

VERACYTE, INC.  
Form 10-Q  
November 05, 2015  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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**FORM 10-Q**

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(Mark One)

**QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015

OR

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 001-36156

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**VERACYTE, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**20-5455398**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**7000 Shoreline Court, Suite 250**

**South San Francisco, California 94080**

(Address of principal executive offices, zip code)

**(650) 243-6300**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

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Non-accelerated filer   
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

As of October 29, 2015, there were 27,665,229 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, outstanding.

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Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Condensed Financial Statements****VERACYTE, INC.****CONDENSED BALANCE SHEETS****(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)**

	<b>September 30, 2015</b>		<b>December 31, 2014</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>		<b>(Derived from audited financial statements)</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 46,116	\$	35,014
Accounts receivable, net of allowance of \$92 and \$84 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively	3,520		3,050
Supplies inventory	3,984		3,696
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	3,371		1,218
Deferred tax asset	222		300
Restricted cash	118		70
Total current assets	57,331		43,348
Property and equipment, net	6,200		4,161
Finite-lived intangible assets, net	15,467		
Indefinite-lived intangible assets: in-process research and development			16,000
Goodwill	1,057		1,057
Restricted cash	603		118
Other assets	195		155
Total assets	\$ 80,853	\$	64,839
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders Equity</b>			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 6,644	\$	7,397
Accrued liabilities	7,365		7,851
Deferred Genzyme co-promotion fee	1,423		1,897
Total current liabilities	15,432		17,145
Long-term debt	5,002		4,923
Deferred tax liability	222		300
Deferred rent, net of current portion	2,386		149
Deferred Genzyme co-promotion fee, net of current portion			948
Total liabilities	23,042		23,465
Commitments and contingencies			
Stockholders equity:			

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Preferred stock, \$0.001 par value; 5,000,000 shares authorized, no shares issued and outstanding as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014

Common stock, \$0.001 par value; 125,000,000 shares authorized, 27,657,030 and 22,523,529 shares issued and outstanding as of September 30, 2015 and

December 31, 2014, respectively	27	23
Additional paid-in capital	198,497	156,373
Accumulated deficit	(140,713)	(115,022)
Total stockholders' equity	57,811	41,374
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 80,853	\$ 64,839

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed financial statements.

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## VERACYTE, INC.

## CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS

(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Revenue	\$ 12,335	\$ 9,838	\$ 35,461	\$ 25,991
Operating expenses:				
Cost of revenue	5,618	4,168	15,322	11,741
Research and development	3,563	2,233	9,453	6,602
Selling and marketing	6,048	5,533	18,606	14,970
General and administrative	5,728	5,715	17,062	13,625
Intangible asset amortization	266		533	
Total operating expenses	21,223	17,649	60,976	46,938
Loss from operations	(8,888)	(7,811)	(25,515)	(20,947)
Interest expense	(92)	(114)	(269)	(338)
Other income, net	35	23	93	54
Net loss and comprehensive loss	\$ (8,945)	\$ (7,902)	\$ (25,691)	\$ (21,231)
Net loss per common share, basic and diluted	\$ (0.32)	\$ (0.37)	\$ (1.01)	\$ (0.99)
Shares used to compute net loss per common share, basic and diluted	27,640,806	21,648,660	25,428,506	21,346,565

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed financial statements.

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## VERACYTE, INC.

## CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Unaudited)

(In thousands)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Net loss	\$ (25,691)	\$ (21,231)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	1,642	833
Bad debt expense	80	67
Genzyme co-promotion fee amortization	(1,423)	(1,794)
Stock-based compensation	4,186	2,402
Amortization of debt discount and issuance costs	34	81
Interest on debt balloon payment	59	60
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(550)	(104)
Supplies inventory	(288)	(783)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(1,878)	(552)
Other assets	(53)	(46)
Accounts payable	(1,831)	3,298
Accrued liabilities and deferred rent	1,578	(1,427)
Net cash used in operating activities	(24,135)	(19,196)
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Purchases of property and equipment	(1,975)	(1,491)
Cash remitted for acquisition, net of cash received		(6,886)
Change in restricted cash	(533)	(100)
Net cash used in investing activities	(2,508)	(8,477)
<b>Financing activities</b>		
Proceeds from issuance of common stock in a private placement, net of costs	37,258	
Commissions and issuance costs relating to the initial public offering		(129)
Payment of deferred stock offering costs	(197)	
Proceeds from the exercise of common stock options	684	584
Net cash provided by financing activities	37,745	455
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>11,102</b>	<b>(27,218)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period</b>	<b>35,014</b>	<b>71,220</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	<b>\$ 46,116</b>	<b>\$ 44,002</b>
<b>Supplementary cash flow information of non-cash investing and financing activities:</b>		
Purchases of property and equipment included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,173	\$ 182
Unpaid deferred stock offering costs	71	



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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed financial statements.

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**VERACYTE, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Veracyte, Inc. (the Company) was incorporated in the state of Delaware in August 2006 as Calderome, Inc. Calderome operated as an incubator until early 2008. In March 2008, the Company changed its name to Veracyte, Inc. Veracyte is a diagnostics company pioneering the field of molecular cytology to improve patient outcomes and lower healthcare costs. The Company specifically targets diseases that often require invasive procedures for an accurate diagnosis—diseases where many healthy patients undergo costly interventions that ultimately prove unnecessary. The Company improves the accuracy of diagnosis at an earlier stage of patient care by deriving clinically actionable genomic information from cytology samples.

The Company's first commercial solution, the Afirma® Thyroid FNA Analysis, includes as its centerpiece the Gene Expression Classifier (GEC). The GEC helps physicians reduce the number of unnecessary surgeries by employing a proprietary 142-gene signature to preoperatively determine whether thyroid nodules previously classified by cytopathology as indeterminate can be reclassified as benign. The comprehensive offering also includes cytopathology testing and the Afirma Malignancy Classifiers, launched in May 2014. The Company markets and sells Afirma in the United States and select foreign countries through a co-promotion agreement with Genzyme Corporation, a subsidiary of Sanofi, as well as selectively through other distributors internationally.

In September 2014, the Company acquired Allegro Diagnostics Corp. (Allegro) to accelerate its entry into pulmonology, the Company's second planned clinical area. Allegro was focused on the development of genomic tests to improve the preoperative diagnosis of lung cancer. In April 2015, the Company entered the lung cancer diagnostics market with the Percepta Bronchial Genomic Classifier, a new genomic test to resolve ambiguity in lung cancer diagnosis.

The Company's operations are based in South San Francisco, California and Austin, Texas, and it operates in one segment in the United States.

***Basis of Presentation***

The accompanying interim period condensed financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP) and applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regarding interim financial reporting. The condensed financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, which was dissolved in June 2015. For periods prior to the subsidiary dissolution, all intercompany accounts and transactions were eliminated in consolidation. Certain information and note disclosures normally included in the financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP have

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been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations. The condensed balance sheet as of September 30, 2015, the condensed statements of operations and comprehensive loss and the condensed statements of cash flows for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, are unaudited, but include all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, which the Company considers necessary for a fair presentation of its financial position, operating results and cash flows for the periods presented. The condensed balance sheet at December 31, 2014 has been derived from audited financial statements. The results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 are not necessarily indicative of the results expected for the full fiscal year or any other period.

The accompanying interim period condensed financial statements and related financial information included in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, as amended.

### *Use of Estimates*

The preparation of the unaudited interim financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities as of the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Significant items subject to such estimates include: revenue recognition; contractual allowances; allowance for doubtful accounts; the useful lives of property and equipment; the recoverability of long-lived assets; stock options; income tax uncertainties, including a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets; and contingencies. The Company bases these estimates on historical and anticipated results, trends, and various other assumptions that the Company believes are reasonable under the circumstances, including assumptions as to future events. These estimates form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities and recorded revenue and expenses that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results could differ from these estimates and assumptions.

Table of Contents*Concentrations of Credit Risk and Other Risks and Uncertainties*

The Company is subject to reimbursement and regulatory risk. In September, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS, issued a preliminary rate determination for the 2016 Clinical Lab Fee Schedule, or CLFS, for new CPT codes issued in 2015. The Company obtained a unique CPT code (81545) for the GEC in 2015. The preliminary 2016 rate was issued at \$2,152, a 33% reduction from the existing contracted rate of \$3,200. The Company has challenged the pricing methodology that led to the preliminary determination and expects the final methodology to be issued by CMS before December 1, 2015. Approximately 20% of GEC patients are covered by Medicare.

The Company's cash and cash equivalents are deposited with one major financial institution in the United States, as required by the loan and security agreement discussed in Note 6. Deposits in this institution may exceed the amount of insurance provided on such deposits. The Company has not experienced any losses on its deposits of cash and cash equivalents.

Several of the components of the Company's sample collection kit and test reagents are obtained from single-source suppliers. If these single-source suppliers fail to satisfy the Company's requirements on a timely basis, it could suffer delays in being able to deliver its diagnostic solutions, a possible loss of revenue, or incur higher costs, any of which could adversely affect its operating results.

The Company is also subject to credit risk from its accounts receivable related to its sales of Afirma. The Company generally does not perform evaluations of customers' financial condition and generally does not require collateral.

Through September 30, 2015, all of the Company's revenues have been derived from the sale of Afirma. To date, Afirma has been delivered primarily to physicians in the United States. The Company's third-party payers in excess of 10% of revenue and their related revenue as a percentage of revenue were as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Medicare	28%	23%	27%	26%
UnitedHealthcare	11%	15%	13%	17%
Aetna	9%	10%	9%	11%
	48%	48%	49%	54%

As the number of payers reimbursing for Afirma increases, the percentage of revenue derived from Medicare and other significant third-party payers has changed and will continue to change as a percentage of revenue.

The Company's significant third-party payers and their related accounts receivable balance at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014 as a percentage of total accounts receivable are as follows:

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	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
Medicare	31%	64%
UnitedHealthcare	25%	14%
Aetna	20%	12%

No other third-party payer represented more than 10% of the Company's accounts receivable balances at those dates.

***Cash Equivalents***

Cash equivalents consist of amounts invested in a money market account primarily consisting of U.S. Treasury reserves.

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***Restricted Cash***

The Company had deposits of \$118,000 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, restricted from withdrawal and held by a bank in the form of collateral for irrevocable standby letters of credit totaling \$118,000 held as security for the lease of the Company's headquarters and laboratory facilities in South San Francisco that expires March 31, 2016. This restricted cash is included in current assets as of September 30, 2015 and in long-term assets as of December 31, 2014 on the Company's condensed balance sheets. The Company also had deposits of \$603,000 included in long-term assets as of September 30, 2015, restricted from withdrawal and held by a bank in the form of collateral for an irrevocable standby letter of credit held as security for the lease of the Company's new headquarters and laboratory facilities in South San Francisco signed on April 29, 2015.

The Company reserved \$70,000 in cash as of December 31, 2014 to cover liabilities associated with the acquisition of Allegro. This amount was paid in March 2015. This restricted cash was included in current assets on the Company's condensed balance sheet at December 31, 2014.

***Allowance for Doubtful Accounts***

The Company estimates an allowance for doubtful accounts against its individual patient accounts receivable based on estimates of expected reimbursement consistent with historical payment experience in relation to the amounts billed. Bad debt expense is included in general and administrative expense on the Company's statements of operations and comprehensive loss. Accounts receivable are written off against the allowance when there is substantive evidence that the account will not be paid.

The balance of allowance for doubtful accounts as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014 was \$92,000 and \$84,000, respectively. Bad debt expense was \$26,000 and \$80,000 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively, and \$28,000 and \$67,000 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, respectively. Write offs for doubtful accounts of \$26,000 and \$71,000 were recorded against the allowance during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively. Write offs for doubtful accounts of \$26,000 and \$60,000 were recorded against the allowance during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014.

***Supplies Inventory***

Supplies inventory consists of test reagents and other consumables used in the sample collection kits and in cytopathology and GEC test processing and are valued at the lower of cost or market value. Cost is determined using actual costs on a first-in, first-out basis.

***Property and Equipment***

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Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and amortization. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, generally between three and five years. Leasehold improvements are amortized using the straight-line method over the shorter of the estimated useful life of the asset or the term of the lease. Maintenance and repairs are charged to expense as incurred, and improvements and betterments are capitalized. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and accumulated depreciation are removed from the balance sheet and any resulting gain or loss is reflected in the statements of operations and comprehensive loss in the period realized.

### *Internal-use Software*

The Company capitalizes costs incurred in the application development stage to design and implement the software used in the tracking and reporting of laboratory activity. Costs incurred in the development of application software are capitalized and amortized over an estimated useful life of three years on a straight-line basis. The total cost, accumulated depreciation and net book value of internal-use software was \$1.2 million, \$488,000 and \$688,000, respectively, as of September 30, 2015, and was \$927,000, \$330,000 and \$597,000, respectively, as of December 31, 2014, and are included in property and equipment in the Company's condensed balance sheets. During the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, the Company capitalized \$250,000 and \$293,000, respectively, of software development costs. Amortization expense related to internal-use software totaled \$49,000 and \$158,000 in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively, and \$32,000 and \$96,000 in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, respectively.

### *Business Combination*

The Company accounts for acquisitions using the acquisition method of accounting which requires the recognition of tangible and identifiable intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed at their estimated fair values as of the business combination date. The Company allocates any excess purchase price over the estimated fair value assigned to the net tangible and identifiable intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed to goodwill. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred in general and administrative expenses. Results of operations and cash flows of acquired companies are included in the Company's operating results from the date of acquisition.

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***Finite-lived Intangible Assets***

Finite-lived intangible assets relates to intangible assets reclassified from indefinite-lived intangible assets, following the launch of Percepta in April 2015. The Company amortizes finite-lived intangible assets using the straight-line method over their estimated useful life. The estimated useful life of 15 years was used for the intangible asset related to the Percepta test based on management's estimate of product life, product life of other diagnostic tests and patent life. The Company tests this finite-lived intangible asset for impairment annually, in the fourth quarter, or when facts or circumstances indicate a reduction in the fair value below its carrying amount.

***Indefinite-lived Intangible Assets In-process Research and Development***

The Company's indefinite-lived intangible assets are comprised of acquired in-process research and development (IPR&D). The fair value of IPR&D acquired through a business combination is capitalized as an indefinite-lived intangible asset until the completion or abandonment of the related research and development activities. When research and development is complete, the associated assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. IPR&D is tested for impairment annually or more frequently if events or circumstances indicate that the fair value may be below the carrying value of the asset. The Company recognizes an impairment loss when the total of estimated future undiscounted cash flows expected to result from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition are less than its carrying amount. Impairment, if any, would be assessed using discounted cash flows or other appropriate measures of fair value. There was no impairment for the nine months ended September 30, 2015.

***Goodwill***

Goodwill, derived from the Company's acquisition of Allegro, is reviewed for impairment annually or more frequently if events or circumstances indicate that it may be impaired. The Company's goodwill evaluation is based on both qualitative and quantitative assessments regarding the fair value of goodwill relative to its carrying value. The Company has determined that it operates in a single segment and has a single reporting unit associated with the development and commercialization of diagnostic products. In the event the Company determines that it is more likely than not the carrying value of the reporting unit is higher than its fair value, quantitative testing is performed comparing recorded values to estimated fair values. If impairment is present, the impairment loss is measured as the excess of the recorded goodwill over its implied fair value. The Company performs its annual evaluation of goodwill during the fourth quarter of each fiscal year. There was no impairment for the nine months ended September 30, 2015.

***Bonus Accruals***

The Company accrues for liabilities under discretionary employee and executive bonus plans. These estimated compensation liabilities are based on progress against corporate objectives approved by the Board of Directors, compensation levels of eligible individuals, and target bonus percentage levels. The Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors review and evaluate the performance against these objectives and ultimately determine what discretionary payments are made. The Company accrued \$1.8 million and \$1.1 million as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively, for liabilities associated with these employee and executive bonus plans which are included in accrued liabilities in the Company's condensed balance sheets.



***Fair Value of Financial Instruments***

The carrying amounts of certain financial instruments including cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and other current assets, accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximate fair value due to their relatively short maturities.

***Revenue Recognition***

The Company recognizes revenue in accordance with the provision of ASC 954-605, *Health Care Entities - Revenue Recognition*. The Company's revenue is generated from the provision of diagnostic services using the Afirma solution and the service is completed upon the delivery of test results to the prescribing physician, at which time the Company bills for the service. The Company recognizes revenue related to billings for Medicare and commercial payers on an accrual basis, net of contractual and other adjustments, when amounts that will ultimately be realized can be estimated. Contractual and other adjustments represent the difference between the list price (the billing rate) and the estimated reimbursement rate for each payer. Upon ultimate collection, the amount received from Medicare and commercial payers where reimbursement was estimated is compared to previous estimates and, if necessary, the contractual allowance is adjusted accordingly. Until a contract has been negotiated with a commercial payer or governmental program, the Afirma solution may or may not be covered by these entities' existing reimbursement policies. In addition, patients do not enter into direct agreements with the Company that commit them to pay any portion of the cost of the tests in the event that their insurance declines to reimburse the Company. In the absence of an agreement with the patient or other clearly enforceable legal right to demand payment from the patient, the related revenue is only recognized upon the earlier of payment notification, if applicable, or cash receipt.

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The estimates of amounts that will ultimately be realized requires significant judgment by management. Some patients have out-of-pocket costs for amounts not covered by their insurance carrier, and the Company may bill the patient directly for these amounts in the form of co-payments and co-insurance in accordance with their insurance carrier and health plans. Some payers may not cover the Company's GEC as ordered by the prescribing physician under their reimbursement policies. The Company pursues reimbursement from such patients on a case-by-case basis. In the absence of contracted reimbursement coverage or the ability to estimate the amount that will ultimately be realized for the Company's services, revenue is recognized upon the earlier of receipt of third-party payer notification of payment or when cash is received.

Revenue recognized when cash is received and on an accrual basis for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 was as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Revenue recognized when cash is received	\$ 5,350	\$ 7,338	\$ 16,504	\$ 18,501
Revenue recognized on an accrual basis	6,985	2,500	18,957	7,490
Total	\$ 12,335	\$ 9,838	\$ 35,461	\$ 25,991

***Cost of Revenue***

Cost of revenue is expensed as incurred and includes material and service costs, cytopathology testing services performed by a third-party pathology group, stock-based compensation expense, direct labor costs, equipment and infrastructure expenses associated with testing samples, shipping charges to transport samples, and allocated overhead including rent, information technology, equipment depreciation and utilities.

***Research and Development***

Research and development costs are charged to operations as incurred. Research and development costs include payroll and personnel-related expenses, stock-based compensation expense, prototype materials, laboratory supplies, consulting costs, costs associated with setting up and conducting clinical studies at domestic and international sites, and allocated overhead including rent, information technology, equipment depreciation and utilities.

***Income Taxes***

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The Company accounts for income taxes under the liability method. Under this method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the difference between the financial statement and tax bases of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to affect taxable income. Valuation allowances are established when necessary to reduce deferred tax assets to the amounts expected to be realized.

The Company assesses all material positions taken in any income tax return, including all significant uncertain positions, in all tax years that are still subject to assessment or challenge by relevant taxing authorities. The Company's assessment of an uncertain tax position begins with the initial determination of the position's sustainability and is measured at the largest amount of benefit that is more-likely-than-not of being realized upon ultimate settlement. As of each balance sheet date, unresolved uncertain tax positions must be reassessed, and the Company will determine whether (i) the factors underlying the sustainability assertion have changed and (ii) the amount of the recognized tax benefit is still appropriate. The recognition and measurement of tax benefits requires significant judgment. Judgments concerning the recognition and measurement of a tax benefit may change as new information becomes available.

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***Stock-based Compensation***

Stock-based compensation expense for equity instruments issued to employees is measured based on the grant-date fair value of the awards. The fair value of each employee stock option is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The Company recognizes compensation costs on a straight-line basis for all employee stock-based compensation awards that are expected to vest over the requisite service period of the awards, which is generally the awards' vesting period. Forfeitures are required to be estimated at the time of grant and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates.

Equity awards issued to non-employees are valued using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model and are subject to re-measurement as the underlying equity awards vest.

***Net Loss per Common Share***

Basic net loss per common share is calculated by dividing net loss attributable to common stockholders by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the period, without consideration of common stock equivalents. Diluted net loss per common share is computed by dividing net loss attributable to common stockholders by the weighted-average number of common share equivalents outstanding for the period determined using the treasury stock method. Potentially dilutive securities consisting of options to purchase common stock of 4,285,651 and 3,090,577 for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, are considered to be common stock equivalents and were excluded from the calculation of diluted net loss per common share because their effect would be anti-dilutive for all periods presented.

***Recent Accounting Pronouncements***

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued Accounting Standards Update ( ASU ) No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, requiring an entity to recognize the amount of revenue to which it expects to be entitled for the transfer of promised goods or services to customers. The updated standard will replace most existing revenue recognition guidance in GAAP when it becomes effective and permits the use of either the retrospective or cumulative effect transition method. Adoption is permitted as early as the first quarter of 2017 and is required by the first quarter of 2018. The Company has not yet selected a transition method and is currently evaluating the potential effect of the updated standard on its condensed financial statements.

In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-03, *Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs*, to require debt issuance costs to be presented as an offset against debt outstanding. The update does not change current guidance on the recognition and measurement of debt issuance costs. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015. Adoption of the ASU is retrospective to each prior period presented. The Company does not anticipate that the adoption of this ASU will have a significant impact on its condensed balance sheets.

**2. Business Combination**

On September 16, 2014, the Company acquired Allegro via a merger with Full Moon Acquisition, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company. Allegro was a privately-held company based in Maynard, Massachusetts, focused on the development of genomic tests to improve the preoperative diagnosis of lung cancer. Allegro merged with Full Moon (the Merger), with Allegro surviving the Merger as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company. The subsidiary was dissolved in June 2015. At the effective time of the Merger, each share of the common stock of Full Moon issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger was automatically converted into one share of common stock of Allegro and represented the only outstanding common stock of Allegro at the effective time of the Merger; all previously issued and outstanding shares of common stock of Allegro were canceled. The Series A preferred stock of Allegro issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger was canceled and automatically converted into the right to receive a total of 964,377 shares of the Company's common stock and \$2.7 million in cash. Outstanding indebtedness of Allegro totaling \$4.3 million was settled in cash by the Company on the effective date of the Merger. All outstanding stock options under Allegro's equity incentive plan were canceled.

