiration of all valid claims of the patents covered by such licenses or upon earlier termination by the parties. The issued patents covered by these licenses expire at various dates ranging from 2006 to 2022. If one or more of these licenses is terminated, we may be delayed in our efforts, or be unable, to develop and market the products that are covered by the applicable license or licenses.

We may become involved in expensive patent litigation or other proceedings, which could result in our incurring substantial costs and expenses or substantial liability for damages or require us to stop our development and commercialization efforts.

There has been substantial litigation and other proceedings regarding patent and other intellectual property rights in the biotechnology industry. We may become a party to various types of patent litigation or other proceedings regarding intellectual property rights from time to time even under circumstances where we are not practicing and do not intend to practice any of the intellectual property involved in the proceedings. For instance, in 2002, 2003, and 2005, we became involved in two interference proceedings declared by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, or USPTO, for certain of our antisense and ribozyme patents. All of these interferences have since been resolved. We are neither practicing nor intending to practice the intellectual property that is associated with any of these interference proceedings.

The cost to us of any patent litigation or other proceeding, including the interferences referred to above, even if resolved in our favor, could be substantial. Some of our competitors may be able to sustain the cost of such litigation or proceedings more effectively than we can because of their substantially greater financial resources. If any patent litigation or other proceeding is resolved against us, we or our collaborators may be enjoined from developing, manufacturing, selling or importing our drugs without a license from the other party and we may be held liable for significant damages. We may not be able to obtain any required license on commercially acceptable terms or at all.

Uncertainties resulting from the initiation and continuation of patent litigation or other proceedings could have a material adverse effect on our ability to compete in the marketplace. Patent litigation and other proceedings may also absorb significant management time.

Risks Relating to Product Manufacturing, Marketing and Sales and Reliance on Third Parties

Because we have limited manufacturing experience, we are dependent on third-party manufacturers to manufacture products for us. If we cannot rely on third-party manufacturers, we will be required to incur significant costs and devote significant efforts to establish our own manufacturing facilities and capabilities.

We have limited manufacturing experience and no commercial scale manufacturing capabilities. In order to continue to develop our products, apply for regulatory approvals and ultimately commercialize products, we need to develop, contract for or otherwise arrange for the necessary manufacturing capabilities.

We currently rely upon third parties to produce material for preclinical and clinical testing purposes and expect to continue to do so in the future. We also expect to rely upon third parties to produce materials that may be required for the commercial production of our products.

There are a limited number of manufacturers that operate under the FDA s current good manufacturing practices regulations capable of manufacturing our products. As a result, we may have difficulty finding manufacturers for our products with adequate capacity for our needs. If we are unable to arrange for third party manufacturing of our

products on a timely basis, or to do so on commercially reasonable terms, we may not be able to complete development of our products or market them.

Reliance on third party manufacturers entails risks to which we would not be subject if we manufactured products ourselves, including:

- reliance on the third party for regulatory compliance and quality assurance,
- the possibility of breach of the manufacturing agreement by the third party because of factors beyond our control,
- the possibility of termination or nonrenewal of the agreement by the third party, based on its own business priorities, at a time that is costly or inconvenient for us,
- the potential that third party manufacturers will develop know-how owned by such third party in connection with the production of our products that is necessary for the manufacture of our products, and
- reliance upon third party manufacturers to assist us in preventing inadvertent disclosure or theft of our proprietary knowledge.

We purchased oligonucleotides for preclinical and clinical testing from Avecia Biotechnology at a preferential price under a supply agreement, which expired in March 2004. We have continued to purchase all of the oligonucleotides we are using in our ongoing clinical trials and preclinical testing from Avecia. The terms of the agreement have been extended until such time as a new agreement is negotiated. If Avecia determines not to accept any purchase order for oligonucleotides or we are unable to enter into a new manufacturing arrangement with Avecia or a new contract manufacturer on a timely basis or at all, our ability to supply the product needed for our clinical trials could be materially impaired.

We have no experience selling, marketing or distributing products and no internal capability to do so.

If we receive regulatory approval to commence commercial sales of any of our products, we will face competition with respect to commercial sales, marketing and distribution. These are areas in which we have no experience. To market any of our products directly, we would need to develop a marketing and sales force with technical expertise and with supporting distribution capability. In particular, we would need to recruit a large number of experienced marketing and sales personnel. Alternatively, we could engage a pharmaceutical or other healthcare company with an existing distribution system and direct sales force to assist us. However, to the extent we entered into such arrangements, we would be dependent on the efforts of third parties. If we are unable to establish sales and distribution capabilities, whether internally or in reliance on third parties, our business would suffer materially.

If third parties on whom we rely for clinical trials do not perform as contractually required or as we expect, we may not be able to obtain regulatory approval for or commercialize our products and our business may suffer.

