

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
**FORM S-8**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**  
*UNDER*  
*THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933*

**Spruce Biosciences, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

2001 Junipero Serra Boulevard, Suite 640  
Daly City, California  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

83-2154263  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

94014  
(Zip Code)

2020 Equity Incentive Plan  
2020 Employee Stock Purchase Plan  
Non-Plan Inducement Awards

(Full titles of the plans)

Javier Szwarcberg, M.D., MPH  
Chief Executive Officer

Spruce Biosciences, Inc.  
2001 Junipero Serra Boulevard, Suite 640  
Daly City, California 94014  
(415) 655-4168

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

*Copies to:*

Alexa M. Ekman  
Daniel P. Eitutis  
Cooley LLP  
4401 Eastgate Mall  
San Diego, California 92121  
(858) 550-6000

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

Large accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Emerging growth company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

## PART I

### INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

**Item 1. Plan Information.\***

**Item 2. Registrant Information and Employee Plan Annual Information.\***

\* The documents containing the information specified in “Item 1. Plan Information” and “Item 2. Registrant Information and Employee Plan Annual Information” of Form S-8 will be sent or given to participants of the Spruce Biosciences, Inc. 2020 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the “ESPP”), the Spruce Biosciences, Inc. 2020 Equity Incentive Plan (the “EIP” and together with the ESPP, the “Plans”), and the recipients of inducement grants pursuant to Rule 5635(c)(4) of the Nasdaq Listing Rules, as specified by Rule 428(b)(1) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”). Such documents are not required to be, and are not, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) either as part of this Registration Statement or as a prospectus or prospectus supplement pursuant to Rule 424 under the Securities Act. These documents and the documents incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement pursuant to Item 3 of Part II of Form S-8, taken together, constitute a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

## PART II

### INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

**Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.**

The Registrant hereby incorporates by reference into this Registration Statement the following documents previously filed by the Registrant with the Commission:

- (a) The Registrant’s Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed with the Commission on March 14, 2022;
- (b) The Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on January 5, 2022 and March 14, 2022; and
- (c) The description of the Registrant’s Common Stock contained in the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on October 5, 2020 (File No. 001-39594) under Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents filed by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this Registration Statement and prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents; provided, however, that documents or portions thereof that are furnished and not filed in accordance with the rules of the Commission shall not be deemed incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement herein or in any other subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not constitute a part of this Registration Statement, except as so modified or superseded.

**Item 4. Description of Securities.**

Not applicable.

**Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.**

Not applicable.

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**Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.**

The Registrant is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (the “General Corporation Law”) authorizes a court to award, or a corporation’s board of directors to grant, indemnity to directors and officers in terms sufficiently broad to permit such indemnification under certain circumstances for liabilities, including reimbursement for expenses incurred, arising under the Securities Act. The Registrant’s amended and restated certificate of incorporation permits indemnification of its directors, officers, employees and other agents to the maximum extent permitted by the General Corporation Law, and the Registrant’s amended and restated bylaws provide that the Registrant will indemnify its directors and officers and permit the Registrant to indemnify its employees and other agents, in each case to the maximum extent permitted by the General Corporation Law.

The Registrant has entered into indemnification agreements with its directors and officers, whereby the Registrant has agreed to indemnify its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by law, including indemnification against expenses and liabilities incurred in legal proceedings to which the director or officer was, or is threatened to be made, a party by reason of the fact that such director or officer is or was a director, officer, employee, or agent of the Registrant, provided that such director or officer acted in good faith and in a manner that the director or officer reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interest of the Registrant.

At present, there is no pending litigation or proceeding involving a director or officer of the Registrant regarding which indemnification is sought, nor is the registrant aware of any threatened litigation that may result in claims for indemnification.

The Registrant maintains insurance policies that indemnify its directors and officers against various liabilities arising under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act that might be incurred by any director or officer in his or her capacity as such.

**Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.**

Not applicable.

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**Item 8. Exhibits.**

The exhibits to this Registration Statement are listed below:

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
4.1	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-39594), as amended, filed with the Commission on October 14, 2020).</u></a>
4.2	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-39594), as amended, filed with the Commission on October 14, 2020).</u></a>
4.3	<a href="#"><u>Form of Common Stock Certificate of the Registrant (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-248924), as amended, filed with the Commission on October 5, 2020).</u></a>
4.4	<a href="#"><u>Amended and Restated Investors' Rights Agreement by and among the Registrant and certain of its Stockholders, dated February 19, 2020 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-248924), as amended, filed with the Commission on September 18, 2020).</u></a>
5.1	<a href="#"><u>Opinion of Cooley LLP.</u></a>
23.1	<a href="#"><u>Consent of BDO USA, LLP, independent registered public accounting firm.</u></a>
23.2	<a href="#"><u>Consent of Cooley LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).</u></a>
24.1	<a href="#"><u>Power of Attorney (included on the signature page).</u></a>
99.1	<a href="#"><u>Spruce Biosciences, Inc. 2020 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-248924), as amended, filed with the Commission on October 5, 2020).</u></a>
99.2	<a href="#"><u>Forms of Grant Notice, Stock Option Agreement and Notice of Exercise under the Spruce Biosciences, Inc. 2020 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-248924), as amended, filed with the Commission on September 18, 2020).</u></a>
99.3	<a href="#"><u>Spruce Biosciences, Inc. 2020 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-248924), as amended, filed with the Commission on October 5, 2020).</u></a>
99.4	<a href="#"><u>Spruce Biosciences, Inc. 2020 Employee Stock Purchase Plan Offering Document (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-39594), filed with the Commission on March 22, 2021).</u></a>
99.5	<a href="#"><u>Form of Stock Option Grant Notice, Option Agreement and Notice of Exercise for Inducement Grant Outside of the Spruce Biosciences, Inc. 2020 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-39594), filed with the Commission on January 5, 2022).</u></a>
107	<a href="#"><u>Filing Fee Table.</u></a>

