

CELL THERAPEUTICS INC
Form S-3
October 25, 2011
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 25, 2011

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

CELL THERAPEUTICS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Washington
(State of other jurisdiction of

91-1533912
(I.R.S. Employer

Edgar Filing: CELL THERAPEUTICS INC - Form S-3

incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

501 Elliott Avenue West, Suite 400

Seattle, Washington 98119

(206) 282-7100

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

James A. Bianco, M.D.

Chief Executive Officer

Cell Therapeutics, Inc.

501 Elliott Avenue West, Suite 400

Seattle, Washington 98119

(206) 282-7100

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

Copy to:

C. Brophy Christensen, Jr., Esq.

O Melveny & Myers LLP

Two Embarcadero Center, 28th Floor

San Francisco, California 94111-3823

(415) 984-8700

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:

From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

Edgar Filing: CELL THERAPEUTICS INC - Form S-3

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

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

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

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

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

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

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 <input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Non-accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company <input type="checkbox"/>	

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered(1)	Proposed maximum offering price per unit(2)	Proposed aggregate offering price(3)	Amount of registration fee(4)
Common Stock, no par value per share				
Preferred Stock, no par value per share				
Debt Securities				
Warrants				
Rights				
Units				
Total			\$100,000,000	\$11,460.00

- (1) This registration statement registers such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock, such indeterminate principal amount of debt securities, such indeterminate number of warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities of one or more series, such indeterminate number of rights to purchase common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities of one or more series, and such indeterminate number of units representing an interest in one or more shares of common stock or preferred stock, debt securities, warrants and/or rights in any combination as shall have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$100,000,000. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or as units with other securities registered hereunder.

Edgar Filing: CELL THERAPEUTICS INC - Form S-3

- (2) The proposed maximum initial offering price per unit will be determined by the registrant, from time to time, in connection with the issuance by the registrant of the securities registered hereunder. The securities registered also include such indeterminate amounts and numbers of shares of common stock and preferred stock and debt securities as may be issued upon conversion of, or exchange for, preferred stock or debt securities that provide for conversion or exchange, upon exercise of warrants or rights or pursuant to the antidilution provisions of such securities. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act, the shares being registered hereunder include such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock as may be issuable with respect to the shares being registered hereunder as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- (3) The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per class of security will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the issuance by the registrant of the securities registered hereunder and is not specified as to each class of security pursuant to General Instruction II.D of Form S-3 under the Securities Act.
- (4) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act.

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

Table of Contents

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

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED OCTOBER 25, 2011

PROSPECTUS

CELL THERAPEUTICS, INC.

\$100,000,000

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

Rights

Units

From time to time, we may offer and sell in one or more offerings:

shares of our common stock;

shares of our preferred stock;

debt securities;

warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities;

rights to purchase common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities; and

Edgar Filing: CELL THERAPEUTICS INC - Form S-3

units consisting of two or more of these classes or series of securities.

We may sell any combination of these securities in one or more offerings, up to an aggregate offering price of \$100,000,000, in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined at the time of each offering thereof. Each time we offer securities using this prospectus, we will provide specific terms of the securities and the offering in one or more supplements to this prospectus. The prospectus supplements may also add to, update or change the information in this prospectus and will also describe the specific manner in which we will offer the securities. The securities may be offered and sold by us to or through one or more underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, or directly to purchasers on a continuous or delayed basis. See Plan of Distribution.

This prospectus may not be used by us to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. You should carefully read this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, including the information incorporated by reference, prior to investing in any of our securities.

Our common stock is quoted on The NASDAQ Capital Market and on the Mercato Telematico Azionario, or the MTA, stock market in Italy under the symbol CTIC. On October 21, 2011, the last reported sale price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Capital Market was \$1.23 per share. We do not expect our preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, rights or units to be listed on any securities exchange or over-the-counter market unless otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. See the Risk Factors section on page 4 of this prospectus.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this prospectus is October 25, 2011

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	1
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	2
<u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	3
<u>INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY</u>	4
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	4
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS</u>	4
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	4
<u>DIVIDEND POLICY</u>	5
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	6
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	9
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	16
<u>DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS</u>	20
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	21
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	22
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	26
<u>EXPERTS</u>	26

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may, from time to time, sell common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, rights, units or any combination of these securities in one or more offerings, for a total maximum offering price not to exceed \$100,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell any securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain more specific information about the terms of that offering, including the specific amounts, prices and terms of the securities offered. Any prospectus supplement may include a discussion of risks or other special considerations applicable to us or the offered securities. Any prospectus supplement may also add to, update or change information contained in this prospectus. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus, on the one hand, and the information contained in any prospectus, on the other hand, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement.