The acquisition of Allegro accelerated the Company's entry into the pulmonology diagnostics market. Allegro's lung cancer test, called Percepta, is designed to help physicians determine which patients with lung nodules who have had a non-diagnostic bronchoscopy result are at low risk for cancer and can thus be safely monitored with CT scans rather than undergoing invasive procedures. The Company launched the Percepta test in April 2015.

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The Merger was accounted for using the acquisition method of accounting with the Company treated as the accounting acquirer. The purchase price was allocated based on the fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed at the date of the acquisition.

The Company incurred approximately \$0.5 million in acquisition-related costs related to the Merger, which primarily consisted of legal, accounting and valuation-related expenses. In addition, the Company incurred \$1.2 million related to transaction bonuses and severance payments to former Allegro employees associated with the Merger. These expenses were recorded in general and administrative expense in the condensed statements of operations and comprehensive loss.

The acquisition consideration was comprised of (in thousands):

Stock	\$	10,078
Cash		2,725
Payment of outstanding indebtedness		4,290
Total acquisition consideration	\$	17,093

The stock consideration of \$10.1 million was determined based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on September 16, 2014 (\$10.45 per share).

The fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed at the closing date of the Merger are summarized below (in thousands):

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	29
Other assets, net		7
In-process research and development		16,000
Goodwill		1,057
Total acquisition consideration	\$	17,093

The fair value of IPR&D was determined using the multi-period excess earnings method of the income approach, which estimates the economic benefits of the IPR&D over multiple time periods by identifying the cash flows associated with the use of the asset, based on forecasts prepared by management, and deducting a periodic charge reflecting a fair return for the use of contributory assets. The forecasted cash flows were discounted based on a discount rate of 18.5%. The discount rate represents the Company's weighted average return on assets and was benchmarked against the internal rate of return and cost of capital of guideline publicly traded companies. The fair value of the IPR&D was capitalized as of the closing date of the Merger and was accounted for as an indefinite-lived intangible asset prior to the beginning of amortization.

Amortization of the IPR&D began in April 2015 when research and development activities were deemed to be completed and is recorded on a straight-line basis. The amortization period of the IPR&D is over its estimated useful life of 15 years after taking into consideration expected use of the asset, legal or regulatory provisions that may limit or extend the life of the asset, as well as the effects of obsolescence and other economic factors. Amortization of \$266,000 and \$533,000 was recorded in the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2015, as compared with \$0 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014. Accumulated amortization was \$533,000 as of September 30, 2015.

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Amortization expense will be approximately \$1.1 million per year.

Goodwill, which represents the purchase price in excess of the fair value of net assets acquired, is not expected to be deductible for income tax purposes. This goodwill is reflective of the value derived from the acceleration of the Company's entry into the pulmonology market.

The following pro forma financial information is based on the historical financial statements of the Company and presents the Company's results as if the Merger had occurred as of January 1, 2013 (in thousands):

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30, 2014</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014</b>	
Revenue	\$	9,838	\$	25,991
Net loss	\$	(6,424)	\$	(20,948)

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The pro forma results present the combined historical results of operations with adjustments to reflect one-time charges including:

- The reversal of costs related to transaction bonuses and other payments to employees and acquisition-related expenses directly related to the Merger of \$2.2 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014.
- The elimination of interest expense related to Allegro indebtedness of \$228,000 and \$2.3 million for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2014, respectively.

The pro forma information presented does not purport to present what the actual results would have been had the Merger actually occurred on January 1, 2013, nor is the information intended to project results for any future period.

**3. Accrued Liabilities**

Accrued liabilities consisted of the following (in thousands):

	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
Accrued compensation expenses	\$ 3,326	\$ 2,673
Accrued Genzyme co-promotion fees	1,845	3,309
Accrued other	2,194	1,869
Total accrued liabilities	\$ 7,365	\$ 7,851

**4. Fair Value Measurements**

The Company records its financial assets and liabilities at fair value. The carrying amounts of certain financial instruments of the Company, including cash and cash equivalents, prepaid expenses and other current assets, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, approximate fair value due to their relatively short maturities. The carrying value of debt approximates its fair value because the interest rate approximates market rates that the Company could obtain for debt with similar terms. The accounting guidance for fair value provides a framework for measuring fair value, clarifies the definition of fair value, and expands disclosures regarding fair value measurements. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the reporting date. The accounting guidance establishes a three-tiered hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in the valuation methodologies in measuring fair value as follows:

- Level I: Inputs which include quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities.



- Level II: Inputs other than Level I that are observable, either directly or indirectly, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.
- Level III: Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

The fair value of the Company's financial assets, which consist of money market funds, was \$45.3 million and \$33.2 million as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively, and are Level I assets as described above.

## 5. Commitments and Contingencies

### *Operating Leases*

The Company leases its headquarters and laboratory facilities in South San Francisco under a non-cancelable lease agreement that expires on March 31, 2016.

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On April 29, 2015, the Company signed a non-cancelable lease agreement for approximately 59,000 square feet to serve as its new South San Francisco headquarters and laboratory facilities. The lease begins in June 2015 and ends in March 2026 and contains extension of lease term and expansion options. In conjunction with this lease, the landlord is providing funding of approximately \$3.3 million for tenant improvements. The Company estimates it will spend approximately \$3.5 million in addition to the landlord's tenant allowance to build out the office space and new laboratory in the facility for its use. As of September 30, 2015, the Company had recorded approximately \$1.7 million as receivable from the landlord. The Company had deposits of \$603,000 included in long-term assets as of September 30, 2015, restricted from withdrawal and held by a bank in the form of collateral for an irrevocable standby letter of credit totaling \$603,000 held as security for the lease of the new headquarters and laboratory facilities.

The Company also leases laboratory space in Austin, Texas. The lease expires on July 31, 2018. The Company provided a security deposit of \$75,000, which is included in other assets in the Company's condensed balance sheets as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014.

Future minimum lease payments under non-cancelable operating leases as of September 30, 2015, are as follows (in thousands):

<b>Year Ending December 31,</b>	<b>Amounts</b>	
October through December 31, 2015	\$	250
2016		1,822
2017		2,142
2018		2,102
2019		2,026
Thereafter		14,038
Total minimum lease payments	\$	22,380

The Company recognizes rent expense on a straight-line basis over the non-cancelable lease period. Facilities rent expense was \$687,000 and \$213,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$1,277,000 and \$639,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Until the new headquarters is utilized, rent of approximately \$500,000 per quarter will be charged to general and administrative expense.

***Supplies Purchase Commitments***

The Company had non-cancelable purchase commitments with several suppliers to purchase a minimum quantity of supplies for approximately \$1.0 million at September 30, 2015, all of which is expected to be paid in 2015.

***Debt Obligations***

See Note 6.

*Contingencies*

From time to time, the Company may be involved in legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. The Company believes there is no litigation pending that could have, individually or in the aggregate, a material adverse effect on the financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

**6. Debt**

In June 2013, the Company entered into a loan and security agreement ( Original Loan ) with a financial institution. The Original Loan provided for term loans of up to \$10.0 million in aggregate. The Company drew down \$5.0 million in funds under the agreement in June 2013, and did not draw the remaining \$5.0 million on or before the expiration date of March 31, 2014. The Company was required to repay the outstanding principal in 30 equal installments beginning 18 months after the date of the borrowing, and the loan was due in full in September 2017. The Original Loan had an interest rate of 6.06% per annum, carried prepayment penalties of 2.25% and 1.50% for prepayment within one and two years, respectively, and 0.75% thereafter.

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In December 2014, the Company amended certain terms and conditions of the Original Loan ( Amended Loan ). The Amended Loan provides for term loans of up to \$15.0 million in aggregate, in three tranches of \$5.0 million each. The Company borrowed \$5.0 million under the first tranche in December 2014 and used the funds for repayment of the \$5.0 million in principal outstanding under the Original Loan, in a cashless transaction. In addition, the Company paid the accrued but unpaid interest of \$14,000 due on the Original Loan and the related end-of-term payment of \$110,000. The Amended Loan waived the prepayment premium of \$75,000 under the Original Loan and reduced the end-of-term payment of \$225,000 under the Original Loan to \$110,000. The second \$5.0 million tranche under the Amended Loan is available through December 31, 2015, and the Company may borrow the third \$5.0 million tranche any time through June 30, 2016 after achieving the third tranche revenue milestone as defined in the Amended Loan.

The carrying value of the debt approximates its fair value because the interest rate approximates market rates that the Company could obtain for debt with similar terms. Under the Amended Loan, the Company is required to repay the outstanding principal in 24 equal installments beginning 24 months after the date of the borrowing, and the loan is due in full in December 2018. The first tranche of the Amended Loan bears interest at a rate of 5.00% per annum. The Amended Loan carries prepayment penalties of 2.00% and 1.00% for prepayment within one and two years, respectively, and no prepayment penalty thereafter. In connection with the Amended Loan, the Company paid approximately \$45,000 in third-party fees.

The Amended Loan results in a debt modification under ASC 470-50, *Modifications and Extinguishments*, as the change in present value of the remaining cash flows associated with the Original Loan and Amended Loan are not substantial.

As of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, the net debt obligation was as follows (in thousands):

	<b>September 30, 2015</b>	<b>December 31, 2014</b>
Debt and unpaid accrued end-of-term payment	\$ 5,062	\$ 5,003
Unamortized note discount	(60)	(80)
Net debt obligation	\$ 5,002	\$ 4,923

Future principal payments under the Amended Loan are as follows (in thousands):

<b>Year Ending December 31,</b>	<b>Amounts</b>
October through December 31, 2015	\$
2016	
2017	2,437
2018	2,563
Total	\$ 5,000

The obligation includes an end-of-term payment of \$237,500, representing 4.75% of the total outstanding principal balance, which accretes over the life of the loan as interest expense. As a result of the debt discount and the end-of-term payment, the effective interest rate for the loan differs from the contractual rate.

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Interest expense on the debt was as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Nominal interest	\$ 64	\$ 78	\$ 189	\$ 230
Amortization of debt discount	7	16	20	48
End-of-term payment	21	20	60	60
Total	\$ 92	\$ 114	\$ 269	\$ 338

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Loans drawn under the Original Loan and the Amended Loan were used for working capital and general corporate purposes. The Company's obligations under the Amended Loan are secured by a security interest in substantially all of its assets, excluding its intellectual property and certain other assets. The Amended Loan contains customary conditions related to borrowing, events of default, and covenants, including covenants limiting the Company's ability to dispose of assets, undergo a change in control, merge with or acquire other entities, incur debt, incur liens, pay dividends or other distributions to holders of its capital stock, repurchase stock and make investments, in each case subject to certain exceptions. The Amended Loan also allows the lender to call the debt in the event there is a material adverse change in the Company's business or financial condition. The Company is required to be in compliance with a minimum liquidity or minimum revenue covenant. As of September 30, 2015, the Company was in compliance with all covenants.

**7. Stockholders' Equity**

*Common Stock*

The Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation authorizes the Company to issue 125,000,000 shares of common stock with a par value of \$0.001 per share. The holder of each share of common stock shall have one vote for each share of stock. The common stockholders are also entitled to receive dividends whenever funds and assets are legally available and when declared by the Board of Directors, subject to the prior rights of holders of all series of convertible preferred stock outstanding. No dividends have been declared as of September 30, 2015.

As of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, the Company had reserved shares of common stock for issuance as follows:

	<b>September 30, 2015</b>	<b>December 31, 2014</b>
Options issued and outstanding	4,285,651	3,249,469
Options available for grant under stock option plans	980,485	1,341,252
Shares available for issuance under the ESPP	750,000	
Total	6,016,136	4,590,721

On April 28, 2015, the Company completed a private placement of 4,907,975 shares of its common stock to certain accredited investors (the Investors) at a purchase price of \$8.15 per share. The sale of the shares was made pursuant to the terms of a Securities Purchase Agreement dated as of April 22, 2015. Gross proceeds to the Company were \$40.0 million and the Company received \$37.3 million in net proceeds, after deducting the placement agent fees and other expenses payable by the Company of \$2.7 million. Under the Securities Purchase Agreement, the Company has agreed to use the net proceeds from the private placement for research and development, for product commercialization, and for working capital and general corporate purposes.

In connection with the sale of the common stock in the private placement, the Company entered into a Registration Rights Agreement with the Investors, pursuant to which the Company filed in May 2015 a registration statement with the SEC covering the resale of the common stock sold in the private placement. The Registration Rights Agreement includes customary indemnification rights in connection with the registration statement.

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In June 2015, the Company filed a universal shelf registration statement with the SEC which provides the Company the ability to offer for sale up to \$125.0 million of securities in a primary offering, including common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, depositary shares and rights. This shelf registration statement provides the Company, within the \$125.0 million, the ability to offer for sale up to \$25.0 million of its common stock at market prices pursuant to the terms of a Controlled Equity Sales Agreement. This shelf registration statement also registered for resale up to 5,000,000 shares of common stock held by certain existing stockholders. Approximately \$0.3 million of costs associated with this registration statement have been deferred in other current assets as of September 30, 2015.

### *Employee Stock Purchase Plan*

In May 2015, the Company's stockholders approved the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan ( ESPP ). The ESPP provides eligible employees with an opportunity to purchase common stock from the Company and to pay for their purchases through payroll deductions. The ESPP will be implemented through a series of offerings of purchase rights to eligible employees. Under the ESPP, the Compensation Committee of the Company's Board of Directors may specify offerings with a duration of not more than 12 months, and may specify shorter purchase periods within each offering. During each purchase period, payroll deductions will accumulate, without interest. On the last day of the purchase period, accumulated payroll deductions will be used to purchase common stock for employees participating in the offering.

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The purchase price will be specified pursuant to the offering, but cannot, under the terms of the ESPP, be less than 85% of the fair market value per share of the Company's common stock on either the offering date or on the purchase date, whichever is less.

The Company's Board of Directors has determined that the purchase periods initially shall have a duration of six months, that the first purchase period began on August 3, 2015 and that the purchase price will be 85% of the fair market value per share of the Company's common stock on either the offering date or the purchase date, whichever is less. The length of the purchase period applicable to U.S. employees and the purchase price may not be changed without the approval of the independent members of the Compensation Committee of the Company's Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee has determined that if the fair market value of a share of the Company's common stock on any purchase date within a particular offering period is less than the fair market value on the start date of that offering period, then the offering period will automatically terminate and the employees in that offering period will automatically be transferred and enrolled in a new offering period which will begin on the next day following such purchase date.

No employee may purchase more than 2,500 shares, or such lesser number of shares as may be determined by the Compensation Committee with respect to a single offering period, or purchase period, if applicable. In addition, no employee is permitted to accrue, under the ESPP, a right to purchase stock of the Company having a value in excess of \$25,000 of the fair market value of such stock (determined at the time the right is granted) for each calendar year.

A total of 750,000 shares of common stock have been reserved for issuance under the ESPP, all of which were available for issuance as of September 30, 2015.

Stock compensation expense of \$73,000 was recorded associated with the ESPP in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015.

The estimated grant date fair value of the ESPP shares was calculated using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model, based on the following assumptions:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2015	2014	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015	2014
Weighted-average volatility	53.57 - 58.10%		53.57 - 58.10%	
Weighted-average expected term (years)	0.49 - 0.99		0.49 - 0.99	
Risk-free interest rate	0.17 - 0.33%		0.17 - 0.33%	
Expected dividend yield				

***Preferred Stock***

The Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation authorizes the Company to issue 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock with a par value of \$0.001 per share. No shares were issued and outstanding at September 30, 2015 or December 31, 2014.





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The following table summarizes activity under the Company's stock option plans (aggregate intrinsic value in thousands):

	Shares Available for Grant	Stock Options Outstanding	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life (Years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Balance - December 31, 2014	1,341,252	3,249,469	\$ 7.59	7.88	\$ 12,400
Additional options authorized	900,941				
Granted	(1,426,275)	1,426,275	8.87		
Canceled	164,567	(164,567)	10.36		
Exercised		(225,526)	3.04		
Balance - September 30, 2015	980,485	4,285,651	\$ 8.15	7.7	\$ 2,786
Options vested and exercisable - September 30, 2015		1,839,569	\$ 5.95	6.14	\$ 2,585
Options vested and expected to vest - September 30, 2015		4,285,627	\$ 8.15	7.7	\$ 2,786

The aggregate intrinsic value was calculated as the difference between the exercise price of the options to purchase common stock and the fair market value of the Company's common stock, which was \$4.69 per share as of September 30, 2015.

The weighted average fair value of options to purchase common stock granted was \$5.23 and \$9.74 for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The weighted-average fair value of stock options exercised was \$2.13 and \$1.06 for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The intrinsic value of stock options exercised was \$1.6 million and \$3.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

***Stock-based Compensation***

The following table summarizes stock-based compensation expense related to stock options and the ESPP for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, and are included in the condensed statements of operations and comprehensive loss as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Cost of revenue	\$ 32	\$ 17	\$ 64	\$ 40
Research and development	296	184	891	446

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Selling and marketing	353	200	943	485
General and administrative	793	634	2,288	1,431
Total	\$ 1,474	\$ 1,035	\$ 4,186	\$ 2,402

As of September 30, 2015, the Company had \$12.5 million of unrecognized compensation expense related to unvested stock options, which is expected to be recognized over an estimated weighted-average period of 2.9 years.

The estimated grant date fair value of employee stock options was calculated using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model, based on the following assumptions:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Weighted-average volatility	52.56 - 53.76%	72.84-75.29%	52.56 - 68.82%	72.84 - 78.54%
Weighted-average expected term (years)	6.08	6.08	5.50 - 6.08	5.50 - 6.08
Risk-free interest rate	1.57 - 1.92%	1.87 - 2.04%	1.55 - 2.03%	1.66 - 2.04%
Expected dividend yield				

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There were no stock options granted to non-employees during the nine months ended September 30, 2015. The estimated grant-date fair value of stock options granted to non-employees during the nine months ended September 30, 2014 was calculated using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model, based on the following assumptions: weighted-average volatility from 73.24% to 73.96%, weighted-average expected term from 8.18 years to 9.01 years, risk-free interest rate from 2.34% to 2.42%, and expected dividend yield of 0%.

**9. Genzyme Co-promotion Agreement**

In January 2012, the Company and Genzyme Corporation ( Genzyme ) executed a co-promotion agreement for the co-exclusive rights and license to promote and market the Company's Afirma thyroid diagnostic solution in the United States and in 40 named countries. In exchange, the Company received a \$10.0 million upfront co-promotion fee from Genzyme in February 2012. Under the terms of the agreement, Genzyme will receive a percentage of U.S. cash receipts that the Company has received related to Afirma as co-promotion fees. The percentage was 50% in 2012, 40% from January 2013 through February 2014, and 32% beginning in February 2014. Genzyme's obligation to also spend up to \$500,000 for qualifying clinical development activities in countries that require additional testing for approval expired in July 2014.

In November 2014, the Company signed an Amended and Restated U.S. Co-promotion Agreement ( Amended Agreement ) with Genzyme. Under the Amended Agreement, the co-promotion fees Genzyme receives as a percentage of U.S. cash receipts were reduced from 32% to 15% beginning January 1, 2015. Through August 11, 2014, the Company amortized the \$10.0 million upfront co-promotion fee over a four-year period, which was management's best estimate of the life of the agreement, in part because after that period either party could have terminated the agreement without penalty. Effective August 12, 2014, the Company extended the amortization period from January 2016 to June 2016, the modified earliest period either party can terminate the agreement without penalty. The Company accounted for the change in accounting estimate prospectively. Either party may terminate the agreement with six months prior notice, however, under the Amended Agreement, neither party can terminate the agreement for convenience prior to June 30, 2016. The agreement with Genzyme expires in 2027.

In February 2015, the Company entered into an Ex-U.S. Co-promotion Agreement with Genzyme for the promotion of the Afirma GEC test with exclusivity in five countries outside the United States initially and in other countries agreed to from time to time. The agreement commenced on January 1, 2015 and continues until December 31, 2019, with extension of the agreement possible upon agreement of the parties. Country-specific terms have been established under this agreement for Brazil and Singapore and a right of first negotiation has been established for Canada, the Netherlands and Italy. The Company will pay Genzyme 25% of net revenue from the sale of the Afirma GEC test in Brazil and Singapore over a five-year period commencing January 1, 2015. Beginning in the fourth year of the agreement, if the Company terminates the agreement for convenience, the Company may be required to pay a termination fee contingent on the number of GEC billable results generated.

The Company incurred \$1.8 million and \$3.2 million in co-promotion expense in the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$5.2 million and \$8.7 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, which is included in selling and marketing expenses in the condensed statements of operations and comprehensive loss. The Company's outstanding obligation to Genzyme totaled \$1.8 million at September 30, 2015 and is included in accrued liabilities on the Company's condensed balance sheet. At December 31, 2014 the obligation was \$6.0 million of which \$2.7 million is included in accounts payable and \$3.3 million is included in accrued liabilities on the Company's condensed balance sheet.

The Company amortized \$0.5 million and \$0.5 million of the \$10.0 million up-front co-promotion fee in the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$1.4 million and \$1.8 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, which is reflected as a reduction to selling and marketing expenses in the condensed statements of operations and comprehensive loss.



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**10. Thyroid Cytopathology Partners**

In 2010, the Company entered into an arrangement with Pathology Resource Consultants, P.A. ( PRC ) to set up and manage a specialized pathology practice to provide testing services to the Company. There is no direct monetary compensation from the Company to PRC as a result of this arrangement. The Company's service agreement is with the specialized pathology practice, Thyroid Cytopathology Partners ( TCP ), and is effective through December 31, 2015, and thereafter automatically renews every year unless either party provides notice of intent not to renew at least 12 months prior to the end of the then-current term. Under the service agreement, the Company pays TCP based on a fixed price per test schedule, which is reviewed periodically for changes in market pricing. Subsequent to December 2012, an amendment to the service agreement allows TCP to use a portion of the Company's facility in Austin, Texas. The Company does not have an ownership interest in or provide any form of financial or other support to TCP.

The Company has concluded that TCP represents a variable interest entity and that the Company is not the primary beneficiary as it does not have the ability to direct the activities that most significantly impact TCP's economic performance. Therefore, the Company does not consolidate TCP. All amounts paid to TCP under the service agreement are expensed as incurred and included in cost of revenue in the condensed statements of operations and comprehensive loss. The Company incurred \$1.2 million and \$1.0 million in the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$3.5 million and \$2.8 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, in cytopathology testing and evaluation services expenses with TCP. The Company's outstanding obligations to TCP for cytopathology testing services were \$0.8 million and \$1.1 million as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively, and are included in accounts payable in the Company's condensed balance sheets.