We do not have the ability to independently conduct the clinical trials required to obtain regulatory approval for our products. We depend on independent clinical investigators, contract research organizations and other third party service providers in the conduct of the clinical trials of our products and expect to continue to do so. For example, we have contracted with PAREXEL International to manage our Phase 2 clinical trial of IMO-2055 in renal cell carcinoma. We rely heavily on these parties for successful execution of our clinical trials, but do not control many aspects of their activities. We are responsible for ensuring that each of our clinical trials is conducted in accordance with the general investigational plan and protocols for the trial. Moreover, the FDA requires us to comply with standards, commonly referred to as good clinical practices, for conducting, recording and reporting clinical trials to assure that data and reported results are credible and accurate and that the rights, integrity and confidentiality of trial participants are protected. Our reliance on third parties that we do not control does not relieve us of these responsibilities and requirements. Third parties may not complete activities on schedule or may not conduct our clinical trials in accordance with regulatory requirements or our stated protocols. The failure of these third parties to carry out their obligations could delay or prevent the development, approval and commercialization of our products.

If we seek to conduct any of these activities ourselves in the future, we will need to recruit appropriately trained personnel and add to our infrastructure.

If we are unable to obtain adequate reimbursement from third party payors for any products that we may develop or acceptable prices for those products, our revenues and prospects for profitability will suffer.

Most patients will rely on Medicare and Medicaid, private health insurers and other third party payors to pay for their medical needs, including any drugs we may market. If third party payors do not provide adequate coverage or reimbursement for any products that we may develop, our revenues and prospects for profitability will suffer. Congress recently enacted a limited prescription drug benefit for Medicare recipients in the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003. While the program established by this statute may increase demand for our products, if we participate in this program, our prices will be negotiated with drug procurement organizations for Medicare beneficiaries and are likely to be lower than we might otherwise obtain. Non-Medicare third party drug procurement organizations may also base the price they are willing to pay on the rate paid by drug procurement organizations for Medicare beneficiaries.

A primary trend in the United States healthcare industry is toward cost containment. In addition, in some foreign countries, particularly the countries of the European Union, the pricing of prescription pharmaceuticals is subject to governmental control. In these countries, pricing negotiations with governmental authorities can take six to 12 months or longer after the receipt of regulatory marketing approval for a product. To obtain reimbursement or pricing approval in some countries, we may be required to conduct a clinical trial that compares the cost effectiveness of our product candidates or products to other available therapies. The conduct of such a clinical trial could be expensive and result in delays in commercialization of our products.

Third party payors are challenging the prices charged for medical products and services, and many third party payors limit reimbursement for newly-approved healthcare products. In particular, third party payors may limit the indications for which they will reimburse patients who use any products that we may develop. Cost control initiatives could decrease the price we might establish for products that we may develop, which would result in lower product revenues to us.

We face a risk of product liability claims and may not be able to obtain insurance.

Our business exposes us to the risk of product liability claims that is inherent in the manufacturing, testing and marketing of human therapeutic drugs. Although we have product liability and clinical trial liability insurance that we believe is adequate, this insurance is subject to deductibles and coverage limitations. We may not be able to obtain or maintain adequate protection against potential liabilities. If we are unable to obtain insurance at acceptable cost or otherwise protect against potential product liability claims, we will be exposed to significant liabilities, which may materially and adversely affect our business and financial position. These liabilities could prevent or interfere with our commercialization efforts.

Risks Relating to an Investment in Our Common Stock

Our corporate governance structure, including provisions in our certificate of incorporation and by-laws, our stockholder rights plan and Delaware law, may prevent a change in control or management that stockholders may consider desirable.

Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law and our certificate of incorporation, by-laws and stockholder rights plan contain provisions that might enable our management to resist a takeover of our company or discourage a third party from attempting to take over our company. These provisions include:

a classified board of directors,

limitations on the removal of directors,

limitations on stockholder proposals at meetings of stockholders,

the inability of stockholders to act by written consent or to call special meetings, and

the ability of our board of directors to designate the terms of and issue new series of preferred stock without stockholder approval.

These provisions could have the effect of delaying, deferring, or preventing a change in control of us or a change in our management that stockholders may consider favorable or beneficial. These provisions could also discourage proxy contests and make it more difficult for you and other stockholders to elect directors and take other corporate actions. These provisions could also limit the price that investors might be willing to pay in the future for shares of our common stock.

Our stock price has been and may in the future be extremely volatile. In addition, because an active trading market for our common stock has not developed, our investors ability to trade our common stock may be limited. As a result, investors may lose all or a significant portion of their investment.