You should read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, any documents that we incorporate by reference in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement, and the additional information described below under **Where You Can Find More Information** and **Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference** before making an investment decision. You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any documents we incorporate by reference herein or therein is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of those documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

In this prospectus, the terms **CTI**, **Company**, **registrant**, **we**, **us**, **our** and similar terms refer to Cell Therapeutics, Inc., a Washington corporation and its subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires. **CTI**, **OPAXIO** and **Pixuvri** are our proprietary marks. All other product names, trademarks and trade names referred to in this prospectus, as supplemented from time to time, are the property of their respective owners.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the information requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. In accordance with the Exchange Act, we file reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Such reports, proxy statements and other information filed by us are available to the public free of charge at www.sec.gov. Copies of certain information filed by us with the SEC are also available on our website at www.celltherapeutics.com. You may also read and copy any document we file with the SEC, including the registration statement on Form S-3 and the exhibits thereto, at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the public reference facilities by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

This prospectus omits some information contained in the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part in accordance with SEC rules and regulations. You should review the information and exhibits in the registration statement for further information about us and the securities we are offering. Statements in this prospectus concerning any document we filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or that we otherwise filed with the SEC are not intended to be comprehensive and are qualified by reference to these filings. You should review the complete document to evaluate these statements.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

SEC rules allow us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus much of the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those publicly available documents. The information that we incorporate by reference into this prospectus is considered to be part of this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act (in each case, other than those documents or the portions of those documents deemed to be furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules) until the offering of the securities under the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part is terminated or completed:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010 filed with the SEC on February 16, 2011;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2011, June 30, 2011 and September 30, 2011, filed with the SEC on April 26, 2011, July 28, 2011 and October 25, 2011, respectively;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 18, 2011 (as amended by our Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on January 28, 2011), February 24, 2011 (as amended by our Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on March 7, 2011), March 14, 2011, March 15, 2011, March 22, 2011, May 2, 2011, May 3, 2011, May 6, 2011, May 18, 2011, June 17, 2011, July 6, 2011, August 31, 2011 and September 26, 2011; and

the description of our capital stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 10 filed with the SEC on June 27, 1996, as amended.

Because we are incorporating by reference future filings with the SEC, this prospectus is continually updated and later information filed with the SEC may update and supersede some of the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. This means that you must look at all of the SEC filings that we incorporate by reference to determine if any of the statements in this prospectus or in any document previously incorporated by reference have been modified or superseded.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owners, to whom this prospectus is delivered, upon his or her written or oral request, a copy of any or all documents referred to above which have been or may be incorporated by reference into this prospectus but not delivered with this prospectus, excluding exhibits to those documents unless they are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. You may request a copy of these documents by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Cell Therapeutics, Inc.

501 Elliott Avenue West, Suite 400

Seattle, Washington 98119

(206) 282-7100

Attention: Investor Relations

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any documents we incorporate by reference herein or therein may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements, including, without limitation:

any statements regarding future operations, plans, regulatory filings or approvals;

any statements regarding the performance, or likely performance, or outcomes or economic benefit of any licensing or other agreement, including any agreement with Novartis International Pharmaceutical Ltd. or its affiliates, or Chroma Therapeutics Ltd. or its affiliates, including whether or not such partner will elect to participate, terminate or otherwise make elections under any such agreement or whether any regulatory authorizations required to enable such agreement will be obtained;

any projections of cash resources, revenues, operating expenses or other financial terms;

any statements of the plans and objectives of management for future operations or programs;

any statements concerning proposed new products or services;

any statements on plans regarding proposed or potential clinical trials or new drug filing strategies or timelines;

any statements regarding compliance with the listing standards of The NASDAQ Stock Market, or NASDAQ;

any statements regarding pending or future mergers or acquisitions; and

any statements regarding future economic conditions or performance, and any statement of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing.