TCP reimburses the Company for a proportionate share of the Company's rent and related operating expense costs for the leased facility. TCP's portion of rent and related operating expense costs for the shared space at the Austin, Texas facility was \$23,000 and \$22,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$67,000 and \$63,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, is included in other income, net in the Company's condensed statements of operations and comprehensive loss.

**11. Income Taxes**

The Company did not record a provision or benefit for income taxes during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The Company continues to maintain a full valuation allowance against its net deferred tax assets.

As of September 30, 2015, the Company had unrecognized tax benefits of \$1.7 million, none of which would currently affect the Company's effective tax rate if recognized due to the Company's net deferred tax assets being fully offset by a valuation allowance. The Company does not anticipate that the amount of unrecognized tax benefits relating to tax positions existing at September 30, 2015 will significantly increase or decrease within the next 12 months. There was no interest expense or penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits recorded through September 30, 2015.

A number of years may elapse before an uncertain tax position is audited and finally resolved. While it is often difficult to predict the final outcome or the timing of resolution of any particular uncertain tax position, the Company believes that its reserves for income taxes reflect the most likely outcome. The Company adjusts these reserves, as well as the related interest, in light of changing facts and circumstances. Settlement of any particular position could require the use of cash.

**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

*The following discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations should be read together with the condensed financial statements and the related notes included in Item 1 of Part I of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, and with our audited financial statements and the related notes included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, as amended.*

This report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. When used in this report, the words expects, anticipates, intends, estimates, plans, believes, continuing, ongoing, and similar expressions are intended forward-looking statements. These are statements that relate to future events and include, but are not limited to, the factors that may impact our financial results; our expectations regarding revenue; our expectations with respect to our future research and development, general and administrative and selling and marketing expenses and our anticipated uses of our funds; our expectations regarding capital expenditures; our anticipated cash needs and our estimates regarding our capital requirements; our need for additional financing; potential future sources of cash; our business strategy and our ability to execute our strategy; our ability to achieve and maintain reimbursement from Medicare and commercial third-party payers at acceptable levels; our expectations regarding future reimbursement rates for our tests; our belief that our published evidence provides a basis for inclusion of our Afirma GEC test in practice guidelines; the estimated size of the global markets for our current and future tests; the potential benefits of our tests and any future tests we may develop to patients, physicians and payers; the factors we believe drive demand for and reimbursement of our tests; our ability to sustain or increase demand for our tests; our intent to expand into other clinical areas; our ability to develop new tests, including tests for interstitial lung disease, and the timeframes for development or commercialization; our ability to get our data and clinical studies accepted in peer-reviewed publications; our dependence on and the terms of our agreements with Genzyme and TCP, and on other strategic relationships, and the success of those relationships; our beliefs regarding our laboratory capacity; the applicability of clinical results to actual outcomes; our expectations regarding our international expansion, including entering new international markets and the timing thereof; the occurrence, timing, outcome or success of clinical trials or studies; the ability of our tests to impact treatment decisions; our beliefs regarding our competitive position; our ability to compete with potential competitors; our compliance with federal, state and international regulations; the potential impact of regulation of our tests by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, or other regulatory bodies; the impact of new or changing policies, regulation or legislation, or of judicial decisions, on our business; our ability to comply with the requirements of being a public company; the impact of seasonal fluctuations and economic conditions on our business; the potential effect of judicial decisions on our ability to adequately protect our intellectual property, and our belief that we have taken reasonable steps to protect our intellectual property; the impact of accounting pronouncements and our critical accounting policies, judgments, estimates, models and assumptions on our financial results; and anticipated trends and challenges in our business and the markets in which we operate.

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Forward-looking statements are based on our current plans and expectations and involve risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, those risks discussed in Part II, Item 1A of this report, as well as risks and uncertainties related to: our limited operating history and history of losses since inception; our ability to increase usage of and reimbursement for the Afirma GEC and any other tests we may develop, including the Percepta test; our dependence on a limited number of payers for a significant portion of our revenue; the complexity, time and expense associated with billing and collecting for our test; current and future laws, regulations and judicial decisions applicable to our business, including potential regulation by the FDA or by regulatory bodies outside of the United States; changes in legislation related to the U.S. healthcare system; our dependence on strategic relationships, collaborations and co-promotion arrangements; unanticipated delays in research and development efforts; our ability to develop and commercialize new products and the timing of commercialization; our ability to successfully enter new product or geographic markets; our ability to conduct clinical studies and the outcomes of such clinical studies; the applicability of clinical results to actual outcomes; trends and challenges in our business; our ability to compete against other companies and products; our ability to protect our intellectual property; and our ability to obtain capital when needed. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date hereof. We expressly disclaim any obligation or undertaking to update any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect any change in our expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based.

When used in this report, all references to Veracyte, the company, we, our and us refer to Veracyte, Inc.

Veracyte, Afirma, Percepta, the Veracyte logo and the Afirma logo are our trademarks or registered trademarks. We also refer to trademarks of other corporations or organizations in this report.

This report contains statistical data and estimates that we obtained from industry publications and reports. These publications typically indicate that they have obtained their information from sources they believe to be reliable, but do not guarantee the accuracy and completeness of their information. Some data contained in this report is also based on our internal estimates.

**Overview**

We are a diagnostics company pioneering the field of molecular cytology, focusing on genomic solutions that resolve diagnostic ambiguity and enable physicians to make more informed treatment decisions at an early stage in patient care. By improving preoperative diagnostic accuracy, we aim to help patients avoid unnecessary invasive procedures while reducing healthcare costs. Our first commercial solution, the Afirma Thyroid FNA Analysis, or Afirma, centers on the proprietary Gene Expression Classifier, or GEC, to resolve ambiguity in diagnosis and is becoming a new standard of care in thyroid nodule assessment. The GEC helps physicians reduce the number of unnecessary surgeries by approximately 50% by employing a proprietary 142-gene signature to preoperatively identify benign thyroid nodules among those deemed indeterminate by cytopathology alone. We have demonstrated the clinical utility and cost effectiveness of the GEC in multiple studies published in peer-reviewed journals and established the clinical validity of the GEC in a study published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in 2012. The comprehensive Afirma offering also includes cytopathology testing and the Afirma Malignancy Classifiers, launched in May 2014. Since we commercially launched Afirma in January 2011, we have received over 190,000 fine needle aspiration, or FNA, samples for evaluation using Afirma and performed more than 45,000 GECs to resolve indeterminate cytopathology results.

We are expanding our molecular cytology franchise into other clinical areas of unmet need, focusing first on difficult-to-diagnose lung diseases, where current diagnostic ambiguity frequently requires invasive, risky and costly procedures to obtain a definitive diagnosis. Through our acquisition of Allegro Diagnostics Corp., or Allegro, in September 2014, we acquired our genomic test aimed at improving the risk stratification of patients with lung nodules that are suspicious for cancer. Our proprietary technology has been developed to help physicians determine which



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patients with non-diagnostic bronchoscopy results can be safely monitored with routine CT scans versus an invasive surgical biopsy. In April 2015, we entered the lung cancer diagnostics market with the Percepta Bronchial Genomic Classifier, a new genomic test to resolve ambiguity in lung cancer diagnosis. We have demonstrated the validity of the Percepta test in our prospective multi-center AEGIS I and AEGIS II studies, which were published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in July 2015.

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Our second pulmonology product, which we currently plan to introduce in 2016, is intended to help patients with suspected interstitial lung diseases, or ILDs, specifically idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, or IPF, obtain an accurate diagnosis without surgery. ILDs present a significant challenge for diagnosis today without invasive surgical biopsy, leaving many patients with ambiguous diagnoses that can lead to suboptimal or even harmful treatment.

In November 2014, we signed an Amended and Restated U.S. Co-promotion Agreement, or Amended Agreement, with Genzyme that reduced the co-promotion fees we owe to Genzyme from 32% to 15% beginning January 1, 2015. The Amended Agreement expires in January 2027. In February 2015, we entered into an Ex-U.S. Co-promotion Agreement, or Ex-U.S. Agreement, with Genzyme for the promotion of the Afirma GEC test with exclusivity in five countries outside the United States initially and in other countries agreed to from time to time. The agreement commenced on January 1, 2015 and continues until December 31, 2019, with extension of the agreement possible upon agreement of the parties. Country-specific terms have been established under this agreement for Brazil and Singapore and a right of first negotiation has been established for Canada, the Netherlands and Italy.

We increased the list price billed for the GEC from \$4,875 to \$6,400 per test in July 2015, while the list price billed for routine cytopathology remained at \$490 per test. We obtained Medicare coverage for the GEC effective in January 2012 and contracted reimbursement at an agreed upon rate of \$3,200. We have entered into contracts with payers establishing in-network allowable rates for both our GEC and cytopathology test including United Healthcare, Aetna and Cigna, as well as several Blue Cross Blue Shield plans, among others. We have also received positive coverage determinations from numerous other commercial payers and, as of September 2015, the GEC is covered by payers representing nearly 155 million lives. We now have nearly 125 million lives under contract. Payers that have agreed to pay for Afirma under contract are also counted as covered lives. Contracted and reimbursement rates vary by payer.

In September, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS, issued a preliminary rate determination for the 2016 Clinical Lab Fee Schedule, or CLFS, for new CPT codes issued in 2015. We obtained a unique CPT code (81545) for the GEC in 2015. The preliminary 2016 rate determination was issued at \$2,152, a 33% reduction from our existing contracted rate of \$3,200. We have challenged the pricing methodology that led to the preliminary determination and expect the final methodology to be issued by CMS before December 1, 2015.

We recognized revenue of \$12.3 million and \$35.5 million in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, an increase of \$2.5 million and \$9.5 million, or 25% and 36%, respectively, compared to the same periods in 2014. We incurred a net loss of \$9.0 million and \$25.7 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to a net loss of \$7.9 million and \$21.2 million in the same periods in 2014. As of September 30, 2015, we had an accumulated deficit of \$140.7 million.

**Factors Affecting Our Performance**

***The Number of FNAs We Receive and Test***

The growth in our business is tied to the number of FNAs we receive and the number of GECs performed. Approximately 88% of FNAs we receive are for the Afirma solution, which consists of services related to rendering a cytopathology diagnosis, and if the cytopathology result is indeterminate, the GEC is performed. The remaining approximate 12% of FNAs are received from customers performing cytopathology and when the cytopathology result is indeterminate the FNA is sent to us for the GEC only. The rate at which adoption occurs in these two settings

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will cause these two percentages to fluctuate over time. Less than 1% of the FNA samples we receive for cytopathology have insufficient cellular material from which to render a cytopathology diagnosis. We only bill the technical component, including slide preparation, for these tests. For results that are benign or suspicious/malignant by cytopathology, we bill for these services when we issue the report to the physician. If the cytopathology result is indeterminate, defined as atypia/follicular lesions of undetermined significance (AUS/FLUS) or suspicious for FN/HCN, we perform the GEC. Historically, the GEC is performed on approximately 14%-17% of samples we have received for the Afirma solution where we perform cytopathology. Approximately 5%-10% of the samples for GEC testing have insufficient ribonucleic acid, or RNA, from which to render a result. The GEC can be reported as Benign, Suspicious or No Result. We bill for the GEC Benign and GEC Suspicious results only. After the GEC is completed, we issue the cytopathology report for the indeterminate results as well as the GEC report, and then bill for both of these tests. We incur costs of collecting and shipping the FNAs and a portion of the costs of performing tests where we cannot ultimately issue a patient report. Because we cannot bill for all samples received, the number of FNAs received does not directly correlate to the total number of patient reports issued and the amount billed.

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*Continued Adoption of and Reimbursement for Afirma*

To date, only a small number of payers have reimbursed us for Afirma at full list price. Revenue growth depends on both our ability to achieve broader reimbursement at increased levels from third-party payers and to expand our base of prescribing physicians and increase our penetration in existing accounts. Because some payers consider the GEC experimental and investigational, we may not receive payment on many tests and payments may not be at acceptable levels. We expect our revenue growth will increase as more payers make a positive coverage decision and as payers enter into contracts with us, which should enhance our accrued revenue and collections. To drive increased adoption of Afirma, we increased our internal sales force in high-volume geographies domestically during 2014 and are continuing to do so, to a lesser extent, in 2015, along with increasing our marketing efforts. We have also hired institutional channel managers to focus on the institutional segment, which accounts generally send us only GECs. If we are unable to expand the base of prescribing physicians and penetration within these accounts at an acceptable rate, or if we are not able to execute our strategy for increasing reimbursement, we may not be able to effectively increase our revenue.

Our average reimbursement per GEC was approximately \$2,300 in the quarter ended September 30, 2015 as compared with approximately \$2,100 in the quarter ended September 30, 2014. The average GEC reimbursement rate will change over time due to a number of factors, including medical coverage decisions by payers, the effects of contracts signed with payers, changes in allowed amounts by payers, our ability to successfully win appeals for payment, and our ability to collect cash payments from third-party payers and individual patients.

We calculate the average GEC reimbursement from all payers, whether they are on a cash or an accrual basis, for tests that are on average a year old, since it can take a significant period of time to collect from some payers. We use an average of reimbursement for tests provided over two quarters as it reduces the effects of temporary volatility and seasonal effects. Thus the average reimbursement per GEC represents the total cash collected to date against GEC tests performed during the relevant period divided by the number of GEC tests performed during that same period.

*How We Recognize Revenue*

A significant portion of our revenue is recognized upon the earlier of receipt of third-party notification of payment or when cash is received. For Medicare and certain other payers where we have an agreed upon reimbursement rate or we are able to estimate the amount that will ultimately be received at the time delivery is complete, we recognize the related revenue on an accrual basis. In the first period in which revenue is accrued for a particular payer, there generally is a one-time increase in revenue. Until we have contracts with or can estimate the amount that will ultimately be received from a larger number of payers, we will recognize a large portion of our revenue upon the earlier of notification of payment or when cash is received. Additionally, as we commercialize new products, we will need to be able to make an estimate of the amount that will ultimately be received for each payer for each new product offering prior to being able to recognize the related revenue on an accrual basis. Because the timing and amount of cash payments received from payers is difficult to predict, we expect that our revenue will fluctuate significantly in any given quarter. In addition, even if we begin to accrue larger amounts of revenue related to Afirma, when we introduce new products, we do not expect we will be able to recognize revenue from new products on an accrual basis for some period of time. This may result in continued fluctuations in our revenue.

Revenue recognized when cash is received and on an accrual basis for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 was as follows:

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	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Revenue recognized when cash is received	\$ 5,350	\$ 7,338	\$ 16,504	\$ 18,501
Revenue recognized on an accrual basis	6,985	2,500	18,957	7,490
Total	\$ 12,335	\$ 9,838	\$ 35,461	\$ 25,991

As of September 30, 2015, cumulative amounts billed at list price for tests processed that were not recognized as revenue upon delivery of a patient report because our accrual revenue recognition criteria were not met and for which we have not received notification of payment, collected cash or written off as uncollectible, totaled approximately \$118 million.

As of December 31, 2014, cumulative amounts billed at list price for tests processed that were not recognized as revenue upon delivery of a patient report because our accrual revenue recognition criteria were not met and for which we have not received notification of payment, collected cash or written off as uncollectible, totaled approximately \$86 million. Of this amount, we recognized revenue of approximately \$1 million and \$9 million in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively, when cash was received.

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Generally, cash we receive is collected within 12 months of the date the test is billed. We cannot provide any assurance as to when, if ever, or to what extent any of the amounts outstanding will be collected. Notwithstanding our efforts to obtain payment for these tests, payers may deny our claims, in whole or in part, and we may never receive revenue from previously performed but unpaid tests. Revenue from these tests, if any, may not be equal to the billed amount due to a number of factors, including differences in reimbursement rates, the amounts of patient co-payments and co-insurance, the existence of secondary payers and claims denials. Finally, when we increase our list price, as we did in July 2015, it will increase the cumulative amounts billed.

We incur expense for tests in the period in which the test is conducted and recognize revenue for tests in the period in which our revenue recognition criteria are met. Accordingly, any revenue that we recognize as a result of cash collection in respect of previously performed but unpaid tests will favorably impact our liquidity and results of operations in future periods.

***Impact of Genzyme Co-promotion Agreement***

The \$10.0 million up-front co-promotion fee we received from Genzyme under the Co-promotion Agreement dated as of January 18, 2012 is being amortized over the estimated useful life based on the provisions of the agreement as a reduction to selling and marketing expenses. We amortized \$1.4 million and \$1.8 million of the \$10.0 million of this fee in the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, which is reflected as a reduction to selling and marketing expenses in our condensed statements of operations and comprehensive loss. The 2012 agreement required that we pay a certain percentage of our cash receipts from the sale of the Afirma GEC test to Genzyme, which percentage decreased over time. The percentage was initially 50%, 40% from January 2013 through February 2014, 32% from February 2014 through December 2014, and decreased to 15% in January 2015. Our co-promotion fees were \$1.8 million and \$5.2 million in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively, compared to \$3.2 million and \$8.7 million in the same periods in 2014, and are included in selling and marketing expenses in our condensed statements of operations and comprehensive loss.

In November 2014, we signed an Amended and Restated U.S. Co-promotion Agreement, with Genzyme, or Amended Agreement. Under the Amended Agreement, the co-promotion fees Genzyme receives as a percentage of U.S. cash receipts from the sale of the Afirma GEC test were reduced from 32% to 15% beginning January 1, 2015. Further, we have agreed to assume more responsibilities for sales and marketing activities. Either party may terminate the agreement with six months prior notice, however, neither party can terminate the agreement for convenience prior to June 30, 2016. Our agreement with Genzyme expires in January 2027.

In February 2015, we entered into an Ex-U.S. Co-promotion Agreement with Genzyme for the promotion of the Afirma GEC test with exclusivity in five countries outside the United States initially and in other countries agreed to from time to time. The term of the agreement is January 1, 2015 and continues until December 31, 2019, with extension of the agreement possible upon agreement of the parties. Country-specific terms have been established under this agreement for Brazil and Singapore and a right of first negotiation has been established for Canada, the Netherlands and Italy. We will pay Genzyme 25% of net revenue from the sale of the Afirma GEC test in Brazil and Singapore over a five-year period commencing January 1, 2015. Beginning in the fourth year of the agreement, if we terminate the agreement for convenience, we may be required to pay a termination fee contingent on the number of GEC billable results generated.

***Development of Additional Products***

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We currently rely on sales of Afirma to generate all of our revenue. In May 2014, we commercially launched our Afirma Malignancy Classifiers, which we believe enhances our Afirma Thyroid FNA Analysis as a comprehensive way to manage thyroid nodule patients and serve our current base of prescribing physicians. We are also pursuing development or acquisition of products for additional diseases to increase and diversify our revenue. For example, in September 2014 we acquired Allegro and with it, a molecular diagnostic lung cancer test designed to help physicians determine which patients with lung nodules who have had a non-diagnostic bronchoscopy result are at low risk for cancer and can thus be safely monitored with CT scans, rather than undergoing invasive procedures. We launched the Percepta Bronchial Genomic Classifier, the test acquired from Allegro, in April 2015. Additionally, we are pursuing a solution for interstitial lung disease that will offer an alternative to surgery by developing a genomic signature to classify samples collected through less invasive bronchoscopy techniques. Accordingly, we expect to continue to invest heavily in research and development in order to expand the capabilities of our solutions and to develop additional products. Our success in developing or acquiring new products will be important in our efforts to grow our business by expanding the potential market for our products and diversifying our sources of revenue.

Table of Contents***Timing of Our Research and Development Expenses***

We deploy state-of-the-art and costly genomic technologies in our biomarker discovery experiments, and our spending on these technologies may vary substantially from quarter to quarter. We also spend a significant amount to secure clinical samples that can be used in discovery and product development as well as clinical validation studies. The timing of these research and development activities is difficult to predict, as is the timing of sample acquisitions. If a substantial number of clinical samples are acquired in a given quarter or if a high-cost experiment is conducted in one quarter versus the next, the timing of these expenses can affect our financial results. We conduct clinical studies to validate our new products as well as on-going clinical studies to further the published evidence to support our commercialized tests. As these studies are initiated, start-up costs for each site can be significant and concentrated in a specific quarter. Spending on research and development, for both experiments and studies, may vary significantly by quarter depending on the timing of these various expenses.

***Historical Seasonal Fluctuations in FNAs Received, GEC Test Volume and Collections***

Our business is subject to fluctuations in the number of FNA samples received for both cytopathology and GEC testing throughout the year as a result of physician practices being closed for holidays or endocrinology and thyroid-related industry meetings which are widely attended by our prescribing physicians. Like other companies in our field, vacations by physicians and patients tend to negatively affect our volumes more during the summer months and during the end of year holidays compared to other times of the year. Additionally, we may receive fewer FNAs in the winter months due to severe weather if patients are not able to visit their doctor's office. Our reimbursed rates and cash collections are also subject to seasonality. Medicare normally makes adjustments in its fee schedules at the beginning of the year which may affect our reimbursement. Additionally, some plans reset their deductibles at the beginning of each year which means that patients early in the year are responsible for a greater portion of the cost of our tests, and we have lower collection rates from individual patients than from third-party payers. Later in the year, particularly in the fourth quarter, we experience improved payment results as third-party payers tend to clear pending claims toward year end. This trend historically has increased our cash collections in the fourth quarter. The effects of these seasonal fluctuations in prior periods may have been obscured by the growth of our business.

**Financial Overview*****Revenue***

Through September 30, 2015, all of our revenues have been derived from the sale of Afirma. To date, Afirma has been delivered primarily to physicians in the United States. We generally invoice third-party payers upon delivery of a patient report to the prescribing physician. As such, we take the assignment of benefits and the risk of collection from the third-party payer and individual patients. Our third-party payers in excess of 10% of revenue and their related revenue as a percentage of revenue were as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Medicare	28%	23%	27%	26%
UnitedHealthcare	11%	15%	13%	17%
Aetna	9%	10%	9%	11%



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48%

48%

49%

54%

As the number of payers reimbursing for Afirma increases, the percentage of revenue derived from Medicare and other significant third-party payers has changed and will continue to change as a percentage of revenue.