Our stock price has been volatile. During the period from January 1, 2003 to March 31, 2006, the closing sales price of our common stock ranged from a high of $1.69 per share to a low of $0.41 per share. The stock market has also experienced significant price and volume fluctuations, and the market prices of biotechnology companies in particular have been highly volatile, often for reasons that have been unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. The market price for our common stock may be influenced by many factors, including:

results of clinical trials of our product candidates or those of our competitors;

the regulatory status of our product candidates;

failure of any of our product candidates, if approved, to achieve commercial success;

the success of competitive products or technologies;

regulatory developments in the United States and foreign countries;

developments or disputes concerning patents or other proprietary rights;

the departure of key personnel;

variations in our financial results or those of companies that are perceived to be similar to us;

our cash resources;

the terms of any financing conducted by us;

changes in the structure of healthcare payment systems;

market conditions in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors and issuance of new or changed securities analysts reports or recommendations; and

general economic, industry and market conditions.

In addition, our common stock has historically been traded at low volume levels and may continue to trade at low volume levels. As a result, any large purchase or sale of our common stock could have a significant impact on the price of our common stock and it may be difficult for investors to sell our common stock in the market without depressing the market price for the common stock or at all.

As a result of the foregoing, investors may not be able to resell their shares at or above the price they paid for such shares. Investors in our common stock must be willing to bear the risk of fluctuations in the price of our common

stock and the risk that the value of their investment in our stock could decline.

We may be unable to repay our 4% convertible subordinated notes when due or to repurchase the convertible subordinated notes if we are required to do so under the terms of our agreement with the holders of the 4% convertible subordinated notes.

In May 2005, we sold approximately $5.0 million in principal amount of 4% convertible subordinated notes. On April 30, 2008, the entire outstanding principal amount of our 4% convertible subordinated notes will become due and payable, unless the notes are converted to common stock prior to expiration. In addition, we may be required to redeem all or part of the convertible subordinated notes prior to the final maturity date if specified events occur. We may not have sufficient funds or may be unable to arrange for additional financing to pay the amount due under the convertible subordinated notes at maturity or to pay the price to repurchase the convertible subordinated notes. Any future borrowing arrangements or debt agreements to which we may become a party may restrict or prohibit us from repaying or repurchasing the convertible subordinated notes. If we are prohibited from repaying or repurchasing the convertible subordinated notes, we could try to obtain the consent of lenders under those arrangements, or we could attempt to refinance the indebtedness that contains the restrictions. If we could not obtain the necessary consents or refinance the indebtedness, we would be unable to repay or repurchase the convertible subordinated notes. Any such failure would constitute an event of default under the agreement with the holders of the 4% convertible subordinated notes, which could, in turn, constitute a default under the terms of any future indebtedness.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included or incorporated in this prospectus regarding our strategy, future operations, financial position, future revenues, projected costs, prospects, plans and objectives of management are forward-looking statements. The words anticipates, believes, estimates, expects, intends, may, plans, would and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. We may not actually achieve the plans, intentions or expectations disclosed in our forward-looking statements and you should not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements. Actual results or events could differ materially from the plans, intentions and expectations disclosed in the forward-looking statements we make. We have included important factors in the cautionary statements included in this prospectus, particularly under the heading Risk Factors, that we believe could cause actual results or events to differ materially from the forward-looking statements that we make. In addition, any forward-looking statements represent our estimates only as of the date this prospectus is filed with the SEC and should not be relied upon as representing our estimates as of any subsequent date. We do not assume any obligation to update any forward-looking statements.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares offered pursuant to this prospectus. The selling stockholder will receive all of the proceeds from the sale of the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus. For information about the selling stockholder, see Selling Stockholder.

The selling stockholder will pay any underwriting discounts and commissions and expenses incurred by the selling stockholder for brokerage, accounting, tax or legal services or any other expenses incurred by the selling stockholder in disposing of the shares. We will bear all other costs, fees and expenses incurred in effecting the registration of the shares covered by this prospectus, including all registration and filing fees and fees and expenses of our counsel and our accountants.

SELLING STOCKHOLDER

The shares of common stock covered by this prospectus consist of 6,093,750 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants to purchase common stock which we issued to the selling stockholder in connection with the commitment from the selling stockholder to purchase up to $9.8 million of our common stock upon drawdowns made at our discretion, which we refer to as the investor warrants.

The table below sets forth, to our knowledge, information about the selling stockholder as of March 24, 2006.