In some cases, forward-looking statements can be identified by terms such as anticipates, believes, continue, could, estimates, expects, may, plans, potential, predicts, projects, should or will or the negative thereof, variations thereof and similar expressions. Such statements are based on management's current expectations and are subject to risks and uncertainties which may cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. There can be no assurance that such expectations or any of the forward-looking statements will prove to be correct, and actual results could differ materially from those projected or assumed in the forward-looking statements. We urge you to carefully review the disclosures we make concerning risks and other factors that may affect our business and operating results, including those made in Item 1A. Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 and in Part II Item 1A. Risk Factors in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2011, as such risk factors may be updated in subsequent SEC filings, as well as our other reports filed with the SEC and in any prospectus supplement. We caution you not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We do not intend, and we undertake no obligation, to update any forward-looking information to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, unless required by law to do so.

Table of Contents

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY

We develop, acquire and commercialize novel treatments for cancer. Our goal is to build a leading biopharmaceutical company with a diversified portfolio of proprietary oncology drugs. Our research, development, acquisition and in-licensing activities concentrate on identifying and developing new, less toxic and more effective ways to treat cancer. Our operations are primarily conducted in the United States. We are currently focusing our efforts on Pixuvri (pixantrone dimaleate), OPAXIO (paclitaxel poliglumex), tosedostat, brostallicin and bisplatinates.

We were incorporated in the State of Washington in 1991. Our shares of common stock trade on The NASDAQ Capital Market and the MTA in Italy under the symbol CTIC. Our principal executive offices are located at 501 Elliott Avenue West, Suite 400, Seattle, Washington 98119, and our phone number is (206) 282-7100. Our website is located at www.celltherapeutics.com; however, the information in, or that can be accessed through, our website is not part of this prospectus.

RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the risks under the heading Risk Factors beginning on page 17 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, filed with the SEC on February 16, 2011, and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2011, June 30, 2011 and September 30, 2011, filed with the SEC on April 26, 2011, July 28, 2011 and October 25, 2011, respectively, which information is incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and the additional risks and other information in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein before deciding to invest in our securities. If any of the identified risks actually occur, they could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, operating results or prospects and the trading price of our securities. Additional risks and uncertainties that we do not presently know or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects and the trading price of our securities.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED

CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges and of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the periods indicated:

	Nine months ended September 30,		Year ended December 31,			
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(1)						
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends(1)						

- (1) Earnings were not sufficient to cover combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends. Earnings consist of income (loss) before provision for income taxes plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest charges and that portion of rental payments under operating leases we believe to be representative of interest. Earnings for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, and for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006, were insufficient to cover fixed charges, and fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, by \$103.2, \$147.6, \$116.8, \$202.9, \$148.3 and \$135.8 (in millions), respectively. For this reason, no ratios are provided for these periods.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of any of our securities for general corporate purposes, unless we state otherwise in a prospectus supplement. We may temporarily invest funds that we do not immediately use in short- and medium-term marketable securities.

Table of Contents

DIVIDEND POLICY

We have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock and do not currently anticipate declaring or paying cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. We currently intend to retain all of our future earnings, if any, to finance operations. Any future determination relating to our dividend policy will be made at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on a number of factors, including future earnings, capital requirements, financial conditions, future prospects, contractual restrictions and other factors that our board of directors may deem relevant.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

This summary does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, the provisions of our amended and restated articles of incorporation, as amended, which we refer to as our articles of incorporation, our second amended and restated bylaws, which we refer to as our bylaws, and all applicable provisions of Washington law. Our articles of incorporation and bylaws are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The particular terms of any offering of our securities will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to such offering.

General

We are authorized to issue 283,333,333 shares of common stock, no par value (as adjusted to reflect the 1-for-6 reverse stock split effected on May 15, 2011), and 1,666,666 shares of preferred stock, no par value. We have included in our proxy statement for the 2011 annual meeting of our shareholders a proposal to increase the total number of authorized shares from 284,999,999 to 384,999,999 and the total number of authorized shares of common stock from 283,333,333 to 383,333,333 shares. As of October 21, 2011, there were 192,763,414 shares of common stock outstanding, warrants to purchase approximately 27,610,697 shares of common stock outstanding and no shares of preferred stock outstanding. In addition, as of October 21, 2011, 60,627 shares of common stock were reserved for issuance upon conversion of debt securities, 6,078,086 shares of common stock were reserved for issuance under our equity compensation plans, 233,418 shares of common stock were reserved for issuance under our employee stock purchase plan and 65 shares of common stock were reserved for issuance upon exercise of outstanding restricted share rights.