For tests performed where we have an agreed upon reimbursement rate or we can estimate of the amount we will ultimately receive at the time delivery is complete, such as in the case of Medicare and certain other payers, we recognize the related revenue upon delivery of a patient report to the prescribing physician based on the established billing rate less contractual and other adjustments to arrive at the amount that we expect to ultimately receive. We determine the amount we expect to ultimately receive based on a per payer, per contract or agreement basis. The expected amount is typically lower than, if applicable, the agreed upon reimbursement amount due to several factors, such as the amount of patient co-payments, the existence of secondary payers and claim denials. In other situations, where we are cannot estimate the amount that will ultimately be received, we recognize revenue upon the earlier of receipt of third-party payer notification of payment or when cash is received. Incremental accrued revenue as a result of additional payer(s) meeting our revenue recognition criteria in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 was approximately \$0.1 million and \$0.6 million, respectively. Upon ultimate collection, the amount received from Medicare and commercial payers where reimbursement was estimated is compared to previous estimates and the contractual allowance is adjusted accordingly. Our ability to increase our revenue will depend on our ability to penetrate the market, obtain positive coverage policies from additional third-party payers, obtain reimbursement and/or enter into contracts with additional third-party payers, and increase reimbursement rates for tests performed. Finally, should we recognize revenue from payers on an accrual basis and later determine the judgments underlying estimated reimbursement change, our financial results could be negatively impacted in future quarters.

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***Cost of Revenue***

The components of our cost of revenue are materials and service costs, including cytopathology testing services, stock-based compensation expense, direct labor costs, equipment and infrastructure expenses associated with testing samples, shipping charges to transport samples, and allocated overhead including rent, information technology, equipment depreciation and utilities. Costs associated with performing tests are recorded as the test is processed regardless of whether and when revenue is recognized with respect to that test. As a result, our cost of revenue as a percentage of revenue may vary significantly from period to period because we do not recognize all revenue in the period in which the associated costs are incurred. We expect cost of revenue in absolute dollars to increase as the number of tests we perform increases and as the rent allocated to the laboratory increases based on the expanded square footage of the laboratory in our new facility. However, we expect that the cost per test will decrease over time due to leveraging fixed costs, efficiencies we may gain as test volume increases and from automation, process efficiencies and other cost reductions. As we introduce new tests, initially our cost of revenue will be high and will increase disproportionately our aggregate cost of revenue until we achieve efficiencies in processing these new tests.

***Research and Development***

Research and development expenses include costs incurred to develop our technology, collect clinical samples and conduct clinical studies to develop and support our products. These costs consist of personnel costs, including stock-based compensation expense, prototype materials, laboratory supplies, consulting costs, costs associated with setting up and conducting clinical studies at domestic and international sites, and allocated overhead including rent, information technology, equipment depreciation and utilities. We expense all research and development costs in the periods in which they are incurred. We expect our research and development expenses will increase in future periods as we continue to invest in research and development activities related to developing additional products and evaluating various platforms. We expect that in 2015 the increase in research and development expenses will be for the continued development and support of the Afirma and Percepta tests and other new products and programs under development, including our ILD programs. Specifically, we plan to: increase the body of clinical evidence to support Afirma; incur research and development expenses associated with clinical utility studies to support the commercialization of Percepta; and incur expenses associated with clinical validation studies in our ILD program.

***Selling and Marketing***

Selling and marketing expenses consist of personnel costs, including stock-based compensation expense, direct marketing expenses, consulting costs, and allocated overhead including rent, information technology, equipment depreciation and utilities. In addition, co-promotion fees paid to Genzyme, net of amortization of the up-front fee received, are included in selling and marketing expenses. In November 2014, we amended the co-promotion agreement with Genzyme. As a result of this amendment, we expect our selling and marketing expenses for Afirma to increase slightly during 2015. Our personnel costs have increased as we have taken on more sales and marketing responsibilities related to Afirma, but these increases are offset by the lower rate we are required to pay Genzyme under the agreement beginning in January 2015. Additionally, in 2015, we have begun to incur selling and marketing expenses as a result of investments in our lung product portfolio. Thus, we believe total selling and marketing expenses will continue to increase in 2015.

***General and Administrative***

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General and administrative expenses include those from the executive, finance and accounting, human resources, legal, billing and client services, and quality and regulatory functions. These expenses include personnel costs, including stock-based compensation expense, audit and legal expenses, consulting costs, costs associated with being a public company, and allocated overhead including rent, information technology, equipment depreciation and utilities. The year ended December 31, 2014 also included transaction costs related to the acquisition of Allegro in September 2014, including charges for merger related severance and bonuses. We expect our general and administration expenses will continue to increase during 2015 as we expand our billing group to support anticipated increased demand for our tests, hire more personnel in accounting and finance, incur increasing expenses related to the documentation of our internal controls in connection with preparation for compliance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and incur greater legal costs for patent prosecution, for public company compliance and for general corporate purposes. Additionally, while we do not begin to make rent payments for our new headquarters space until April 2016, following expiration of our current lease and build out of the office space and new laboratory in of our new facility, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, the rent is expensed on a straight-line basis over the lease period. Prior to beginning to utilize the space, this rent expense is being charged to general and administrative in the amount of approximately \$0.5 million per quarter.

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***Intangible Asset Amortization***

Intangible asset amortization began in April 2015 when we launched the Percepta test and as a result reclassified the indefinite-lived intangible asset to a finite-lived intangible asset. The finite-lived intangible asset with a cost of \$16.0 million is being amortized over 15 years, using the straight-line method.

***Interest Expense***

Interest expense is attributable to our borrowings under our loan and security agreement.

***Other Income, Net***

Other income, net consists primarily of sublease rental income, interest income received from payers and from our cash equivalents, partially offset by amortization of debt issuance costs.

**Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

Our management's discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations is based on our unaudited interim condensed financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP. The preparation of the financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, as well as the reported revenue generated and expenses incurred during the reporting periods. Our estimates are based on our historical experience and on various other factors that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions and any such differences may be material. We believe that the accounting policies discussed below are critical to understanding our historical and future performance, as these policies relate to the more significant areas involving management's judgments and estimates.

***Revenue Recognition***

We recognize revenue in accordance with the provision of ASC 954-605, *Health Care Entities - Revenue Recognition*. Our revenue is generated from the provision of diagnostic services using the Afirma solution and the service is completed upon the delivery of test results to the prescribing physician, at which time we bill for the service. We recognize revenue related to billings for Medicare and commercial payers on an accrual basis, net of contractual and other adjustments, when amounts that will ultimately be realized can be estimated. Contractual and other adjustments represent the difference between the list price (the billing rate) and the estimated reimbursement rate for each payer. Upon ultimate

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collection, the amount received from Medicare and commercial payers where reimbursement was estimated is compared to previous estimates and, if necessary, the contractual allowance is adjusted accordingly. Until a contract has been negotiated with a commercial payer or governmental program, the Afirma solution may or may not be covered by these entities' existing reimbursement policies. In addition, patients do not enter into direct agreements with us that commit them to pay any portion of the cost of the tests in the event that their insurance declines to reimburse us. In the absence of an agreement with the patient or other clearly enforceable legal right to demand payment from the patient, the related revenue is only recognized upon the earlier of payment notification, if applicable, or cash receipt.

The estimates of amounts that will ultimately be realized requires significant judgment by management. Some patients have out-of-pocket costs for amounts not covered by their insurance carrier, and we may bill the patient directly for these amounts in the form of co-payments and co-insurance in accordance with their insurance carrier and health plans. Some payers may not cover our GEC as ordered by the prescribing physician under their reimbursement policies. We pursue reimbursement from such patients on a case-by-case basis. In the absence of contracted reimbursement coverage or the ability to estimate the amount that will ultimately be realized for our services, revenue is recognized upon the earlier of receipt of third-party payer notification of payment or when cash is received.

We use judgment in determining if we are able to make an estimate of what will ultimately be realized. We also use judgment in estimating the amounts we expect to collect by payer. Our judgments will continue to evolve in the future as we continue to gain payment experience with third-party payers and patients.

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***Allowance for Doubtful Accounts***

We estimate an allowance for doubtful accounts against our individual patient accounts receivable based on estimates of expected payment consistent with historical payment experience. Our allowance for doubtful accounts is evaluated on a regular basis and adjusted when trends or significant events indicate that a change in estimate is appropriate. Accounts receivable are written off against the allowance when the appeals process is exhausted or when there is other substantive evidence that the account will not be paid.

***Business Combination***

We account for acquisitions using the acquisition method of accounting which requires the recognition of tangible and identifiable intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed at their estimated fair values as of the business combination date. We allocate any excess purchase price over the estimated fair value assigned to the net tangible and identifiable intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed to goodwill. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred in general and administrative expenses. Results of operations and cash flows of acquired companies are included in our operating results from the date of acquisition.

***Finite-lived Intangible Assets***

Finite-lived intangible assets relates to intangible assets reclassified from indefinite-lived intangible assets, following the launch of Percepta in April 2015. We amortize finite-lived intangible assets using the straight-line method, over their estimated useful life. The estimated useful life of 15 years was used for the intangible asset related to Percepta based on management's estimate of product life, product life of other diagnostic tests and patent life. We test this finite-lived intangible asset for impairment annually or when facts or circumstances indicate a reduction in the fair value below its carrying amount.

***Indefinite-lived Intangible Assets In-process Research and Development***

The Company's indefinite-lived intangible assets are comprised of acquired in-process research and development, or IPR&D. The fair value of IPR&D acquired through a business combination is capitalized as an indefinite-lived intangible asset until the completion or abandonment of the related research and development activities. When research and development is complete, the associated assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. IPR&D is tested for impairment annually or more frequently if events or circumstances indicate that the fair value may be below the carrying value of the asset. The Company recognizes an impairment loss when the total of estimated future undiscounted cash flows expected to result from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition are less than its carrying amount. Impairment, if any, would be assessed using discounted cash flows or other appropriate measures of fair value. There was no impairment for the nine months ended September 30, 2015.

***Goodwill***

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We review goodwill for impairment annually or more frequently if events or circumstances indicate that it may be impaired. Our goodwill evaluation is based on both qualitative and quantitative assessments regarding the fair value of goodwill relative to its carrying value. We have determined that we operate in a single segment and have a single reporting unit associated with the development and commercialization of diagnostic products. In the event we determine that it is more likely than not the carrying value of the reporting unit is higher than its fair value, quantitative testing is performed comparing recorded values to estimated fair values. If impairment is present, the impairment loss is measured as the excess of the recorded goodwill over its implied fair value. We perform our annual evaluation of goodwill during the fourth quarter of each fiscal year. There was no impairment for the nine months ended September 30, 2015.

### *Deferred Tax Assets*

We file U.S. federal income tax returns and tax returns in California, Texas and other states.

As of December 31, 2014, our gross deferred tax assets were \$43.4 million. The deferred tax assets were primarily comprised of federal and state tax net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Utilization of the net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards may be subject to annual limitation due to historical or future ownership percentage change rules provided by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and similar state provisions. The annual limitation may result in the expiration of certain net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards before their utilization.

We are required to reduce our deferred tax assets by a valuation allowance if it is more-likely-than-not that some or all of our deferred tax assets will not be realized. We must use judgment in assessing the potential need for a valuation allowance, which requires an evaluation of both negative and positive evidence. The weight given to the potential effect of negative and positive evidence should be commensurate with the extent to which it can be objectively verified. In determining the need for and amount of our valuation allowance, if any, we assess the likelihood that we will be able to recover our deferred tax assets using historical levels of income, estimates of future income and tax planning strategies. As a result of historical cumulative losses and, based on all available evidence, we believe it is more-likely-than-not that our recorded net deferred tax assets will not be realized. Accordingly, we recorded a valuation allowance against all of our net deferred tax assets at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014. We will continue to maintain a full valuation allowance on our net deferred tax assets until there is sufficient evidence to support the reversal of all or some portion of this allowance.

Table of Contents*Stock-based Compensation*

We recognize stock-based compensation cost for only those shares underlying stock options that we expect to vest on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period of the award. We estimate the fair value of stock options using a Black-Scholes option-pricing model, which requires the input of highly subjective assumptions, including the option's expected term and stock price volatility. In addition, judgment is also required in estimating the number of stock-based awards that are expected to be forfeited. Forfeitures are estimated based on historical experience at the time of grant and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates. The assumptions used in calculating the fair value of share-based payment awards represent management's best estimates, but these estimates involve inherent uncertainties and the application of management's judgment. As a result, if factors change and we use different assumptions, our stock-based compensation expense could be materially different in the future.

**Results of Operations***Comparison of the Three Months Ended September 30, 2015 and 2014*

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Dollar	%
	2015	2014	Change	Change
	(In thousands except GECs processed)			
<b>Statements of Operations Data:</b>				
Revenue	\$ 12,335	\$ 9,838	\$ 2,497	25%
Operating expense:				
Cost of revenue	5,618	4,168	1,450	35%
Research and development	3,563	2,233	1,330	60%
Selling and marketing	6,048	5,533	515	9%
General and administrative	5,728	5,715	13	0%
Intangible asset amortization	266		266	
Total operating expenses	21,223	17,649	3,574	20%
Loss from operations	(8,888)	(7,811)	(1,077)	14%
Interest expense	(92)	(114)	22	-19%
Other income, net	35	23	12	52%
Net loss and comprehensive loss	\$ (8,945)	\$ (7,902)	\$ (1,043)	13%
<b>Other Operating Data:</b>				
GECs processed	5,034	3,441	1,593	46%

*Revenue*

Revenue increased \$2.5 million, or 25%, for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. The increase was primarily due to increased adoption of Afirma and the resultant increase in tests delivered, and, to a lesser extent, additional payers meeting our revenue recognition criteria for accrual, partially offset by a decrease in revenue recorded as cash is received. As contracts are executed and as revenue and collection becomes more predictable, we expect to continue to shift to accruing for revenue instead of waiting until the cash is received to recognize the revenue. For the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014, revenue recognized on an accrual basis increased by approximately \$4.5 million, or 179%, to \$7.0 million, and revenue recognized when cash was received decreased by approximately \$2.0 million, or 27%, to \$5.4 million. Cash revenue in the third quarter of 2014 was positively impacted by a \$0.5 million



catch-up payment.

Table of Contents*Cost of revenue*

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Dollar	%
	2015	2014	Change	Change
	(In thousands)			
<b>Cost of revenue:</b>				
Reagents, chips, consumables and related	\$ 2,008	\$ 1,327	\$ 681	51%
Cytopathology fees and related costs	1,395	1,137	258	23%
Sample collection	834	656	178	27%
Direct labor	685	467	218	47%
Other	696	581	115	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,618</b>	<b>\$ 4,168</b>	<b>\$ 1,450</b>	<b>35%</b>

Cost of revenue increased \$1.5 million, or 35%, for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. Given our corporate focus on GEC growth, GEC tests increased by 46% and cytopathology tests increased by 20%. The increase in reagents, chips, consumables and related costs is associated primarily with increased GEC test volume. The increase in cytopathology fees is related to the volume increase in FNA samples processed. The increase in sample collection costs is primarily related to increased volume. The increase in direct labor is associated with the increase in sample volume and the mix shift to relatively more GECs versus cytopathology tests as more labor hours are incurred on the GEC tests compared to the cytopathology tests and at a higher average employee cost. Other costs are primarily indirect costs, such as facilities allocation, depreciation and equipment maintenance, which increased as a result of increased allocable costs and increased allocation due to a headcount increase of 42%.

The relationship of cost of revenue to revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2015 is impacted by certain payers meeting our revenue recognition criteria for accrual. As a result, approximately \$0.1 million of incremental revenue was accrued for these payers in the quarter and therefore the revenue was recognized in the same period as the related expenses for these tests, which represents a change for these payers from prior periods.

During the three months ended September 30, 2014, a payer made a catch-up payment of approximately \$0.5 million, relating to tests performed in prior periods. The 2014 catch-up payment was the result of a negotiated settlement of amounts owed. The catch-up payment was recorded as cash revenue. The relationship of cost of revenue to revenue for the three months ended September 30, 2014 was favorably impacted as the costs associated with processing the tests associated with the catch-up payment had been expensed in the period in which the patient reports were delivered.

*Research and development*

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Dollar	%
	2015	2014	Change	Change
	(In thousands)			
<b>Research and development expense:</b>				
Personnel related expense	\$ 1,553	\$ 1,080	\$ 473	44%
Stock-based compensation expense	296	184	112	61%
Direct R&D expense	999	568	431	76%

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Other expense		715		401		314	78%
Total	\$	3,563	\$	2,233	\$	1,330	60%

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Research and development expense increased \$1.3 million, or 60%, for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. The increase in personnel related expense was primarily due to increased accrued bonuses as a result of increased bonus targets and performance, as well as a 7% increase in headcount at September 30, 2015 as compared to September 30, 2014. The increase in direct R&D expense was primarily due to materials purchased for research and development experiments as well as expenses associated with ongoing thyroid studies and the Percepta clinical utility study. The increase in stock-based compensation expense reflects option grants to new and existing employees. The increase in other expense was primarily due to consulting, facility and equipment charges.

*Selling and marketing*

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Dollar	%
	2015	2014	Change	Change
	(In thousands)			
Selling and marketing expense:				
Genzyme co-promotion expense, net	\$ 1,330	\$ 2,666	\$ (1,336)	-50%
Personnel related expense	2,905	1,895	1,010	53%
Stock-based compensation expense	353	200	153	77%
Direct marketing expense	656	337	319	95%
Other expense	804	435	369	85%
Total	\$ 6,048	\$ 5,533	\$ 515	9%

Selling and marketing expense increased \$0.5 million, or 9%, for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. The decrease in Genzyme co-promotion expense, net, reflects a reduction in the co-promotion percentage rate payable to Genzyme in the third quarter of 2015 as compared to the third quarter of 2014 under the Amended Agreement with Genzyme, partially offset by growth in cash collections. The increase in personnel related expense was primarily due to increased commissions and accrued bonuses as a result of increased targets and performance, as well as a 28% increase in headcount of our sales and marketing team at September 30, 2015 as compared to September 30, 2014. The increase in stock-based compensation expense reflects option grants to new and existing employees. The increase in direct marketing expense was due primarily to increased marketing expenses for Afirma and, to a lesser extent, lung-related marketing expenses. The increase in other expense was primarily due to consulting expenses and an increase in information technology and facilities expenses that were related to sales and marketing activities.

*General and administrative*

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Dollar	%
	2015	2014	Change	Change
	(In thousands)			
General and administrative expense:				
Personnel related expense	\$ 2,596	\$ 3,308	\$ (712)	-22%
Stock-based compensation expense	794	634	160	25%
Professional fees expense	1,101	951	150	16%
Rent and other facilities expense	898	371	527	142%
Other expense	339	451	(112)	-25%
Total	\$ 5,728	\$ 5,715	\$ 13	0%

General and administrative expense was largely unchanged for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. The decrease in personnel related expense was primarily due to \$1.2 million of bonus and severance recorded in the quarter ended

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September 30, 2014 associated with acquisition of Allegro, offset by increased accrued bonuses as a result of increased bonus targets and performance, as well as an 11% increase in headcount, at September 30, 2015 as compared to September 30, 2014. The increase in stock-based compensation expense was primarily due to option grants to new and existing employees. The increase in professional fees includes higher accounting, audit, legal and other corporate expenses including insurance, offset by approximately \$0.5 million of legal, accounting and valuation services associated with the Allegro acquisition in the 2014 period. The increase in rent and other facilities expense was largely due to our new headquarters building, which is currently being built out for office and new laboratory space, as well as our existing space, for which the lease ends in March 2016. While we do not begin to make rent payments for our new headquarters facility until April 2016, following expiration of our current lease and build out of office space and new laboratory space for our new facility, in accordance with GAAP, the rent is expensed on a straight-line basis over the lease period. Prior to beginning to utilize the space, this rent expense is being charged to general and administrative in the amount of approximately \$0.5 million per quarter. The decrease in other expense was due primarily to a decrease in information technology and facilities allocations as a result of increased headcount in other functions.

Table of Contents*Intangible asset amortization*

Intangible asset amortization began in April 2015 when we launched Percepta and as a result reclassified the indefinite-lived intangible asset to a finite-lived intangible asset. The finite-lived intangible asset with a cost of \$16.0 million is being amortized over 15 years, using the straight-line method. Intangible asset amortization of \$0.3 million was recorded in the three months ended September 30, 2015.

*Interest expense*

Interest expense decreased \$22,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 reflecting the debt modification under the amended loan and security agreement entered into in December 2014.

*Other income, net*

Other income, net, increased \$12,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 primarily due to interest income received and lower amortization of debt issuance costs.

*Comparison of the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 and 2014*

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Dollar	%
	2015	2014	Change	Change
	(In thousands except GECs processed)			
<b>Statements of Operations Data:</b>				
Revenue	\$ 35,461	\$ 25,991	\$ 9,470	36%
Operating expense:				
Cost of revenue	15,322	11,741	3,581	30%
Research and development	9,453	6,602	2,851	43%
Selling and marketing	18,606	14,970	3,636	24%
General and administrative	17,062	13,625	3,437	25%
Intangible asset amortization	533		533	
Total operating expenses	60,976	46,938	14,038	30%
Loss from operations	(25,515)	(20,947)	(4,568)	22%
Interest expense	(269)	(338)	69	-20%
Other income, net	93	54	39	72%
Net loss and comprehensive loss	\$ (25,691)	\$ (21,231)	\$ (4,460)	21%
<b>Other Operating Data:</b>				
GECs processed	13,812	9,990	3,822	38%

*Revenue*

Revenue increased \$9.5 million, or 36%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. The increase was primarily due to increased adoption of Afirma and the resultant increase in tests delivered, and, to a lesser extent, additional payers meeting our revenue recognition criteria for accrual, partially offset by a decrease in revenue recorded when cash is received. As contracts are executed and as revenue and collection becomes more predictable, we expect to continue to shift to accruing for revenue instead of waiting until the cash is received to recognize the revenue. For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014, revenue recognized on an accrual basis increased by approximately \$11.5 million, or 153%, to \$19.0 million, and revenue recognized when cash was received decreased by approximately \$2.0 million, or 11%, to \$16.5 million. Cash revenue for the nine months ended September 30, of 2015 and 2014 were positively impacted by \$0.5 and \$0.5 million, respectively, of catch-up payments.