We do not know when or in what amounts the selling stockholder may offer shares for sale. The selling stockholder may sell any or all of the shares offered by this prospectus. Because the selling stockholder may offer all or some of the shares pursuant to this offering, and because there are currently no agreements, arrangements or understandings with respect to the sale of any of the shares, we cannot estimate the number of shares that will be held by the selling stockholder after completion of this offering. For purposes of this table, however, we have assumed that, after completion of this offering, none of the shares covered by this prospectus will be held by the selling stockholder.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC, and includes voting or investment power with respect to shares. Shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants or stock options that are exercisable within 60 days after March 24, 2006 are deemed outstanding for computing the percentage ownership of the person holding the warrants or options but are not deemed outstanding for computing the percentage ownership of any other person. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the shares of common stock underlying the warrants held by the selling stockholder are treated as being beneficially owned by the selling stockholder, although the warrants will not be exercisable until September 24, 2006. Unless otherwise indicated

below, to our knowledge, all persons named in the table have sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares of common stock beneficially owned by them, except to the extent authority is shared by spouses under applicable law. The inclusion of any shares in this table does not constitute an admission of beneficial ownership for the person named below.

Name of Selling Stockholder (1)	Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned Prior to Offering		Number of Shares of Common Stock Being Offered	Shares of Common Stock to be Beneficially Owned After Offering	
	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Biotech Shares Ltd.	6,093,750(2)	4.4%	6,093,750		

(1) The term selling stockholder includes donees, pledgees, transferees or other successors-in-interest selling shares received after the date of this prospectus from the selling stockholder as a gift, pledge, partnership distribution or other non-sale related transfer.

(2) Consists of 6,093,750 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants held by Biotech Shares Ltd.

Relationship with Selling Stockholder

The selling stockholder has not had any position, office or other material relationship with us or our affiliates.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

We are authorized to issue 200,000,000 shares of common stock and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, $0.01 par value per share, of which 1,500,000 are designated series A convertible preferred stock and 200,000 shares are designated series C junior participating preferred stock. As of March 31, 2006, there were 133,726,085 shares of common stock outstanding, 655 shares of series A convertible preferred stock outstanding, no shares of series C junior participating preferred stock outstanding and no other shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding.

The material terms and provisions of our common stock, our preferred stock, our preferred stock purchase rights and each other class of our securities that qualifies or limits our common stock, are described in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated December 4, 2003 which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus. For the complete terms of our common stock, preferred stock and preferred stock purchase rights, please refer to our certificate of incorporation, by-laws and stockholder rights plan that we have filed with the SEC. The terms of these securities may also be affected by the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling stockholder may offer and sell the shares covered by this prospectus from time to time. The term selling stockholder includes donees, pledgees, transferees or other successors-in-interest selling shares received after the date of this prospectus from the selling stockholder as a gift, pledge, partnership distribution or other transfer. The selling stockholder will act independently of us in making decisions with respect to the timing, manner and size of each sale. Such sales may be made on one or more exchanges or in the over-the-counter market or otherwise, at prices and under terms then prevailing or at prices related to the then current market price or in negotiated transactions. The selling stockholder may sell its shares by one or more of, or a combination of, the following methods:

purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by such broker-dealer for its own account pursuant to this prospectus;

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker solicits purchasers;

block trades in which the broker-dealer so engaged will attempt to sell the shares as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

an over-the-counter distribution;

in privately negotiated transactions; and

in options transactions.

In addition, the selling stockholder may sell any shares that qualify for sale pursuant to Rule 144 under Rule 144 rather than pursuant to this prospectus.

In connection with distributions of the shares or otherwise, the selling stockholder may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions. In connection with such transactions, broker-dealers or other financial institutions may engage in short sales of the common stock in the course of hedging the positions they assume with the selling stockholder. The selling stockholder may also sell the common stock short and redeliver the shares to close out such short positions. The selling stockholder may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions which require the delivery to such broker-dealer or other financial institution of shares offered by this prospectus, which shares such broker-dealer or other financial institution may resell pursuant to this prospectus, as supplemented or amended to reflect such transaction. The selling stockholder may also pledge shares to a broker-dealer or other financial institution, and, upon a default, such broker-dealer or other financial institution, may effect sales of the pledged shares pursuant to this prospectus, as supplemented or amended to reflect such transaction. In effecting sales, broker-dealers or agents engaged by the selling stockholder may arrange for other broker-dealers to participate. Broker-dealers or agents may receive commissions, discounts or concessions from the selling stockholder in amounts to be negotiated immediately prior to the sale.

In offering the shares covered by this prospectus, the selling stockholder and any broker-dealers who execute sales for the selling stockholder may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act in connection with such sales. Any profits realized by the selling stockholder and the compensation of any broker-dealers may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions.

In order to comply with the securities laws of some states, if applicable, the shares must be sold in those states only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, some states may restrict the selling stockholder from selling its shares unless the shares have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and is complied with.

We have advised the selling stockholder that the anti-manipulation rules of Regulation M under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of shares in the market and to the activities of the selling stockholder and its affiliates. In addition, we will make copies of this prospectus available to the selling stockholder for the purpose of satisfying th