On April 15, 2007, we effected a 1-for-4 reverse stock split of our common stock, on August 31, 2008, we effected a 1-for-10 reverse stock split of our common stock and on May 15, 2011, we effected a 1-for-6 reverse stock split of our common stock.

Common Stock

Each holder of common stock is generally entitled to one vote for each share held on all matters to be voted upon by the shareholders and there are no cumulative voting rights. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding preferred stock, holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably the dividends, if any, that are declared from time to time by the board of directors out of funds legally available for that purpose. In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of common stock are entitled to share in our assets remaining after the payment of liabilities and the satisfaction of any liquidation preference granted to the holders of any outstanding shares of preferred stock. Holders of common stock have no preemptive or conversion rights or other subscription rights. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock. All outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and nonassessable. The rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock that we may designate in the future.

General Description of Preferred Stock

Our board of directors has the authority, without action by the shareholders, to designate and issue preferred stock in one or more series and to designate the rights, preferences and privileges of each series, which may be greater than the rights of the common stock. The prospectus supplement relating to the series of preferred stock offered by that supplement will describe the specific terms of those securities. It is not possible to state the actual effects of the issuance of any shares of preferred stock upon the rights of holders of the common stock until our board of directors determines the specific rights of the holders of such preferred stock. However, the effects could include, among other things:

restricting dividends on the common stock;

diluting the voting power of the common stock;

Table of Contents

impairing the liquidation rights of the common stock; or

delaying or preventing a change in control of the Company without further action by the shareholders.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Provisions of Washington Law, Our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and Our Rights Plan

Washington law contains certain provisions that may have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change in control of the Company. Chapter 23B.19 of the Washington Business Corporation Act prohibits us, with certain exceptions, from engaging in certain significant business transactions with an acquiring person (defined generally as a person or group of persons who acquire 10% or more of our voting securities) for a period of five years following the acquiring person's share acquisition date. The prohibited transactions include, among others, a merger or consolidation with, disposition of assets to, or issuance or redemption of stock to or from, the acquiring person, or any other receipt by the acquiring person of a disproportionate benefit as a shareholder. Exceptions to this statutory prohibition include approval of the transaction at a shareholders meeting by holders of not less than two-thirds of the outstanding shares entitled to vote on the transaction, not counting shares as to which the acquiring person has beneficial ownership or voting control, transactions approved by our board of directors prior to the acquiring person first becoming an acquiring person or a merger, share exchange, consolidation, liquidation, distribution or certain other significant business transactions entered into with the acquiring person where certain requirements regarding the fairness of the consideration to be received by the shareholders have been met. We may not exempt ourselves from coverage of this statute. These statutory provisions may have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change in control of the Company.

Our board of directors is divided into three approximately equal classes of directors serving staggered three-year terms. In addition, our articles of incorporation provide that directors may be removed from office only at a meeting of the shareholders called expressly for that purpose and only for cause. Our articles of incorporation limit cause to willful misfeasance having a material adverse effect on us or conviction of a felony, provided that any action by a director shall not constitute cause if, in good faith, the director believed the action to be in, or not opposed to, our best interests or if the director is entitled to be indemnified with respect to such action under applicable law, our articles of incorporation or bylaws or a contract with us. Further, our bylaws require a shareholder to provide notice to us of such shareholder's intention to nominate a person or persons for election as directors not later than 90 days prior to the first anniversary of the previous year's annual meeting or, in the case of an election to be held at a special meeting of the shareholders for the election of directors, the close of business on the tenth day following the date on which notice of such meeting is first given to shareholders. A shareholder must also provide us with notice of such shareholder's intent to make any proposal at an annual meeting of shareholders not later than 90 days prior to the first anniversary of the previous year's annual meeting of shareholders. These provisions may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying a change in control of our management.