Table of Contents*Cost of revenue*

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Dollar	%
	2015	2014	Change	Change
	(In thousands)			
<b>Cost of revenue:</b>				
Reagents, chips, consumables and related	\$ 5,210	\$ 3,641	\$ 1,569	43%
Cytopathology fees and related costs	3,978	3,282	696	21%
Sample collection	2,256	1,820	436	24%
Direct labor	1,790	1,317	473	36%
Other	2,088	1,681	407	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 15,322</b>	<b>\$ 11,741</b>	<b>\$ 3,581</b>	<b>30%</b>

Cost of revenue increased \$3.6 million, or 30%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. Given our corporate focus on GEC growth, GEC tests increased by 38% and cytopathology tests increased by 21%. The increase in reagents, chips, consumables and related costs is associated primarily with increased GEC test volume. The increase in cytopathology fees is related to the volume increase in FNA samples processed. The increase in sample collection costs is primarily related to increased volume of samples. The increase in direct labor is associated with the increase in sample volume and the mix shift to relatively more GECs versus cytopathology tests as more labor hours are incurred on the GEC tests compared to the cytopathology tests and at a higher average employee cost. Other costs are primarily indirect costs, such as facilities allocation, depreciation and equipment maintenance, which increased as a result of increased allocable costs and increased allocation due to a headcount increase of 42%.

*Research and development*

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Dollar	%
	2015	2014	Change	Change
	(In thousands)			
<b>Research and development expense:</b>				
Personnel related expense	\$ 4,470	\$ 3,146	\$ 1,324	42%
Stock-based compensation expense	890	446	444	100%
Direct R&D expense	2,328	1,781	547	31%
Other expense	1,765	1,229	536	44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,453</b>	<b>\$ 6,602</b>	<b>\$ 2,851</b>	<b>43%</b>

Research and development expense increased \$2.9 million, or 43%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. The increase in personnel related expense was primarily due to increased accrued bonuses as a result of increased bonus targets and performance, as well as a 7% increase in headcount, at September 30, 2015 as compared to September 30, 2014. The increase in stock-based compensation expense reflects option grants to new and existing employees. The increase in direct R&D expense was primarily due to increased clinical expenses associated with our ongoing thyroid studies and the Percepta clinical utility study and materials purchased for research and development experiments. Other expense increased primarily as a result of consulting and increased information technology and facilities expenses that were related to research and development activities.



Table of Contents*Selling and marketing*

	Nine Months Ended September 30,		Dollar	%
	2015	2014	Change	Change
	(In thousands)			
Selling and marketing expense:				
Genzyme co-promotion expense, net	\$ 3,752	\$ 6,895	\$ (3,143)	-46%
Personnel related expense	8,822	5,350	3,472	65%
Stock-based compensation expense	943	485	458	94%
Direct marketing expense	2,238	935	1,303	139%
Other expense	2,851	1,305	1,546	118%
Total	\$ 18,606	\$ 14,970	\$ 3,636	24%

Selling and marketing expense increased \$3.6 million, or 24%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. The decrease in Genzyme co-promotion expense, net, reflects a reduction in the co-promotion percentage rate payable to Genzyme in the first nine months of 2015 as compared to the first nine months of 2014 under the Amended Agreement with Genzyme, partially offset by growth in cash collections. The increase in personnel related expense was primarily due to increased commissions and accrued bonus as a result of increased performance and bonus targets, as well as a 28% increase in headcount of our sales and marketing team at September 30, 2015 as compared to September 30, 2014. The increase in stock-based compensation expense reflects option grants to new and existing employees. The increase in direct marketing expense was due primarily to expenses associated with Afirma, including trade shows, market research, advertising, public relations, speaker programs and, to a lesser extent, lung-related marketing expenses. The increase in other expense was primarily due to an increase in consulting expenses and, to a lesser extent, an increase in information technology and facilities expenses that were related to sales and marketing activities.

*General and administrative*

	Nine Months Ended June 30,		Dollar	%
	2015	2014	Change	Change
	(In thousands)			
General and administrative expense:				
Personnel related expense	\$ 7,811	\$ 7,116	\$ 695	10%
Stock-based compensation expense	2,289	1,431	858	60%
Professional fees expense	3,832	2,991	841	28%
Rent and other facilities expense	1,821	1,113	708	64%
Other expense	1,309	974	335	34%
Total	\$ 17,062	\$ 13,625	\$ 3,437	25%

General and administrative expense increased \$3.4 million, or 25%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. The increase in personnel related expense was primarily due to increased accrued bonuses as a result of increased bonus targets and performance, as well as an 11% increase in headcount, at September 30, 2015 as compared to September 30, 2014, offset by bonus and severance of \$1.2 million associated with the Allegro acquisition in the nine months ended September 30, 2014. The increase in stock-based compensation expense was primarily due to option grants to new and existing employees. The increase in professional fees includes higher accounting, audit, legal and other corporate expenses including insurance offset by \$0.5 million of professional fees associated with the Allegro acquisition in 2014. The increase in rent and other facilities expense was largely due to our new headquarters space, which is currently being built out for office and new laboratory space, as well as our existing space, for which the lease ends in March of 2016. While we do not begin to make rent payments for our new headquarters space until April 2016, following expiration of our current lease and build out of office space and new laboratory space for our new facility, in accordance with GAAP, the rent is expensed on a straight-line basis over the lease period. Prior to

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beginning to utilize the space, this rent expense is being charged to general and administrative in the amount of approximately \$0.5 million per quarter. The increase in other expense was due primarily to an increase in consulting expense of approximately \$0.6 million and other expenses partially offset by decreases in information technology and facilities allocations as a result of increased headcount in other functions.

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*Intangible asset amortization*

Intangible asset amortization began in April 2015 when we launched Percepta and as a result reclassified the indefinite-lived intangible asset to a finite-lived intangible asset. The finite-lived intangible asset with a cost of \$16.0 million is being amortized over 15 years, using the straight-line method. Intangible asset amortization was \$0.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015.

*Interest expense*

Interest expense decreased \$69,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 reflecting the debt modification under the amended loan and security agreement entered into in December 2014.

*Other income, net*

Other income, net, increased \$39,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 primarily due to interest income received and lower amortization of debt issuance costs.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

We have incurred net losses since our inception. For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and the year ended December 31, 2014, we had a net loss of \$25.7 million and \$29.4 million, respectively, and we expect to incur additional losses in the remainder of 2015 and in future years. As of September 30, 2015, we had an accumulated deficit of \$140.7 million. We may never achieve revenue sufficient to offset our expenses.

On April 28, 2015, we issued and sold 4,907,975 shares of our common stock in a private placement, at a price of \$8.15 per share. We received \$37.3 million in net proceeds, after deducting expenses payable by us of \$2.7 million.

In June 2015, we filed a universal shelf registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission which provides us the ability to offer for sale up to \$125.0 million of securities in a primary offering, including common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, depositary shares and rights. This shelf registration statement provides us the ability, within the \$125.0 million, to offer for sale up to \$25.0 million of our common stock at market prices pursuant to the terms of a Controlled Equity Sales Agreement. Approximately \$0.3 million of costs associated with this registration statement have been deferred in other current assets as of September 30, 2015.

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We believe our existing cash and cash equivalents of \$46.1 million as of September 30, 2015 and our revenue during the next 12 months will be sufficient to meet our anticipated cash requirements for at least the next 12 months.

From inception through September 30, 2015, we have received \$192.0 million in net proceeds from various sources to finance our operations, including net proceeds of \$78.6 million from sales of our preferred stock, net proceeds of \$59.2 million from our initial public offering, net proceeds of \$37.3 million from our sale of common stock in a private placement, \$10.0 million from the Genzyme co-promotion agreement, net borrowings of \$4.9 million under our loan and security agreement, and \$2.0 million from the exercise of stock options.

In June 2013, we entered into a loan and security agreement with a financial institution. The Original Loan provided for term loans of up to \$10.0 million in aggregate. We drew down \$5.0 million in funds under the agreement in June 2013, and did not draw the remaining \$5.0 million on or before the expiration date of March 31, 2014. We were required to repay the outstanding principal in 30 equal installments beginning 18 months after the date of the borrowing, and the loan was due in full in June 2017. The Original Loan had an interest rate of 6.06% per annum, carried prepayment penalties of 2.25% and 1.50% for prepayment within one and two years, respectively, and 0.75% thereafter.

In December 2014, we amended certain terms and conditions of the Original Loan. The Amended Loan provides for term loans of up to \$15.0 million in aggregate, in three tranches of \$5.0 million each. We borrowed \$5.0 million under the first tranche in December 2014 and used the funds for repayment of the \$5.0 million in principal outstanding under the Original Loan, in a cashless transaction. In addition, we paid the accrued but unpaid interest of \$14,000 due on the Original Loan and the related end-of-term payment of \$110,000. The Amended Loan waived the prepayment premium of \$75,000 under the Original Loan and reduced the end-of-term payment of \$225,000 under the Original Loan to \$110,000. The second \$5.0 million tranche under the Amended Loan is available through December 31, 2015, and we may borrow the third \$5.0 million tranche any time through June 30, 2016 after achieving the third tranche revenue milestone as defined in the Amended Loan.

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Under the Amended Loan, we are required to repay the outstanding principal in 24 equal installments beginning 24 months after the date of the borrowing, and the loan is due in full in December 2018. The first tranche of the Amended Loan bears interest at a rate of 5.00% per annum and the obligation includes an end-of-term payment of \$237,500, representing 4.75% of the total outstanding principal balance, which accretes over the life of the loan as interest expense. The Amended Loan carries prepayment penalties of 2.00% and 1.00% for prepayment within one and two years, respectively, and no prepayment penalty thereafter. In connection with the Amended Loan, we paid approximately \$45,000 in third-party fees. As a result of the debt discount and the end-of-term payment, the effective interest rate for the loan differs from the contractual rate.

Loans drawn under the Original Loan and the Amended Loan were used for working capital and general corporate purposes. Our obligations under the Amended Loan are secured by a security interest on substantially all of our assets, excluding our intellectual property and certain other assets. The Amended Loan contains customary conditions related to borrowing, events of default, and covenants, including covenants limiting our ability to dispose of assets, undergo a change in control, merge with or acquire other entities, incur debt, incur liens, pay dividends or other distributions to holders of our capital stock, repurchase stock and make investments, in each case subject to certain exceptions. The Amended Loan also allows the lender to call the debt in the event there is a material adverse change in our business or financial condition. We are required to be in compliance with a minimum liquidity or minimum revenue covenant. As of September 30, 2015, we were in compliance with all covenants.

In September 2014, we acquired Allegro, to accelerate our entry into pulmonology, our second planned clinical area. Allegro was focused on the development of genomic tests to improve the preoperative diagnosis of lung cancer. In conjunction with the acquisition, we issued 964,377 shares of our common stock, paid \$2.7 million in cash, settled in cash outstanding indebtedness of Allegro totaling \$4.3 million, and paid severance and bonus to Allegro personnel of \$1.2 million.

We expect that our near- and longer-term liquidity requirements will continue to consist of selling and marketing expenses, research and development expenses, working capital, and general corporate expenses associated with the growth of our business. Within the next six months, we will spend approximately \$1.8 million in addition to \$3.3 million of landlord provided funding for tenant improvements for the build out of our new South San Francisco headquarters and laboratory facilities. As of September 30, 2015, we have incurred \$1.7 million of costs for the new facility. However, we may also use cash to acquire or invest in complementary businesses, technologies, services or products that would change our cash requirements. If we are not able to generate revenue to finance our cash requirements, we will need to finance future cash needs primarily through public or private equity offerings, debt financings, borrowings or strategic collaborations or licensing arrangements. If we raise funds by issuing equity securities, dilution to stockholders may result. Any equity securities issued may also provide for rights, preferences or privileges senior to those of holders of our common stock. If we raise funds by issuing debt securities, these debt securities would have rights, preferences and privileges senior to those of holders of our common stock. The terms of debt securities or borrowings could impose significant restrictions on our operations. If we raise funds through collaborations and licensing arrangements, we might be required to relinquish significant rights to our technologies or products, or grant licenses on terms that are not favorable to us. The credit market and financial services industry have in the past, and may in the future, experience periods of upheaval that could impact the availability and cost of equity and debt financing. If we are not able to secure additional funding when needed, on acceptable terms, we may have to delay, reduce the scope of or eliminate one or more research and development programs or selling and marketing initiatives. In addition, we may have to work with a partner on one or more of our products or development programs, which could lower the economic value of those programs to us.

The following table summarizes our cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014
Cash used in operating activities	\$ (24,135)	\$ (19,196)
Cash used in investing activities	(2,508)	(8,477)

Cash provided by financing activities	37,745	455
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**Cash Flows from Operating Activities**

Cash used in operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 was \$24.1 million. The net loss of \$25.7 million primarily includes non-cash charges of \$4.2 million of stock-based compensation expense and \$1.6 million of depreciation and amortization, offset by \$1.4 million in amortization of the deferred up-front fee received from Genzyme. Cash used as a result of changes in operating assets and liabilities of \$3.0 million was primarily due to an increase in prepaid and other current assets of \$1.9 million, a decrease in accounts payable of \$1.8 million, an increase in accounts receivable of \$0.6 million and an increase in supplies inventory of \$0.3 million, offset by an increase in accrued liabilities and deferred rent.

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Cash used in operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 was \$19.2 million. The net loss of \$21.2 million includes non-cash charges of \$2.4 million of stock-based compensation expense and \$0.8 million of depreciation and amortization, offset by \$1.8 million in amortization of the deferred up-front fee received from Genzyme. Cash generated as a result of changes in operating assets and liabilities of \$0.4 million is primarily due to a net increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities of \$1.9 million, offset primarily by increases in supplies inventory of \$0.8 million and prepaids and other assets of \$0.6 million.

**Cash Flows from Investing Activities**

Cash used in investing activities was \$2.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015. The investing activities in the nine months ended September 30, 2015 were primarily related to the \$2.0 million acquisition of property and equipment, as well as additional restricted cash of \$0.5 million, consisting of \$0.6 million in conjunction with collateral for an irrevocable standby letter of credit as security for our new headquarters, offset by approximately \$0.1 million of cash used to pay down liabilities associated with the acquisition of Allegro.

Cash used in investing activities was \$8.5 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2014. The investing activities in the nine months ended September 30, 2014 primarily consisted of the acquisition of Allegro using \$6.9 million of cash and \$1.5 million to purchase property and equipment.

**Cash Flows from Financing Activities**

Cash provided by financing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 of \$37.7 million consisted of \$37.3 million net proceeds from our sale of common stock in a private placement and \$0.7 million of cash received from the exercise of options to purchase our common stock, offset by \$0.2 million spent on deferred stock offering costs related to our Controlled Equity Sales Agreement.

Cash provided by financing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 of \$0.5 million consisted of \$0.6 million cash received from the exercise of options to purchase our common stock, net of \$0.1 million of IPO-related disbursements.

**Contractual Obligations**

Except for the lease described below, during the nine months ended September 30, 2015, there were no material changes to our contractual obligations and commitments described under Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in our Annual Report Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, as amended.

On April 29, 2015, we signed a non-cancelable lease agreement for approximately 59,000 square feet to serve as our new South San Francisco headquarters and laboratory facilities. The lease begins in June 2015 and ends in March 2026 and contains extension of lease term and expansion

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options. In conjunction with this lease, the landlord is providing funding of approximately \$3.3 million for tenant improvements. We currently estimate we will invest an additional approximate \$3.5 million in our new facility. As of September 30, 2015, we had recorded approximately \$1.7 million as a receivable from the landlord. Upon signing the lease, we provided \$0.6 million in the form of a letter of credit held as security for the lease. The lease for our current South San Francisco headquarters and laboratory facilities expires on March 31, 2016.

The following table summarizes the rent payment obligations under our non-cancelable operating leases as of September 30, 2015: (in thousands):

<b>Year Ending December 31,</b>	<b>Amounts</b>	
October through December 31, 2015	\$	250
2016		1,822
2017		2,142
2018		2,102
2019		2,026
Thereafter		14,038
Total minimum lease payments	\$	22,380



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**Off-balance Sheet Arrangements**

We have not entered into any off-balance sheet arrangements.

**JOBS Act Accounting Election**

We are an emerging growth company, as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012, or the JOBS Act. Under the JOBS Act, emerging growth companies can delay adopting new or revised accounting standards issued subsequent to the enactment of the JOBS Act until such time as those standards apply to private companies. We have irrevocably elected not to avail ourselves of this exemption from new or revised accounting standards and, therefore, will be subject to the same new or revised accounting standards as other public companies that are not emerging growth companies.

**Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued Accounting Standards Update, or ASU, No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, requiring an entity to recognize the amount of revenue to which it expects to be entitled for the transfer of promised goods or services to customers. The updated standard will replace most existing revenue recognition guidance in GAAP when it becomes effective and permits the use of either the retrospective or cumulative effect transition method. Adoption is permitted as early as the first quarter of fiscal 2017 and is required for us in the first quarter of fiscal 2018. We have not yet selected a transition method and are currently evaluating the effect that the updated standard may have on our condensed financial statements.

In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-03, *Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs*, to require debt issuance costs to be presented as an offset against debt outstanding. The update does not change current guidance on the recognition and measurement of debt issuance costs. The ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015. Adoption of the ASU is retrospective to each prior period presented. We do not anticipate that the adoption of the ASU will have a material impact on our condensed balance sheets.

**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

We are exposed to market risks in the ordinary course of our business. These risks primarily relate to interest rates. We had cash and cash equivalents of \$46.1 million as of September 30, 2015 which consisted of bank deposits and money market funds. Such interest-bearing instruments carry a degree of risk; however, a hypothetical 10% change in interest rates during any of the periods presented would not have had a material impact on our unaudited interim condensed financial statements.

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

**(a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures, as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or Exchange Act, that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. In designing and evaluating our disclosure controls and procedures, management recognized that disclosure controls and procedures, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the disclosure controls and procedures are met. Our disclosure controls and procedures have been designed to meet reasonable assurance standards. Additionally, in designing disclosure controls and procedures, our management necessarily was required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible disclosure controls and procedures. The design of any disclosure controls and procedures also is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions.

Based on their evaluation as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of such date, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level.

**(b) Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) identified in connection with the evaluation identified above that occurred during the quarter ended September 30, 2015 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 1A. Risk Factors**

**Risks Related to Our Business**

*We are an early-stage company with a history of losses, and we expect to incur net losses for the foreseeable future and may never achieve or sustain profitability.*

We have incurred net losses since our inception. For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and the year ended December 31, 2014, we had a net loss of \$25.7 million and \$29.4 million, respectively, and we expect to incur additional losses in 2015 and in future years. As of September 30, 2015, we had an accumulated deficit of \$140.7 million. We may never achieve revenue sufficient to offset our expenses. Over the next several years, we expect to continue to devote substantially all of our resources to increase adoption of, and reimbursement for, our Afirma test, as well as our lung cancer test, Percepta, which we launched in April 2015, as well as the development of additional tests we plan to commercialize, including our test for Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, or IPF. We may never achieve or sustain profitability, and our failure to achieve and sustain profitability in the future could cause the market price of our common stock to decline.

*Our financial results depend solely on sales of Afirma, and we will need to generate sufficient revenue from this and other diagnostic solutions to grow our business.*

All of our revenues have been derived from the sale of Afirma, which we commercially launched in January 2011. For the foreseeable future, we expect to derive substantially all of our revenue from sales of Afirma. We launched our first product in pulmonology for lung cancer, Percepta, in April 2015, and our efforts may not be successful. In addition, we are in various stages of research and development for other diagnostic solutions that we may offer, but there can be no assurance that we will be able to identify other diseases that can be effectively addressed with our molecular cytology platform or, if we are able to identify such diseases, whether or when we will be able to successfully commercialize these solutions. If we are unable to increase sales and expand reimbursement for Afirma, or successfully commercialize Percepta and develop and commercialize other solutions, our revenue and our ability to achieve and sustain profitability would be impaired, and the market price of our common stock could decline.

*We depend on a few payers for a significant portion of our revenue and if one or more significant payers stops providing reimbursement or decreases the amount of reimbursement for our tests, our revenue could decline.*

Revenue for tests performed on patients covered by Medicare, UnitedHealthcare and Aetna was 27%, 13% and 9%, respectively, of our revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared with 26%, 17% and 11%, respectively, in the nine months ended September 30, 2014. The percentage of our revenue derived from significant payers is expected to fluctuate from period to period as our revenue increases, as additional payers provide reimbursement for our tests or if one or more payers were to stop reimbursing for our tests or change their reimbursed amounts. Effective January 2012, Palmetto GBA, the regional Medicare administrative contractor, or MAC, that handled claims processing for

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Medicare services with jurisdiction at that time, issued coverage and payment determinations for the Gene Expression Classifier, or GEC. On a five-year rotational basis, Medicare requests bids for its regional MAC services. Any future changes in the MAC processing or coding for Medicare claims for the Afirma GEC could result in a change in the coverage or reimbursement rates for such products, or the loss of coverage.

In September, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS, issued a preliminary rate determination for the 2016 Clinical Lab Fee Schedule, or CLFS, for new CPT codes issued in 2015. We obtained a unique CPT code (81545) for the GEC in 2015. The preliminary 2016 rate determination was issued at \$2,152, a 33% reduction from our existing contracted rate of \$3,200. If we are unsuccessful in challenging the proposed rate determination, then our revenue in 2016 would be negatively impacted. Approximately 20% of our GEC patients are covered by Medicare. Additionally, commercial payers who tie their reimbursement rates to Medicare rates could lower their reimbursement rates. There can be no assurance that we will prevail in our challenge to this preliminary rate.

Although we have entered into contracts with certain third-party payers which establish in-network allowable rates of reimbursement for our Afirma tests, payers may suspend or discontinue reimbursement at any time, may require or increase co-payments from patients, or may reduce the reimbursement rates paid to us. Any such actions could have a negative effect on our revenue.

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*If payers do not provide reimbursement, rescind or modify their reimbursement policies, delay payments for our tests, recoup past payments, or if we are unable to successfully negotiate additional reimbursement contracts, our commercial success could be compromised.*

Physicians may not order our tests unless payers reimburse a substantial portion of the test price. There is significant uncertainty concerning third-party reimbursement of any test incorporating new technology, including the Afirma GEC and Malignancy Classifiers as well as Percepta. Reimbursement by a payer may depend on a number of factors, including a payer's determination that these tests are:

- not experimental or investigational;
- pre-authorized and appropriate for the specific patient;
- cost-effective;
- supported by peer-reviewed publications; and
- included in clinical practice guidelines.

Since each payer makes its own decision as to whether to establish a coverage policy or enter into a contract to reimburse our test, seeking these approvals is a time-consuming and costly process.

We do not have a contracted rate of reimbursement with many payers for Afirma, and we do not have any contracted reimbursement with respect to Percepta. Without a contracted rate for reimbursement, our claims are often denied upon submission, and we must appeal the claims. The appeals process is time consuming and expensive, and may not result in payment. In cases where there is not a contracted rate for reimbursement, there is typically a greater patient co-insurance or co-payment requirement which may result in further delay or decreased likelihood of collection. Payers may attempt to recoup prior payments after review, sometimes after significant time has passed, which would impact future revenue.

We expect to continue to focus substantial resources on increasing adoption of and coverage and reimbursement for the Afirma test. We believe it takes several years to achieve coverage and contracted reimbursement with a majority of third-party payers. However, we cannot predict whether, under what circumstances, or at what payment levels payers will reimburse for our test. In addition, the Afirma Malignancy Classifiers, launched in May 2014, and Percepta, launched in April 2015, and any other new tests we may develop in the future will require that we expend substantial time and resources in order to obtain reimbursement. Also, payer consolidation is underway and creates uncertainty as to whether coverage and contracts with existing payers will remain in effect. Finally, commercial payers may tie their allowable rates to Medicare rates, and

should Medicare reduce their rates, we may be negatively impacted. Our failure to establish broad adoption of and reimbursement for our tests, or our inability to maintain existing reimbursement from payers, will negatively impact our ability to generate revenue and achieve profitability, as well as our future prospects and our business.

*We may experience limits on our revenue if physicians decide not to order Afirma.*

If we are unable to create or maintain demand for Afirma in sufficient volume, we may not become profitable. To generate demand, we will need to continue to educate physicians about the benefits and cost-effectiveness of Afirma through published papers, presentations at scientific conferences, marketing campaigns and one-on-one education by our sales force. In addition, our ability to obtain and maintain adequate reimbursement from third-party payers will be critical to generating revenue.

Several existing guidelines and historical practices in the United States regarding indeterminate thyroid nodule FNA results recommend a full or partial surgical thyroidectomy in most cases. Accordingly, physicians may be reluctant to order a diagnostic solution that may suggest surgery is unnecessary where some current guidelines and historical practice have typically led to such procedures. Moreover, our diagnostic services are performed at a specialized clinical reference laboratory rather than by a pathologist in a local laboratory, so pathologists may be reluctant to support our services. In addition, guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid nodules may subsequently be revised to recommend another type of treatment protocol, and these changes may result in medical practitioners deciding not to use Afirma. These facts may make physicians reluctant to convert to using or continuing to use Afirma, which could limit our ability to generate revenue and our ability to achieve profitability. To the extent international markets have existing practices and standards of care that are different than those in the United States, we may face challenges with the adoption of Afirma outside the United States.

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***Due to how we recognize revenue, our quarterly operating results are likely to fluctuate.***

We recognize a large portion of our revenue upon the earlier of receipt of third-party payer notification of payment or when cash is received. We have little visibility as to when we will receive payment for our diagnostic test, and we must appeal negative payment decisions, which delays collections. We may receive a large number of past payments from a payer all at once which might cause a one-time increase in revenues. For tests performed where we have an agreed upon reimbursement rate or we are able to estimate the amount that will ultimately be realized at the time delivery is complete, such as in the case of Medicare and certain other payers, we recognize the related revenue upon delivery of a patient report to the prescribing physician based on the established billing rate less contractual and other adjustments to arrive at the amount that we expect to realize. We determine the amount we expect to realize based on a per payer, per contract or agreement basis. In the first period in which revenue is accrued for a particular payer, there generally is a one-time increase in revenue. In situations where we cannot estimate the amount that will ultimately be collected, we recognize revenue upon the earlier of receipt of third-party notification of payment or when cash is received. Upon ultimate collection, the amount received from Medicare and other payers where reimbursement was estimated is compared to previous estimates and the contractual allowance is adjusted accordingly. These factors will likely result in fluctuations in our quarterly revenue. Should we recognize revenue from payers on an accrual basis and later determine the judgments underlying estimated reimbursement change, or were incorrect at the time we accrued such revenue, our financial results could be negatively impacted in future quarters. As a result, comparing our operating results on a period-to-period basis may not be meaningful. You should not rely on our past results as an indication of our future performance. In addition, these fluctuations in revenue may make it difficult for us, research analysts and investors to accurately forecast our revenue and operating results. If our revenue or operating results fall below expectations, the price of our common stock would likely decline.

***We rely on sole suppliers for some of the reagents, equipment, chips and other materials used to perform our tests, and we may not be able to find replacements or transition to alternative suppliers.***

We rely on sole suppliers, such as NuGEN Technologies, Inc., Affymetrix, Inc. and Thermo Fischer Scientific, Inc., for critical supply of reagents, equipment, chips and other materials that we use to perform our tests. We also purchase components used in our collection kits from sole-source suppliers. Some of these items are unique to these suppliers and vendors. In addition, we utilize a sole source to assemble and distribute our sample collection kits. While we have developed alternate sourcing strategies for these materials and vendors, we cannot be certain whether these strategies will be effective or the alternative sources will be available when we need them. If these suppliers can no longer provide us with the materials we need to perform the tests and for our collection kits, if the materials do not meet our quality specifications, or if we cannot obtain acceptable substitute materials, an interruption in test processing could occur and we may not be able to deliver patient reports. Any such interruption may significantly affect our future revenue, cause us to incur higher costs, and harm our customer relationships and reputation. In addition, in order to mitigate these risks, we maintain inventories of these supplies at higher levels than would be the case if multiple sources of supply were available. If our test volume decreases, we may hold excess inventory with expiration dates that occur before use which would adversely affect our losses and cash flow position.

***We depend on a specialized cytopathology practice to perform the cytopathology component of Afirma, and our ability to perform our diagnostic solution would be harmed if we were required to secure a replacement.***

We rely on Thyroid Cytopathology Partners, P.A., or TCP, to provide cytopathology professional diagnoses on thyroid fine needle aspiration, or FNA, samples pursuant to a pathology services agreement. Pursuant to this agreement, TCP has the exclusive right to provide the cytopathology diagnoses on FNA samples at a fixed price per test. We have also agreed to allow TCP to co-locate in a portion of our facilities in Austin, Texas. Our agreement with TCP is effective through December 31, 2015 and thereafter automatically renews every year unless either party provides notice of intent not to renew at least 12 months prior to the end of the then-current term.

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If TCP were not able to support our current test volume or future increases in test volume or to provide the quality of services we require, or if we were unable to agree on commercial terms and our relationship with TCP were to terminate, our business would be harmed until we were able to secure the services of another cytopathology provider. There can be no assurance that we would be successful in finding a replacement that would be able to conduct cytopathology diagnoses at the same volume or with the same high-quality results as TCP. Locating another suitable cytopathology provider could be time consuming and would result in delays in processing tests until a replacement was fully integrated with our test processing operations.

*If we are unable to support demand for Afirma or any of our future products or solutions, our business could suffer.*

As demand for Afirma grows, and as we commercialize new products such as the Percepta test, we will need to continue to scale our testing capacity and processing technology, expand customer service, billing and systems processes and enhance our internal quality assurance program. We will also need additional certified laboratory scientists and other scientific and technical personnel to process higher volumes of our tests. We cannot assure you that any increases in scale, related improvements and quality assurance will be successfully implemented or that appropriate personnel will be available. Failure to implement necessary procedures, transition to new processes or hire the necessary personnel could result in higher costs of processing tests, quality control issues or inability to meet demand. There can be no assurance that we will be able to perform our testing on a timely basis at a level consistent with demand, or that our efforts to scale our operations will not negatively affect the quality of test results. If we encounter difficulty meeting market demand or quality standards, our reputation could be harmed and our future prospects and our business could suffer.



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***Changes in healthcare policy, including legislation reforming the U.S. healthcare system, may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and operations.***

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act, collectively the PPACA, enacted in March 2010, makes changes that are expected to significantly affect the pharmaceutical and medical device industries and clinical laboratories. Beginning in 2013, each medical device manufacturer must pay a sales tax in an amount equal to 2.3% of the price for which such manufacturer sells its medical devices that are listed with the FDA. The FDA has asserted that clinical laboratory tests such as Afirma are medical devices. However, consistent with the FDA's policy of exercising enforcement discretion for laboratory developed tests, or LDTs, Afirma is not currently listed as a medical device with the FDA. We cannot assure you that the tax will not be extended to services such as ours in the future if Afirma or our other tests were to be regulated as a device. The PPACA also mandates a reduction in payments for clinical laboratory services paid under the Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule, or CLFS, of 1.75% for the years 2011 through 2015 and a productivity adjustment to the CLFS which affects our cytopathology billings.

Other significant measures contained in the PPACA include, for example, coordination and promotion of research on comparative clinical effectiveness of different technologies and procedures, initiatives to revise Medicare payment methodologies, such as bundling of payments across the continuum of care by providers and physicians, and initiatives to promote quality indicators in payment methodologies. The PPACA also includes significant new fraud and abuse measures, including required disclosures of financial arrangements with physician customers, lower thresholds for violations and increasing potential penalties for such violations. In addition, the PPACA establishes an Independent Payment Advisory Board, or IPAB, to reduce the per capita rate of growth in Medicare spending. The IPAB has broad discretion to propose policies to reduce expenditures, which may have a negative effect on payment rates for services. The IPAB proposals may affect payments for clinical laboratory services beginning in 2016 and for hospital services beginning in 2020. We are monitoring the effect of the PPACA to determine the trends and changes that may be necessitated by the legislation, any of which may potentially affect our business.

In addition to the PPACA, the effect of which on our business cannot presently be fully quantified, various healthcare reform proposals have also emerged from federal and state governments. For example, in February 2012, Congress passed the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, which in part resets the clinical laboratory payment rates on the Medicare CLFS by 2% in 2013. In addition, a further reduction of 2% is anticipated from implementation of the automatic expense reductions (sequester) under the Budget Control Act of 2011, which is legislated to be in effect for dates of service on or after April 1, 2013 until fiscal year 2024. Reductions resulting from the Congressional sequester are applied to total claims payment made; however, they do not currently result in a rebasing of the negotiated or established Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement rates.

State legislation on reimbursement applies to Medicaid reimbursement and Managed Medicaid reimbursement rates within that state. Some states have passed or proposed legislation that would revise reimbursement methodology for clinical laboratory payment rates under those Medicaid programs. We cannot predict whether future healthcare initiatives will be implemented at the federal or state level or in countries outside of the United States in which we may do business, or the effect any future legislation or regulation will have on us. The taxes imposed by the new federal legislation, cost reduction measures and the expansion in the role of the U.S. government in the healthcare industry may result in decreased revenue, lower reimbursement by payers for our tests or reduced medical procedure volumes, all of which may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, sales of our tests outside the United States will subject our business to foreign regulatory requirements and cost-reduction measures, which may also change over time.

Ongoing calls for deficit reduction at the Federal government level and reforms to programs such as the Medicare program to pay for such reductions may affect the pharmaceutical, medical device and clinical laboratory industries. In particular, recommendations by the Simpson-Bowles Commission called for the combination of Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (physician and ancillary service insurance) into a single co-insurance and co-payment structure. Currently, clinical laboratory services are excluded from the Medicare Part B

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co-insurance and co-payment as preventative services. Combining Parts A and B may require clinical laboratories to collect co-payments from patients which may increase our costs and reduce the amount ultimately collected.

In 2013, CMS announced plans to bundle payments for clinical laboratory tests together with other services performed during hospital outpatient visits under the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System. CMS exempted molecular diagnostic tests from this packaging provision at that time. It is possible that this exemption could be removed by CMS in future rule making, which might result in lower reimbursement for tests performed in this setting.

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In March 2015, we were issued a unique Category I CPT code for the Afirma GEC test. In September 2015, CMS issued preliminary rates for new CPT codes that become active on the 2016 Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule, including a preliminary rate determination for Afirma GEC of \$2,152, 33% lower than our current rate of \$3,200. We have challenged CMS's methodology in reaching this preliminary determination. A final determination on the methodology is expected before December 1, 2015. We do not know what the final pricing methodology and rate for Afirma for 2016 will be and any reduction from the current rate would have a material adverse effect on business and results of operations.

In April 2014, the President signed the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, or PAMA, which included a substantial new payment system for clinical laboratory tests under the CLFS. Under PAMA, laboratories that receive the majority of their Medicare revenues from payments made under the CLFS would report, beginning January 1, 2016, and then on an every three year basis thereafter (or annually for advanced diagnostic laboratory tests), private payer payment rates and volumes for their tests. CMS will use the rates and volumes reported by laboratories to develop Medicare payment rates for the tests equal to the volume-weighted median of the private payer payment rates for the tests. The payment rates calculated under PAMA will be effective starting January 1, 2017. Any reductions to payment rates resulting from the new methodology are limited to 10% per test per year in each of the years 2017 through 2019 and to 15% per test per year in each of 2020 through 2022. CMS has issued draft regulations to implement PAMA and is taking public comments. We believe our Afirma GEC as well as our Percepta test would be considered an advanced diagnostic laboratory test, or ADLT. Further rule-making from CMS will define the time period and data elements evaluated on an annual basis to set reimbursement rates for tests like ours.

***If the FDA were to begin regulating our tests, we could incur substantial costs and delays associated with trying to obtain premarket clearance or approval.***

Clinical laboratory tests like our tests are regulated under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988, or CLIA, as well as by applicable state laws. Most laboratory developed tests, are not currently subject to FDA regulation, although reagents, instruments, software or components provided by third parties and used to perform LDTs may be subject to regulation. We believe that the Afirma and Percepta tests are LDTs. FDA currently exercises its enforcement discretion for LDTs. In October 2014, the FDA published draft guidance documents describing the framework by which they might regulate LDTs. The framework is similar to the guidance they issued previously. There is no timeframe in which the FDA must issue final guidance documents.

If the FDA requires us to seek clearance or approval to offer our existing tests or any of our future products for clinical use, we may not be able to obtain such approvals on a timely basis, or at all. If premarket review is required, our business could be negatively impacted if we are required to stop selling our products pending their clearance or approval or the launch of any new products that we develop could be delayed by new requirements. The cost of conducting clinical trials and otherwise developing data and information to support premarket applications may be significant. In addition, future regulation by the FDA could subject our business to further regulatory risks and costs. Failure to comply with applicable regulatory requirements of the FDA could result in enforcement action, including receiving untitled or warning letters, fines, injunctions, or civil or criminal penalties. In addition, we could be subject to a recall or seizure of current or future products, operating restrictions, partial suspension or total shutdown of production. Any such enforcement action would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and operations. In addition, our sample collection containers are classified as Class I medical devices and are listed with the FDA. If the FDA were to determine that they are Class II medical devices, we would be required to file 510(k) applications and obtain FDA clearance to use the containers, which could be time consuming and expensive.

Some of the materials we use for the Afirma and Percepta tests and that we may use for future products are labeled for research use only. In November 2013, the FDA finalized guidance regarding the sale and use of products labeled for research or investigational use only. Among other things, the guidance advises that the FDA continues to be concerned about distribution of research or investigational use only products intended for clinical diagnostic use and that the manufacturer's objective intent for the product's intended use will be determined by examining

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the totality of circumstances, including advertising, instructions for clinical interpretation, presentations that describe clinical use, and specialized technical support, surrounding the distribution of the product in question. The FDA has advised that if evidence demonstrates that a product is inappropriately labeled for research or investigational use only, the device would be misbranded and adulterated within the meaning of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Some of the reagents, instruments, software or components obtained by us from suppliers for use in our products are currently labeled as research-use only products. If the FDA were to undertake enforcement actions, some of our suppliers might cease selling research-use only products to us, and any failure to obtain an acceptable substitute could significantly and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations, including increasing the cost of testing or delaying, limiting or prohibiting the purchase of reagents, instruments, software or components necessary to perform testing.

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*If we are unable to compete successfully, we may be unable to increase or sustain our revenue or achieve profitability.*

Our principal competition for our tests comes from traditional methods used by physicians to diagnose and manage patient care decisions. For example, with our Afirma test, practice guidelines in the United States have historically recommended that patients with indeterminate diagnoses from cytopathology results be considered for surgery to remove all or part of the thyroid to rule out cancer. This practice has been the standard of care in the United States for many years, and we need to continue to educate physicians about the benefits of the Afirma test to change clinical practice. The same will be true for Percepta.

We also face competition from commercial laboratories, such as Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings, Quest Diagnostics Incorporated and Sonic Healthcare USA with strong infrastructure to support the commercialization of diagnostic services. We face potential competition from companies such as Illumina, Inc. and Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., both of which have announced their intention to enter the clinical diagnostics market. Other potential competitors include companies that develop diagnostic products, such as Roche Diagnostics, a division of Roche Holding Ltd, Siemens AG and Qiagen N.V. We also face competition from companies and academic institutions that use next generation sequencing technology or other methods to measure mutational markers such as BRAF and KRAS along with numerous other mutations. In the future, we may also face competition from companies such as Rosetta Genomics Ltd., Integrated Diagnostics, Inc. and others who are developing new products or technologies that may compete with our tests.

In addition, competitors may develop their own versions of our solution in countries where we do not have patents or where our intellectual property rights are not recognized and compete with us in those countries, including encouraging the use of their solution by physicians in other countries.

To compete successfully we must be able to demonstrate, among other things, that our diagnostic test results are accurate and cost effective, and we must secure a meaningful level of reimbursement for our products.

Many of our potential competitors have widespread brand recognition and substantially greater financial, technical and research and development resources, and selling and marketing capabilities than we do. Others may develop products with prices lower than ours that could be viewed by physicians and payers as functionally equivalent to our solution, or offer solutions at prices designed to promote market penetration, which could force us to lower the list price of our solution and affect our ability to achieve profitability. If we are unable to change clinical practice in a meaningful way or compete successfully against current and future competitors, we may be unable to increase market acceptance and sales of our products, which could prevent us from increasing our revenue or achieving profitability and could cause the market price of our common stock to decline. As we add new tests and services, we will face many of these same competitive risks for these new tests.

*The loss of members of our senior management team or our inability to attract and retain key personnel could adversely affect our business.*

Our success depends largely on the skills, experience and performance of key members of our executive management team and others in key management positions. The efforts of each of these persons together will be critical to us as we continue to develop our technologies and test processes and focus on our growth. If we were to lose one or more of these key employees, we may experience difficulties in competing effectively, developing our technologies and implementing our business strategy.

In addition, our research and development programs and commercial laboratory operations depend on our ability to attract and retain highly skilled scientists. We may not be able to attract or retain qualified scientists and technicians in the future due to the intense competition for qualified personnel among life science businesses, particularly in the San Francisco Bay Area. Our success in the development and commercialization of advanced diagnostics requires a significant medical and clinical staff to conduct studies and educate physicians and payers on the merits of our tests in order to achieve adoption and reimbursement. We are in a highly competitive industry to attract and retain this talent. As a public company located in the San Francisco Bay Area, we face intense competition for highly skilled finance and accounting personnel. If we are unable to attract and retain finance and accounting personnel experienced in public company financial reporting, we risk being unable to close our books and file our public documents on a timely basis. Additionally, our success depends on our ability to attract and retain qualified sales people. During 2014, we significantly expanded our sales force for Afirma and will continue to do so, to a lesser extent, in 2015. There can be no assurance that they will be successful in maintaining and growing the business. As we plan to further increase our sales channels for new tests such as Percepta, we may have difficulties locating and recruiting additional sales personnel or retaining qualified salespeople, which could cause a delay or decline in the rate of adoption of our tests. Finally, our business requires specialized capabilities in reimbursement, billing, and other areas and there may be a shortage of qualified individuals. If we are not able to attract and retain the necessary personnel to accomplish our business objectives, we may experience constraints that could adversely affect our ability to support our research and development, clinical laboratory, sales and reimbursement, billing and finance efforts. All of our employees are at will, which means that either we or the employee may terminate their employment at any time. We do not carry key man insurance for any of our employees.

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*We may be unable to manage our future growth effectively, which could make it difficult to execute our business strategy.*

In addition to the need to scale our testing capacity, future growth, including our transition to a multi-product company with international operations, will impose significant added responsibilities on management, including the need to identify, recruit, train and integrate additional employees with the necessary skills to support the growing complexities of our business. In addition, rapid and significant growth may place strain on our administrative, financial and operational infrastructure. Our ability to manage our business and growth will require us to continue to improve our operational, financial and management controls, reporting systems and procedures. We have implemented an internally developed data warehouse, which is critical to our ability to track our diagnostic services and patient reports delivered to physicians, as well as to support our financial reporting systems. The time and resources required to optimize these systems is uncertain, and failure to complete optimization in a timely and efficient manner could adversely affect our operations. Additionally, growth requires us to expand and move our South San Francisco operations, and we have leased a new facility beginning in June 2015. The move to the new laboratory facility in South San Francisco will require us to notify appropriate regulatory agencies, which may result in an inspection or audit of the new facility. This move of our offices and laboratory could disrupt our business and will require the investment of resources. If we are unable to manage our growth effectively, it may be difficult for us to execute our business strategy and our business could be harmed.

*Billing for our diagnostic tests is complex, and we must dedicate substantial time and resources to the billing process to be paid.*

Billing for clinical laboratory testing services is complex, time consuming and expensive. Depending on the billing arrangement and applicable law, we bill various payers, including Medicare, insurance companies and patients, all of which have different billing requirements. We generally bill third-party payers for our diagnostic tests and pursue reimbursement on a case-by-case basis where pricing contracts are not in place. To the extent laws or contracts require us to bill patient co-payments or co-insurance, we must also comply with these requirements. We may also face increased risk in our collection efforts, including potential write-offs of doubtful accounts and long collection cycles, which could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Several factors make the billing process complex, including:

- differences between the list price for our tests and the reimbursement rates of payers;
- compliance with complex federal and state regulations related to billing Medicare;
- disputes among payers as to which party is responsible for payment;
- differences in coverage and in information and billing requirements among payers, including the need for prior authorization and/or advanced notification;

- the effect of patient co-payments or co-insurance;
- changes to billing codes used for our tests;
- incorrect or missing billing information; and
- the resources required to manage the billing and claims appeals process.