On December 28, 2009, we entered into our rights plan with Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as rights agent. In connection with our rights plan, one preferred stock purchase right was distributed for each common share held as of the close of business on January 7, 2010. Initially, the rights are not exercisable and are attached to, and trade with, all of the shares of our common stock outstanding as of, and issued subsequent to, the record date (as defined in the rights plan). As adjusted in connection with our 1-for-6 reverse stock split effected on May 15, 2011, each right, if and when it becomes exercisable, will entitle the holder to purchase six ten-thousandths of a share of a new series of junior participating cumulative preferred stock for \$36.00, subject to standard adjustment in the rights plan. Upon the acquisition of 20% or more of our common stock by a person or group, subject to certain exceptions (such acquisition referred to herein as a 20% acquisition), the rights will become exercisable for our preferred stock, except for those rights held by such 20% acquirer, which will become null and void. Upon a 20% acquisition, the holder of an exercisable right will be entitled to receive, upon exercise, in lieu of preferred stock, that number of shares of our common stock, or in certain circumstances, including if there are insufficient shares of our common stock to permit the exercise in full of the rights, preferred stock, other securities, cash, property or a reduction in the exercise price of the rights, or any combination of the foregoing, having a market value of two times the exercise price of the right.

Table of Contents

If we are acquired in a merger, consolidation or certain other business combination transactions after a 20% acquisition, each holder of an exercisable right would then have the right to receive, upon exercise, common stock of the acquiring company having a market value equal to two times the exercise price of the right.

Our board of directors may redeem the rights for \$0.0006 per right or amend the rights plan at any time prior to a 20% acquisition or the expiration of the rights plan. The rights plan will expire on January 7, 2013, unless previously redeemed or exchanged by the Company.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Trust Company, N.A.

Listing

Our shares of common stock trade on The NASDAQ Capital Market and the MTA in Italy under the symbol CTIC.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

This summary, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplements, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will generally apply to any future debt securities we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any debt securities we offer under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below.

The debt securities may be either secured or unsecured and will either be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. We will issue the senior notes under the senior indenture which we will enter into with one or more trustees. We will issue the subordinated notes under the subordinated indenture which we will enter into with one or more trustees. We have filed forms of these documents as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. We use the term "indentures" to refer to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture.

The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the Trust Indenture Act. We use the term "debenture trustee" to refer to either the senior trustee or the subordinated trustee, as applicable.

The following summaries of the material provisions of the senior notes, the subordinated notes and the indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the debt securities that we sell under this prospectus, as well as the complete indentures that contain the terms of the debt securities. Except as we may otherwise indicate, the terms of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are identical.

General

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms relating to a series of debt securities, including, to the extent applicable:

the title;

the principal amount being offered and, if a series, the total amount authorized and the total amount outstanding;

any limit on the amount that may be issued;

whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form and, if so, the terms and who the depository will be;

the maturity date;

the principal amount due at maturity and whether the debt securities will be issued with any original issue discount;

whether and under what circumstances, if any, we will pay additional amounts on any debt securities held by a person who is not a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and whether we can redeem the debt securities if we have to pay such additional amounts;

the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate, the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

Table of Contents

whether or not the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and the terms of any secured debt;

whether or not the debt securities will be senior or subordinated, and the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;

the place where payments will be payable;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the date, if any, after which, the conditions upon which, and the price at which we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional or provisional redemption provisions, and any other applicable terms of those redemption provisions;

provisions for a sinking fund, purchase or other analogous fund, if any;

the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund or analogous fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities;

whether the indenture will restrict our ability and/or the ability of our subsidiaries to:

incur additional indebtedness;

issue additional securities;

create liens;

pay dividends and make distributions in respect of our capital stock and the capital stock of our subsidiaries;

redeem capital stock;

place restrictions on our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends, make distributions or transfer assets;

make investments or other restricted payments;

Edgar Filing: CELL THERAPEUTICS INC - Form S-3

sell or otherwise dispose of assets;

enter into sale-leaseback transactions;

engage in transactions with shareholders and affiliates;

issue or sell stock of our subsidiaries; or

effect a consolidation or merger;

whether the indenture will require us to maintain any interest coverage, fixed charge, cash flow-based, asset-based or other financial ratios;

Table of Contents

a discussion of any material or special U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;

information describing any book-entry features;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any;

the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

if other than U.S. dollars, the currency in which the series of debt securities will be denominated; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities, including any events of default that are in addition to those described in this prospectus or any covenants provided with respect to the debt securities that are in addition to those described above, and any terms which may be required by us or advisable under applicable laws or regulations or advisable in connection with the marketing of the debt securities.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplements the terms on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or other securities of ours or a third party, including the conversion or exchange rate, as applicable, or how it will be calculated, and the applicable conversion or exchange period. We will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of our securities or the securities of a third party that the holders of the series of debt securities receive upon conversion or exchange would, under the circumstances described in those provisions, be subject to adjust