Standard industry billing codes, known as CPT codes, that we use to bill for cytopathology do not generally exist for our proprietary molecular diagnostic tests. Therefore, until such time that we are awarded and are able to use a designated CPT code specific to our tests, we use miscellaneous codes for claim submissions. These codes can change over time. When codes change, there is a risk of an error being made in the claim adjudication process. These errors can occur with claims submission, third-party transmission or in the processing of the claim by the payer. Claim adjudication errors may result in a delay in payment processing or a reduction in the amount of the payment received. Coding changes, therefore, may have an adverse effect on our revenues. Even when we receive a designated CPT code specific to our tests, there can be no assurance that payers will recognize these codes in a timely manner or that the process to transitioning to such a code will not result in errors or delays in payments. We obtained a specific CPT code for the GEC which was published by the American Medical Association in early 2015. The code is expected to become effective January 1, 2016. There can be no assurance that we or our customers who bill will not face issues as the new code is utilized, which could have an adverse effect on our collection rates, revenue, and cost of collecting.



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As we introduce new tests, such as Percepta, we will need to add new codes to our billing process as well as our financial reporting systems. Failure or delays in effecting these changes in external billing and internal systems and processes could negatively affect our revenue and cash flow.

In October 2015, CMS replaced the ICD-9 code set with the ICD-10 code set. The transition requires ordering physicians to submit ICD-10 codes along with their requisitions for our tests with FNA samples. If physicians do not send proper coding with requisitions, electronic billing systems are not prepared for the transition, or payers have not upgraded their systems to appropriately pay claims with the new codes, we may experience delays in collecting payments, which would impact our revenue recognized on a cash basis, and our cash position.

Additionally, our billing activities require us to implement compliance procedures and oversight, train and monitor our employees, challenge coverage and payment denials, assist patients in appealing claims, and undertake internal audits to evaluate compliance with applicable laws and regulations as well as internal compliance policies and procedures. Payers also conduct external audits to evaluate payments, which add further complexity to the billing process. If the payer makes an overpayment determination, there is a risk that we may be required to return some portion of prior payments we have received. These billing complexities, and the related uncertainty in obtaining payment for our diagnostic solution, could negatively affect our revenue and cash flow, our ability to achieve profitability, and the consistency and comparability of our results of operations.

*We rely on a third-party to transmit claims to payers, and any delay in transmitting claims could have an adverse effect on our revenue.*

While we manage the overall processing of claims, we rely on a third-party provider to transmit the actual claims to payers based on the specific payer billing format. We have previously experienced delays in claims processing when our third-party provider made changes to its invoicing system, and again when it did not submit claims to payers within the timeframe we require. Additionally, coding for diagnostic tests may change, and such changes may cause short-term billing errors that may take significant time to resolve. If claims are not submitted to payers on a timely basis or are erroneously submitted, or if we are required to switch to a different provider to handle claim submissions, we may experience delays in our ability to process these claims and receipt of payments from payers, which would have an adverse effect on our revenue and our business.

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*The success of our relationship with Genzyme to co-promote Afirma may have a significant effect on our business.*

We sell Afirma in the United States through our internal sales team and through our Amended and Restated U.S. Co-promotion Agreement with Genzyme Corporation, or the Amended Agreement. Under the Amended Agreement, we are required to pay Genzyme a co-promotion fee that is equal to a percentage of our cash receipts from the sale of the Afirma GEC test. The percentage is currently set at 15% beginning on January 1, 2015. Our agreement with Genzyme expires in 2027. We have also granted Genzyme a right of first offer to co-promote any future thyroid cancer product that we commercialize. If Genzyme does not commit the necessary resources to market and sell the Afirma GEC test to the level of our expectations, or if they terminate the agreement, we may not realize the benefits of this relationship and our ability to generate revenue in the future may be harmed. If our agreement with Genzyme were terminated, we would have to hire additional sales personnel to support the growth of Afirma and any other thyroid product we had previously agreed to co-promote with Genzyme.

In February 2015, we entered into an Ex-U.S. Co-promotion Agreement with Genzyme for the promotion of the Afirma GEC test with exclusivity in five countries outside the United States initially and in other countries agreed to from time to time. The term of the agreement is January 1, 2015 and continues until December 31, 2019, with extension of the agreement possible upon agreement of the parties. Country-specific terms have been established under this agreement for Brazil and Singapore and a right of first negotiation has been established for Canada, the Netherlands and Italy. We will pay Genzyme 25% of net revenue from the sale of the Afirma GEC test in Brazil and Singapore over a five-year period commencing January 1, 2015. Beginning in the fourth year of the agreement, if we terminate the agreement for convenience, we may be required to pay a termination fee contingent on the number of GEC billable results generated outside the United States. If Genzyme does not commit the necessary resources to market and sell the Afirma GEC test outside the United States to the level of our expectations, or if they terminate the agreement, we may not realize the benefits of this relationship and our ability to generate revenue in the future may be harmed.

*Developing new products involves a lengthy and complex process, and we may not be able to commercialize on a timely basis, or at all, other products we are developing.*

We have enhancements to our current Afirma offering and other diagnostic solutions under development that will require us to devote considerable resources to research and development. There can be no assurance that we will be able to identify other diseases that can be effectively addressed with our molecular cytology platform. In addition, if we identify such diseases, we may not be able to develop products with the diagnostic accuracy necessary to be clinically useful and commercially successful. We may face challenges obtaining sufficient numbers of samples to validate a genomic signature for a molecular diagnostic product. We have recently launched the Percepta test and are in the process of developing a test for interstitial lung disease, specifically IPF. We still must complete clinical utility studies of Percepta in order to obtain reimbursement, which studies are currently underway. Our product for interstitial lung diseases may not be fully developed and introduced as planned in 2016.

In order to develop and commercialize diagnostic tests, we need to:

- expend significant funds to conduct substantial research and development;
- conduct successful analytical and clinical studies;

- scale our laboratory processes to accommodate new tests; and
- build the commercial infrastructure to market and sell new products.

Our product development process involves a high degree of risk and may take several years. Our product development efforts may fail for many reasons, including:

- failure to identify a genomic signature in biomarker discovery;
- inability to secure sufficient numbers of samples at an acceptable cost and on an acceptable timeframe to conduct analytical and clinical studies; or
- failure of clinical validation studies to support the effectiveness of the test.

Typically, few research and development projects result in commercial products, and success in early clinical studies often is not replicated in later studies. At any point, we may abandon development of a product candidate or we may be required to expend considerable resources repeating clinical studies, which would adversely affect the timing for generating potential revenue from a new product and our ability to invest in other products in our pipeline. If a clinical validation study fails to demonstrate the prospectively defined endpoints of the study or if we fail to sufficiently demonstrate analytical validity, we might choose to abandon the development of the product, which could harm our business. In addition, competitors may develop and commercialize competing products or technologies faster than us or at a lower cost.

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***We may acquire businesses or assets, form joint ventures or make investments in other companies or technologies that could harm our operating results, dilute our stockholders' ownership, increase our debt or cause us to incur significant expense.***

We acquired Allegro Diagnostics in September 2014, and we may pursue additional acquisitions of complementary businesses or assets, as well as technology licensing arrangements as part of our business strategy. We also may pursue strategic alliances that leverage our core technology and industry experience to expand our offerings or distribution, or make investments in other companies. To date, we have limited experience with respect to acquisitions and the formation of strategic alliances and joint ventures. We may not be able to integrate acquisitions successfully into our existing business, and we could assume unknown or contingent liabilities. In addition, we may not realize the expected benefits of our acquisition of Allegro or any businesses we may acquire in the future. Any acquisitions made by us also could result in significant write-offs or the incurrence of debt and contingent liabilities, any of which could harm our operating results. Integration of acquired companies or businesses we may acquire in the future also may require management resources that otherwise would be available for ongoing development of our existing business. We may not identify or complete these transactions in a timely manner, on a cost-effective basis, or at all, and we may not realize the anticipated benefits of any acquisition, technology license, strategic alliance, joint venture or investment.

To finance any acquisitions or investments, we may choose to issue shares of our stock as consideration, which would dilute the ownership of our stockholders. If the price of our common stock is low or volatile, we may not be able to acquire other companies for stock. Alternatively, it may be necessary for us to raise additional funds for these activities through public or private financings. Additional funds may not be available on terms that are favorable to us, or at all. If these funds are raised through the sale of equity or convertible debt securities, dilution to our stockholders could result. Our current loan and security agreement contains covenants that could limit our ability to sell debt securities or obtain additional debt financing arrangements.

***If we are unable to develop products to keep pace with rapid technological, medical and scientific change, our operating results and competitive position could be harmed.***

In recent years, there have been numerous advances in technologies relating to diagnostics, particularly diagnostics that are based on genomic information. These advances require us to continuously develop our technology and to work to develop new solutions to keep pace with evolving standards of care. Our solutions could become obsolete unless we continually innovate and expand our product offerings to include new clinical applications. If we are unable to develop new products or to demonstrate the applicability of our products for other diseases, our sales could decline and our competitive position could be harmed.

***If we fail to comply with federal, state and foreign laboratory licensing requirements, we could lose the ability to perform our tests or experience disruptions to our business.***

We are subject to CLIA, a federal law that regulates clinical laboratories that perform testing on specimens derived from humans for the purpose of providing information for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of disease. CLIA regulations mandate specific standards in the areas of personnel qualifications, administration, and participation in proficiency testing, patient test management and quality assurance. CLIA certification is also required in order for us to be eligible to bill state and federal healthcare programs, as well as many private third-party payers. To renew these certifications, we are subject to survey and inspection every two years. Moreover, CLIA inspectors may make random inspections of our clinical reference laboratories. When we relocate our South San Francisco CLIA laboratory to our new building, we will be subject to additional inspections or audits by regulatory agencies, in New York or California, and CMS. If we relocate our Texas facilities, we could be required to undergo certification at our new facility in order to offer our tests.

We are also required to maintain state licenses to conduct testing in our laboratories. California, New York, Texas, among other states laws, require that we maintain a license and establish standards for the day-to-day operation of our clinical reference laboratories, including the training and skills required of personnel and quality control matters. In addition, both of our clinical reference laboratories are required to be licensed on a test-specific basis by New York State. We have received approval for the Afirma tests we currently offer, but will need to obtain approval for the Percepta test and any other tests we may offer in the future. New York law also mandates proficiency testing for laboratories licensed under New York state law, regardless of whether such laboratories are located in New York. Several other states require that we hold licenses to test samples from patients in those states. Other states may have similar requirements or may adopt similar requirements in the future. If we were to lose our CLIA certificate or California license for our South San Francisco laboratory, whether as a result of revocation, suspension or limitation, we would no longer be able to perform the GEC, which would eliminate our primary source of revenue and harm our business. If we were to lose our CLIA certificate for our Austin laboratory, we would need to move the receipt and storage of FNAs, as well as the slide preparation for cytopathology, to South San Francisco, which could result in a delay in processing tests during that transition and increased costs. If we were to lose our licenses issued by New York or by other states where we are required to hold licenses, we would not be able to test specimens from those states. New tests we may develop may be subject to new approvals by regulatory bodies such as New York State, and we may not be able to offer our new tests until such approvals are received.

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Finally, we may be subject to regulation in foreign jurisdictions as we pursue offering our tests internationally. Other limitations, such as prohibitions on the import of tissue necessary for us to perform our tests or restrictions on the export of tissue imposed by countries outside of the United States may constrain our ability to offer tests internationally in the future.

*We may experience limits on our revenue if patients decide not to use our tests.*

Some patients may decide not to use our tests because of price, all or part of which may be payable directly by the patient if the patient's insurer denies reimbursement in full or in part. There is a growing trend among insurers to shift more of the cost of healthcare to patients in the form of higher co-payments or premiums, and this trend is accelerating which puts patients in the position of having to pay more for our tests. Implementation of provisions of the PPACA has also resulted in increases in premiums and reductions in coverage for some patients. These events may result in patients delaying or forgoing medical checkups or treatment due to their inability to pay for our tests, which could have an adverse effect on our revenue.

*Complying with numerous statutes and regulations pertaining to our business is an expensive and time-consuming process, and any failure to comply could result in substantial penalties.*

Our operations are subject to other extensive federal, state, local, and foreign laws and regulations, all of which are subject to change. These laws and regulations currently include, among others:

- the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, or HIPAA, which established comprehensive federal standards with respect to the privacy and security of protected health information and requirements for the use of certain standardized electronic transactions, and amendments made in 2013 to HIPAA under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, or HITECH, which strengthen and expand HIPAA privacy and security compliance requirements, increase penalties for violators, extend enforcement authority to state attorneys general, and impose requirements for breach notification;
- Medicare billing and payment regulations applicable to clinical laboratories;
- the Federal Anti-Kickback Statute, which prohibits knowingly and willfully offering, paying, soliciting, or receiving remuneration, directly or indirectly, in exchange for or to induce either the referral of an individual, or the furnishing, arranging for, or recommending of an item or service that is reimbursable, in whole or in part, by a federal health care program;

- the Federal Stark physician self-referral law (and state equivalents), which prohibits a physician from making a referral for certain designated health services covered by the Medicare program, including laboratory and pathology services, if the physician or an immediate family member has a financial relationship with the entity providing the designated health services, unless the financial relationship falls within an applicable exception to the prohibition;
- the Federal Civil Monetary Penalties Law, which prohibits, among other things, the offering or transfer of remuneration to a Medicare or state health care program beneficiary if the person knows or should know it is likely to influence the beneficiary's selection of a particular provider, practitioner, or supplier of services reimbursable by Medicare or a state health care program, unless an exception applies;
- the Federal False Claims Act, which imposes liability on any person or entity that, among other things, knowingly presents, or causes to be presented, a false or fraudulent claim for payment to the federal government;
- other federal and state fraud and abuse laws, such as anti-kickback laws, prohibitions on self-referral, fee-splitting restrictions, prohibitions on the provision of products at no or discounted cost to induce physician or patient adoption, and false claims acts, which may extend to services reimbursable by any third-party payer, including private insurers;
- the prohibition on reassignment of Medicare claims, which, subject to certain exceptions, precludes the reassignment of Medicare claims to any other party;
- the rules regarding billing for diagnostic tests reimbursable by the Medicare program, which prohibit a physician or other supplier from marking up the price of the technical component or professional component of a diagnostic test ordered by the physician or other supplier and supervised or performed by a physician who does not share a practice with the billing physician or supplier;
- state laws that prohibit other specified practices related to billing such as billing physicians for testing that they order, waiving co-insurance, co-payments, deductibles, and other amounts owed by patients, and billing a state Medicaid program at a price that is higher than what is charged to other payers; and
- the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977, and other similar laws, which apply to our international activities.

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We have adopted policies and procedures designed to comply with these laws and regulations. In the ordinary course of our business, we conduct internal reviews of our compliance with these laws. Our compliance is also subject to governmental review. The growth of our business and sales organization and our expansion outside of the United States may increase the potential of violating these laws or our internal policies and procedures. We believe that we are in material compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements, but there is a risk that one or more government agencies could take a contrary position. These laws and regulations are complex and are subject to interpretation by the courts and by government agencies. If one or more such agencies alleges that we may be in violation of any of these requirements, regardless of the outcome, it could damage our reputation and adversely affect important business relationships with third parties, including managed care organizations and other commercial third-party payers. Any action brought against us for violation of these or other laws or regulations, even if we successfully defend against it, could cause us to incur significant legal expenses and divert our management's attention from the operation of our business. If our operations are found to be in violation of any of these laws and regulations, we may be subject to any applicable penalty associated with the violation, including civil and criminal penalties, damages and fines, we could be required to refund payments received by us, and we could be required to curtail or cease our operations. Any of the foregoing consequences could seriously harm our business and our financial results.

***International expansion of our business exposes us to business, regulatory, political, operational, financial and economic risks associated with doing business outside of the United States.***

Our business strategy includes international expansion in select countries, and may include developing and maintaining physician outreach and education capabilities outside of the United States, establishing agreements with laboratories, and expanding our relationships with international payers. Doing business internationally involves a number of risks, including:

- multiple, conflicting and changing laws and regulations such as tax laws, privacy laws, export and import restrictions, employment laws, regulatory requirements and other governmental approvals, permits and licenses;
- failure by us to obtain regulatory approvals where required for the use of our solution in various countries;
- complexities associated with managing multiple payer reimbursement regimes, government payers or patient self-pay systems;
- logistics and regulations associated with shipping tissue samples, including infrastructure conditions and transportation delays;
- challenges associated with establishing laboratory partners, including proper sample collection techniques, inventory management, sample logistics, billing and promotional activities;



- limits on our ability to penetrate international markets if we are not able to process tests locally;
- financial risks, such as longer payment cycles, difficulty in collecting from payers, the effect of local and regional financial crises, and exposure to foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations;
- natural disasters, political and economic instability, including wars, terrorism, and political unrest, outbreak of disease, boycotts, curtailment of trade and other business restrictions; and
- regulatory and compliance risks that relate to maintaining accurate information and control over activities that may fall within the purview of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977, including both its books and records provisions and its anti-bribery provisions.

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Any of these factors could significantly harm our future international expansion and operations and, consequently, our revenue and results of operations.

***If we are sued for product liability or errors and omissions liability, we could face substantial liabilities that exceed our resources.***

The marketing, sale and use of our current or future tests could lead to product liability claims if someone were to allege that the tests failed to perform as they were designed. We may also be subject to liability for errors in the results we provide to physicians or for a misunderstanding of, or inappropriate reliance upon, the information we provide. Our Afirma GEC is performed on FNA samples that are diagnosed as indeterminate by standard cytopathology review. We report results as benign or suspicious to the prescribing physician. Under certain circumstances, we might report a result as benign that later proves to have been malignant. This could be the result of the physician having poor nodule sampling in collecting the FNA, performing the FNA on a different nodule than the one that is malignant or failure of the GEC to perform as intended. We may also be subject to similar types of claims related to our Afirma Malignancy Classifiers and Percepta, as well as tests we may develop in the future. A product liability or errors and omissions liability claim could result in substantial damages and be costly and time consuming for us to defend. Although we maintain product liability and errors and omissions insurance, we cannot assure you that our insurance would fully protect us from the financial impact of defending against these types of claims or any judgments, fines or settlement costs arising out of any such claims. Any product liability or errors and omissions liability claim brought against us, with or without merit, could increase our insurance rates or prevent us from securing insurance coverage in the future. Additionally, any product liability lawsuit could cause injury to our reputation or cause us to suspend sales of our products and solutions. The occurrence of any of these events could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

***If our laboratory in South San Francisco becomes inoperable due to an earthquake or either of our laboratories becomes inoperable for any other reason, we will be unable to perform our testing services and our business will be harmed.***

We perform all of the Afirma GEC testing at our laboratory in South San Francisco, California. Our laboratory in Austin, Texas accepts and stores substantially all FNA samples pending transfer to our California laboratory for Afirma GEC processing. We have commenced Percepta testing in our South San Francisco laboratory as well. The laboratories and equipment we use to perform our tests would be costly to replace and could require substantial lead time to replace and qualify for use if they became inoperable. Either of our facilities may be harmed or rendered inoperable by natural or man-made disasters, including earthquakes, flooding and power outages, which may render it difficult or impossible for us to perform our testing services for some period of time or to receive and store samples. The inability to perform our tests for even a short period of time may result in the loss of customers or harm our reputation, and we may be unable to regain those customers in the future. Although we maintain insurance for damage to our property and the disruption of our business, this insurance may not be sufficient to cover all of our potential losses and may not continue to be available to us on acceptable terms, if at all.

***If we cannot enter into new clinical study collaborations, our product development and subsequent commercialization could be delayed.***

In the past, we have entered into clinical study collaborations, and our success in the future depends in part on our ability to enter into additional collaborations with highly regarded institutions. This can be difficult due to internal and external constraints placed on these organizations. Some organizations may limit the number of collaborations they have with any one company so as to not be perceived as biased or conflicted. Organizations may also have insufficient administrative and related infrastructure to enable collaborations with many companies at once, which can extend the time it takes to develop, negotiate and implement a collaboration. Additionally, organizations often insist on retaining the rights to publish the clinical data resulting from the collaboration. The publication of clinical data in peer-reviewed journals is a crucial step in commercializing and obtaining reimbursement for our diagnostic tests, and our inability to control when and if results are published may delay

or limit our ability to derive sufficient revenue from them.

*If we use hazardous materials in a manner that causes contamination or injury, we could be liable for resulting damages.*

We are subject to federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations governing the use, discharge, storage, handling and disposal of biological material, chemicals and waste. We cannot eliminate the risk of accidental contamination or injury to employees or third parties from the use, storage, handling or disposal of these materials. In the event of contamination or injury, we could be held liable for any resulting damages, remediation costs and any related penalties or fines, and any liability could exceed our resources or any applicable insurance coverage we may have. The cost of compliance with these laws and regulations may become significant, and our failure to comply may result in substantial fines or other consequences, and either could negatively affect our operating results.

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***Our inability to raise additional capital on acceptable terms in the future may limit our ability to develop and commercialize new solutions and technologies and expand our operations.***

We expect capital expenditures and operating expenses to increase over the next several years as we expand our infrastructure, commercial operations and research and development activities. We may seek to raise additional capital through equity offerings, debt financings, collaborations or licensing arrangements. Additional funding may not be available to us on acceptable terms, or at all. If we raise funds by issuing equity securities, dilution to our stockholders could result. Any equity securities issued also may provide for rights, preferences or privileges senior to those of holders of our common stock. The terms of debt securities issued or borrowings could impose significant restrictions on our operations. The incurrence of additional indebtedness or the issuance of certain equity securities could result in increased fixed payment obligations and could also result in restrictive covenants, such as limitations on our ability to incur additional debt or issue additional equity, limitations on our ability to acquire or license intellectual property rights, and other operating restrictions that could adversely affect our ability to conduct our business. In addition, the issuance of additional equity securities by us, or the possibility of such issuance, may cause the market price of our common stock to decline. In the event that we enter into collaborations or licensing arrangements to raise capital, we may be required to accept unfavorable terms. These agreements may require that we relinquish or license to a third-party on unfavorable terms our rights to technologies or product candidates that we otherwise would seek to develop or commercialize ourselves, or reserve certain opportunities for future potential arrangements when we might be able to achieve more favorable terms. If we are not able to secure additional funding when needed, we may have to delay, reduce the scope of or eliminate one or more research and development programs or selling and marketing initiatives. In addition, we may have to work with a partner on one or more of our products or development programs, which could lower the economic value of those programs to our company.

***Security breaches, loss of data and other disruptions to us or our third-party service providers could compromise sensitive information related to our business or prevent us from accessing critical information and expose us to liability, which could adversely affect our business and our reputation.***

In the ordinary course of our business, we and our third-party service providers collect and store sensitive data, including legally protected health information, personally identifiable information about our patients, credit card information, intellectual property, and our proprietary business and financial information. We manage and maintain our applications and data utilizing a combination of on-site systems, managed data center systems and cloud-based data center systems. We face a number of risks relative to our protection of, and our service providers' protection of, this critical information, including loss of access, inappropriate disclosure and inappropriate access, as well as risks associated with our ability to identify and audit such events.

The secure processing, storage, maintenance and transmission of this critical information is vital to our operations and business strategy, and we devote significant resources to protecting such information. Although we take measures to protect sensitive information from unauthorized access or disclosure, our information technology and infrastructure may be vulnerable to attacks by hackers or viruses or otherwise breached due to employee error, malfeasance or other activities. While we are not aware of any such attack or breach, if such event would occur and cause interruptions in our operations, our networks would be compromised and the information we store on those networks could be accessed by unauthorized parties, publicly disclosed, lost or stolen. Any such access, disclosure or other loss of information could result in legal claims or proceedings, liability under laws that protect the privacy of personal information, such as HIPAA, and regulatory penalties. Unauthorized access, loss or dissemination could also disrupt our operations, including our ability to process tests, provide test results, bill payers or patients, process claims and appeals, provide customer assistance services, conduct research and development activities, collect, process and prepare company financial information, provide information about our tests and other patient and physician education and outreach efforts through our website, manage the administrative aspects of our business and damage our reputation, any of which could adversely affect our business.

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In addition, the interpretation and application of consumer, health-related and data protection laws in the United States, Europe and elsewhere are often uncertain, contradictory and in flux. It is possible that these laws may be interpreted and applied in a manner that is inconsistent with our practices. If so, this could result in government-imposed fines or orders requiring that we change our practices, which could adversely affect our business. In addition, in October 2015, the European Court of Justice invalidated a safe-harbor agreement between the United States and European Union member-states, which addressed how U.S. companies handle personal information of European customers, as a result, we may need to modify the way we treat such information. Complying with these various laws could cause us to incur substantial costs or require us to change our business practices, systems and compliance procedures in a manner adverse to our business.

*If we cannot license rights to use technologies on reasonable terms, we may not be able to commercialize new products in the future.*

In the future, we may license third-party technology to develop or commercialize new products. In return for the use of a third-party's technology, we may agree to pay the licensor royalties based on sales of our solutions. Royalties are a component of cost of revenue and affect the margins on our solutions. We may also need to negotiate licenses to patents and patent applications after introducing a commercial product. Our business may suffer if we are unable to enter into the necessary licenses on acceptable terms, or at all, if any necessary licenses are subsequently terminated, if the licensors fail to abide by the terms of the license or fail to prevent infringement by third parties, or if the licensed patents or other rights are found to be invalid or unenforceable.

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*If we are unable to protect our intellectual property effectively, our business would be harmed.*

We rely on patent protection as well as trademark, copyright, trade secret and other intellectual property rights protection and contractual restrictions to protect our proprietary technologies, all of which provide limited protection and may not adequately protect our rights or permit us to gain or keep any competitive advantage. If we fail to protect our intellectual property, third parties may be able to compete more effectively against us and we may incur substantial litigation costs in our attempts to recover or restrict use of our intellectual property.

We apply for and in-license patents covering our products and technologies and uses thereof, as we deem appropriate, however we may fail to apply for patents on important products and technologies in a timely fashion or at all, or we may fail to apply for patents in potentially relevant jurisdictions. We have eight issued patents that expire between 2029 and 2032 related to methods used in the Afirma diagnostic platform, in addition to eight pending U.S. utility patent applications and six U.S. provisional applications. Some of these U.S. utility patent applications have pending foreign counterparts. We also exclusively licensed intellectual property, including rights to one issued patent that will expire in 2031 and four pending U.S. utility patent applications in the thyroid space that would expire between 2030 and 2033 once issued, related to methods that are used in the Afirma diagnostic test, some of which have foreign counterparts. In the lung diagnostic space, we exclusively license intellectual property rights to seven pending patent applications and one issued patent in the United States and abroad. Patents issuing from the licensed portfolio will expire between 2024 and 2028. In addition, we own a PCT application, and a pending U.S. application related to our Percepta test. We also own two applications related to other lung diseases, and a pending U.S. application, one ex-U.S. applications, and two provisional U.S. applications related to our interstitial lung disease test under development. Any patents granted from the current lung cancer patent applications will expire no earlier than 2035 and those from the interstitial lung disease patent applications will expire no earlier than from 2034 to 2035. It is possible that none of our pending patent applications will result in issued patents in a timely fashion or at all, and even if patents are granted, they may not provide a basis for intellectual property protection of commercially viable products, may not provide us with any competitive advantages, or may be challenged and invalidated by third parties. It is possible that others will design around our current or future patented technologies. We may not be successful in defending any challenges made against our patents or patent applications. Any successful third-party challenge to our patents could result in the unenforceability or invalidity of such patents and increased competition to our business. The outcome of patent litigation can be uncertain and any attempt by us to enforce our patent rights against others may not be successful, or, if successful, may take substantial time and result in substantial cost, and may divert our efforts and attention from other aspects of our business.

The patent positions of life sciences companies can be highly uncertain and involve complex legal and factual questions for which important legal principles remain unresolved. No consistent policy regarding the breadth of claims allowed in such companies' patents has emerged to date in the United States or elsewhere. Courts frequently render opinions in the biotechnology field that may affect the patentability of certain inventions or discoveries, including opinions that may affect the patentability of methods for analyzing or comparing nucleic acids.

In particular, the patent positions of companies engaged in the development and commercialization of genomic diagnostic tests, like the Afirma GEC, Malignancy Classifiers and Percepta, are particularly uncertain. Various courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, have rendered decisions that affect the scope of patentability of certain inventions or discoveries relating to certain diagnostic tests and related methods. These decisions state, among other things, that patent claims that recite laws of nature (for example, the relationship between blood levels of certain metabolites and the likelihood that a dosage of a specific drug will be ineffective or cause harm) are not themselves patentable. What constitutes a law of nature is uncertain, and it is possible that certain aspects of genomic diagnostics tests would be considered natural laws. Accordingly, the evolving case law in the United States may adversely affect our ability to obtain patents and may facilitate third-party challenges to any

owned and licensed patents.

The laws of some foreign countries do not protect intellectual property rights to the same extent as the laws of the United States, and we may encounter difficulties protecting and defending such rights in foreign jurisdictions. The legal systems of many other countries do not favor the enforcement of patents and other intellectual property protection, particularly those relating to biotechnology, which could make it difficult for us to stop the infringement of our patents in such countries. Proceedings to enforce our patent rights in foreign jurisdictions could result in substantial cost and divert our efforts and attention from other aspects of our business.

Changes in either the patent laws or in interpretations of patent laws in the United States or other countries may diminish the value of our intellectual property. We cannot predict the breadth of claims that may be allowed or enforced in our patents or in third-party patents. We may not develop additional proprietary products, methods and technologies that are patentable.

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In addition to pursuing patents on our technology, we take steps to protect our intellectual property and proprietary technology by entering into agreements, including confidentiality agreements, non-disclosure agreements and intellectual property assignment agreements, with our employees, consultants, academic institutions, corporate partners and, when needed, our advisors. Such agreements may not be enforceable or may not provide meaningful protection for our trade secrets or other proprietary information in the event of unauthorized use or disclosure or other breaches of the agreements, and we may not be able to prevent such unauthorized disclosure. If we are required to assert our rights against such party, it could result in significant cost and distraction.

Monitoring unauthorized disclosure is difficult, and we do not know whether the steps we have taken to prevent such disclosure are, or will be, adequate. If we were to enforce a claim that a third-party had illegally obtained and was using our trade secrets, it would be expensive and time consuming, and the outcome would be unpredictable. In addition, courts outside the United States may be less willing to protect trade secrets.

We may also be subject to claims that our employees have inadvertently or otherwise used or disclosed trade secrets or other proprietary information of their former employers, or to claims that we have improperly used or obtained such trade secrets. Litigation may be necessary to defend against these claims. If we fail in defending such claims, in addition to paying monetary damages, we may lose valuable intellectual property rights and face increased competition to our business. A loss of key research personnel work product could hamper or prevent our ability to commercialize potential products, which could harm our business. Even if we are successful in defending against these claims, litigation could result in substantial costs and be a distraction to management.

Further, competitors could attempt to replicate some or all of the competitive advantages we derive from our development efforts, willfully infringe our intellectual property rights, design around our protected technology or develop their own competitive technologies that fall outside of our intellectual property rights. Others may independently develop similar or alternative products and technologies or replicate any of our products and technologies. If our intellectual property does not adequately protect us against competitors' products and methods, our competitive position could be adversely affected, as could our business.

We have not registered certain of our trademarks, including Afirma and Percepta, in all of our potential markets. If we apply to register these trademarks, our applications may not be allowed for registration in a timely fashion or at all, and our registered trademarks may not be maintained or enforced. In addition, opposition or cancellation proceedings may be filed against our trademark applications and registrations, and our trademarks may not survive such proceedings. If we do not secure registrations for our trademarks, we may encounter more difficulty in enforcing them against third parties than we otherwise would.

To the extent our intellectual property offers inadequate protection, or is found to be invalid or unenforceable, we would be exposed to a greater risk of direct competition. If our intellectual property does not provide adequate coverage of our competitors' products, our competitive position could be adversely affected, as could our business. Both the patent application process and the process of managing patent disputes can be time consuming and expensive.

***We may be involved in litigation related to intellectual property, which could be time-intensive and costly and may adversely affect our business, operating results or financial condition.***



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We may receive notices of claims of direct or indirect infringement or misappropriation or misuse of other parties' proprietary rights from time to time. Some of these claims may lead to litigation. We cannot assure you that we will prevail in such actions, or that other actions alleging misappropriation or misuse by us of third-party trade secrets, infringement by us of third-party patents and trademarks or other rights, or the validity of our patents, trademarks or other rights, will not be asserted or prosecuted against us.

We might not have been the first to make the inventions covered by each of our pending patent applications and we might not have been the first to file patent applications for these inventions. To determine the priority of these inventions, we may have to participate in interference proceedings, derivation proceedings, or other post-grant proceedings declared by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office that could result in substantial cost to us. No assurance can be given that other patent applications will not have priority over our patent applications. In addition, recent changes to the patent laws of the United States allow for various post-grant opposition proceedings that have not been extensively tested, and their outcome is therefore uncertain. Furthermore, if third parties bring these proceedings against our patents, we could experience significant costs and management distraction.

Litigation may be necessary for us to enforce our patent and proprietary rights or to determine the scope, coverage and validity of the proprietary rights of others. The outcome of any litigation or other proceeding is inherently uncertain and might not be favorable to us, and we might not be able to obtain licenses to technology that we require on acceptable terms or at all. Further, we could encounter delays in product introductions, or interruptions in product sales, as we develop alternative methods or products. In addition, if we resort to legal proceedings to enforce our intellectual property rights or to determine the validity, scope and coverage of the intellectual property or other proprietary rights of others, the proceedings could be burdensome and expensive, even if we were to prevail. Any litigation that may be necessary in the future could result in substantial costs and diversion of resources and could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition.

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As we move into new markets and applications for our products, incumbent participants in such markets may assert their patents and other proprietary rights against us as a means of slowing our entry into such markets or as a means to extract substantial license and royalty payments from us. Our competitors and others may now and, in the future, have significantly larger and more mature patent portfolios than we currently have. In addition, future litigation may involve patent holding companies or other adverse patent owners who have no relevant product revenue and against whom our own patents may provide little or no deterrence or protection. Therefore, our commercial success may depend in part on our non-infringement of the patents or proprietary rights of third parties. Numerous significant intellectual property issues have been litigated, and will likely continue to be litigated, between existing and new participants in our existing and targeted markets and competitors may assert that our products infringe their intellectual property rights as part of a business strategy to impede our successful entry into or growth in those markets. Third parties may assert that we are employing their proprietary technology without authorization. In addition, our competitors and others may have patents or may in the future obtain patents and claim that making, having made, using, selling, offering to sell or importing our products infringes these patents. We could incur substantial costs and divert the attention of our management and technical personnel in defending against any of these claims. Parties making claims against us may be able to obtain injunctive or other relief, which could block our ability to develop, commercialize and sell products, and could result in the award of substantial damages against us. In the event of a successful claim of infringement against us, we may be required to pay damages and ongoing royalties, and obtain one or more licenses from third parties, or be prohibited from selling certain products. We may not be able to obtain these licenses on acceptable terms, if at all. We could incur substantial costs related to royalty payments for licenses obtained from third parties, which could negatively affect our financial results. In addition, we could encounter delays in product introductions while we attempt to develop alternative methods or products to avoid infringing third-party patents or proprietary rights. Defense of any lawsuit or failure to obtain any of these licenses could prevent us from commercializing products, and the prohibition of sale of any of our products could materially affect our business and our ability to gain market acceptance for our products.

Furthermore, because of the substantial amount of discovery required in connection with intellectual property litigation, there is a risk that some of our confidential information could be compromised by disclosure during this type of litigation. In addition, during the course of this kind of litigation, there could be public announcements of the results of hearings, motions or other interim proceedings or developments. If securities analysts or investors perceive these results to be negative, it could have a substantial adverse effect on the price of our common stock.

In addition, our agreements with some of our customers, suppliers or other entities with whom we do business require us to defend or indemnify these parties to the extent they become involved in infringement claims, including the types of claims described above. We could also voluntarily agree to defend or indemnify third parties in instances where we are not obligated to do so if we determine it would be important to our business relationships. If we are required or agree to defend or indemnify third parties in connection with any infringement claims, we could incur significant costs and expenses that could adversely affect our business, operating results, or financial condition.

**Risks Related to Being a Public Company**

*We will continue to incur increased costs and demands on management as a result of compliance with laws and regulations applicable to public companies, which could harm our operating results.*

As a public company, we will continue to incur significant legal, accounting, consulting and other expenses that we did not incur as a private company, including costs associated with public company reporting requirements. In addition, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010, as well as rules implemented by the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, and The NASDAQ Stock Market, impose a number of requirements on public companies, including with respect to corporate governance practices. Our management and other personnel will need to devote a substantial amount of time to these compliance and disclosure obligations. Moreover, these rules and regulations have and will continue to increase our legal, accounting and financial compliance costs and make some activities more complex, time-consuming and costly. We also expect that it will continue to be expensive for us to maintain director and officer liability insurance.

*If we are unable to implement and maintain effective internal control over financial reporting, investors may lose confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our reported financial information and the market price of our common stock may be negatively affected.*

As a public company, we are required to maintain internal control over financial reporting and to report any material weaknesses in such internal control. Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 requires that we evaluate and determine the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting and, beginning with the annual report for the year ending December 31, 2014, as amended, provide a management report on our internal controls on an annual basis. If we have material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting, we may not detect errors on a timely basis and our financial statements may be materially misstated. We have only recently compiled the systems, processes and documentation necessary to comply with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. We will need to maintain and enhance these processes and controls as we grow, and we will require additional management and staff resources to do so. Additionally, even if we conclude our internal controls are effective for a given period, we may in the future identify one or more material weaknesses in our internal controls, in which case our management will be unable to conclude that our internal control over financial reporting is effective. Moreover, when we are no longer an emerging growth company, our independent registered public accounting firm will be required to issue an attestation report on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. Even if our management concludes that our internal control over financial reporting is effective, our independent registered public accounting firm may conclude that there are material weaknesses with respect to our internal controls or the level at which our internal controls are documented, designed, implemented or reviewed.

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If we are unable to conclude that our internal control over financial reporting is effective, or when we are no longer an emerging growth company, if our auditors were to express an adverse opinion on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting because we had one or more material weaknesses, investors could lose confidence in the accuracy and completeness of our financial disclosures, which could cause the price of our common stock to decline. Irrespective of compliance with Section 404, any failure of our internal control over financial reporting could have a material adverse effect on our reported operating results and harm our reputation. Internal control deficiencies could also result in a restatement of our financial results.

*We are an emerging growth company and may elect to comply with reduced public company reporting requirements applicable to emerging growth companies, which could make our common stock less attractive to investors.*

We are an emerging growth company, as defined under the Securities Act of 1933, or the Securities Act. We will remain an emerging growth company until December 31, 2018, although if our revenue exceeds \$1 billion in any fiscal year before that time, we would cease to be an emerging growth company as of the end of that fiscal year. In addition, if the market value of our common stock that is held by non-affiliates exceeds \$700 million as of the last business day of our second fiscal quarter of any fiscal year before the end of that five-year period, we would cease to be an emerging growth company as of December 31 of that year. As an emerging growth company, we may choose to take advantage of exemptions from various reporting requirements applicable to certain other public companies, including not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, reduced financial statement and financial-related disclosures, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our periodic reports and proxy statements, and exemptions from the requirement of holding a nonbinding advisory vote on executive compensation and obtaining stockholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved by our stockholders. We cannot predict whether investors will find our common stock less attractive if we choose to rely on any of these exemptions. If some investors find our common stock less attractive as a result of any choices to reduce future disclosure we may make, there may be a less active trading market for our common stock and our stock price may be more volatile.

**Risks Related to Our Common Stock**

*Our stock price may be volatile, and you may not be able to sell shares of our common stock at or above the price you paid.*

Prior to our initial public offering in October 2013, there was no public market for our common stock, and an active and liquid public market for our stock may not develop or be sustained. In addition, the trading price of our common stock is likely to continue to be highly volatile and could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to various factors, some of which are beyond our control. These factors include:

- actual or anticipated variations in our and our competitors' results of operations;
- announcements by us or our competitors of new products, commercial relationships or capital commitments;
- changes in reimbursement by current or potential payers;

- issuance of new securities analysts' reports or changed recommendations for our stock;
- fluctuations in our revenue, due in part to the way in which we recognize revenue;
- actual or anticipated changes in regulatory oversight of our products;
- developments or disputes concerning our intellectual property or other proprietary rights;
- commencement of, or our involvement in, litigation;
- announced or completed acquisitions of businesses or technologies by us or our competitors;
- any major change in our management; and
- general economic conditions and slow or negative growth of our markets.

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In addition, the stock market in general, and the market for stock of life sciences companies and other emerging growth companies in particular, has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of those companies. Broad market and industry factors may seriously affect the market price of our common stock, regardless of our actual operating performance. These fluctuations may be even more pronounced in the trading market for our stock for some period of time following our initial public offering, especially if substantial investors sell large blocks of stock, particularly if the trading volume in our stock remains low. In addition, in the past, following periods of volatility in the overall market and the market price of a particular company's securities, securities class action litigation has often been instituted against these companies. This litigation, if instituted against us, could result in substantial costs and a diversion of our management's attention and resources.

***If securities or industry analysts issue an adverse opinion regarding our stock or do not publish research or reports about our company, our stock price and trading volume could decline.***

The trading market for our common stock will depend in part on the research and reports that equity research analysts publish about us and our business. We do not control these analysts or the content and opinions or financial models included in their reports. Securities analysts may elect not to provide research coverage of our company, and such lack of research coverage may adversely affect the market price of our common stock. The price of our common stock could also decline if one or more equity research analysts downgrade our common stock or if those analysts issue other unfavorable commentary or cease publishing reports about us or our business. If one or more equity research analysts cease coverage of our company, we could lose visibility in the market, which in turn could cause our stock price to decline.

***Insiders have substantial control over us and will be able to influence corporate matters.***

As of October 29, 2015, directors and executive officers and their affiliates beneficially owned, in the aggregate, 38% of our outstanding capital stock. As a result, these stockholders will be able to exercise significant influence over all matters requiring stockholder approval, including the election of directors and approval of significant corporate transactions, such as a merger or other sale of our company or its assets. This concentration of ownership could limit stockholders' ability to influence corporate matters and may have the effect of delaying or preventing a third-party from acquiring control over us.

***Anti-takeover provisions in our charter documents and under Delaware law could discourage, delay or prevent a change in control and may affect the trading price of our common stock.***

Provisions in our restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control or changes in our management. Our restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws include provisions that:

- authorize our board of directors to issue, without further action by the stockholders, up to 5.0 million shares of undesignated preferred stock;

- require that any action to be taken by our stockholders be effected at a duly called annual or special meeting and not by written consent;
- specify that special meetings of our stockholders can be called only by our board of directors, our chairman of the board, or our chief executive officer;
- establish an advance notice procedure for stockholder approvals to be brought before an annual meeting of our stockholders, including proposed nominations of persons for election to our board of directors;
- establish that our board of directors is divided into three classes, Class I, Class II and Class III, with each class serving staggered terms;
- provide that our directors may be removed only for cause;
- provide that vacancies on our board of directors may, except as otherwise required by law, be filled only by a majority of directors then in office, even if less than a quorum;
- specify that no stockholder is permitted to cumulate votes at any election of directors; and
- require a super-majority of votes to amend certain of the above-mentioned provisions.

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In addition, we are subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law regulating corporate takeovers. Section 203 generally prohibits us from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder subject to certain exceptions.

*We have never paid dividends on our capital stock, and we do not anticipate paying dividends in the foreseeable future.*

We have never paid dividends on any of our capital stock and currently intend to retain any future earnings to fund the growth of our business. In addition, our loan and security agreement restricts our ability to pay cash dividends on our common stock and we may also enter into credit agreements or other borrowing arrangements in the future that will restrict our ability to declare or pay cash dividends on our common stock. Any determination to pay dividends in the future will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on our financial condition, operating results, capital requirements, general business conditions and other factors that our board of directors may deem relevant. As a result, capital appreciation, if any, of our common stock will be the sole source of gain for the foreseeable future.

**Item 6. Exhibits**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
31.1	Principal Executive Officer's Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Principal Financial Officer's Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1**	Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350 (Section 906 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002).
32.2**	Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350 (Section 906 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002).
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase

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\*\* In accordance with Item 601(b)(32)(ii) of Regulation S-K and SEC Release No. 34-47986, the certifications furnished in Exhibits 32.1 and 32.2 hereto are deemed to accompany this Form 10-Q and will not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act) or deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Exchange Act or the Securities Act of 1933 except to the extent that the registrant specifically incorporates it by reference.



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**SIGNATURES**

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

Date: November 5, 2015

VERACYTE, INC.

By:

*/s/ Shelly D. Guyer*  
Shelly D. Guyer  
*Chief Financial Officer*  
*(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)*

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