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**Item 9. Undertakings.**

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:
  - (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
  - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective Registration Statement; and
  - (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement.

*Provided, however,* that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the Registration Statement is on Form S-8, and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
  - (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
  - (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned Registrant pursuant to this Registration Statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:
    - (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
    - (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned Registrant;
    - (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant; and
    - (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.
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- (b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.
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## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in Daly City, State of California, on March 14, 2022.

### SPRUCE BIOSCIENCES, INC.

By: /s/ Javier Szwarcberg  
Javier Szwarcberg, M.D., MPH  
Chief Executive Officer

### POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Javier Szwarcberg, M.D., MPH and Samir Gharib, and each one of them, as his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in their name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this registration statement, and to sign any registration statement for the same offering covered by this registration statement that is to be effective on filing pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and all post-effective amendments thereto, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

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

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ Javier Szwarcberg</u> Javier Szwarcberg, M.D., MPH	Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	March 14, 2022
<u>/s/ Samir Gharib</u> Samir Gharib	President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	March 14, 2022
<u>/s/ Michael Grey</u> Michael Grey	Executive Chairman	March 14, 2022
<u>/s/ Tiba Aynechi</u> Tiba Aynechi, Ph.D.	Director	March 14, 2022
<u>/s/ Dina Chaya</u> Dina Chaya, Ph.D., C.F.A.	Director	March 14, 2022
<u>/s/ Bali Muralidhar</u> Bali Muralidhar, M.D, Ph.D.	Director	March 14, 2022
<u>/s/ Niall O'Donnell</u> Niall O'Donnell, Ph.D.	Director	March 14, 2022
<u>/s/ Camilla V. Simpson</u> Camilla V. Simpson, M.Sc.	Director	March 14, 2022
<u>/s/ Daniel Spiegelman</u> Daniel Spiegelman	Director	March 14, 2022
<u>/s/ Kirk Ways</u> Kirk Ways, M.D., Ph.D.	Director	March 14, 2022



Kristin VanderPas  
+1 415 693 2097  
kvanderpas@cooley.com

Exhibit 5.1

March 14, 2022

Spruce Biosciences, Inc.  
2001 Junipero Serra Blvd., Suite 640  
Daly City, California 94014

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Spruce Biosciences, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "**Company**"), in connection with the filing of a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "**Registration Statement**") with the Securities and Exchange Commission covering the offering of up to 2,409,512 shares (the "**Shares**") of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share ("**Common Stock**"), consisting of (i) 1,174,594 shares of Common Stock issuable pursuant to the Company's 2020 Equity Incentive Plan (the "**2020 Plan**"), (ii) 234,918 shares of Common Stock issuable pursuant to the Company's 2020 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (together with the 2020 Plan, the "**Plans**") and (iii) 1,000,000 shares of Common Stock issuable pursuant to inducement awards granted outside the 2020 Plan (the "**Inducement Awards**").

In connection with this opinion, we have examined and relied upon (a) the Registration Statement and related prospectuses, (b) the Company's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws, each as currently in effect, (c) the Plans, (d) the Inducement Awards, and (e) originals or copies certified to our satisfaction of such records, documents, certificates, memoranda and other instruments as in our judgment are necessary or appropriate to enable us to render the opinion expressed below. We have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conformity to originals of all documents submitted to us as copies, the accuracy, completeness and authenticity of certificates of public officials and the due authorization, execution and delivery of all documents by all persons other than by the Company where authorization, execution and delivery are prerequisites to the effectiveness thereof. As to certain factual matters, we have relied upon a certificate of an officer of the Company and have not independently verified such matters.

Our opinion is expressed only with respect to the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. We express no opinion to the extent that any other laws are applicable to the subject matter hereof and express no opinion and provide no assurance as to compliance with any federal or state securities law, rule or regulation.

On the basis of the foregoing, and in reliance thereon, we are of the opinion that the Shares, when sold and issued in accordance with the Plans or the Inducement Awards, as applicable, the Registration Statement and related prospectuses, will be validly issued, fully paid, and nonassessable (except as to shares issued pursuant to certain deferred payment arrangements, which will be fully paid and nonassessable when such deferred payments are made in full).

We consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement.

March 14, 2022

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**Cooley**

Sincerely,

Cooley LLP

By: /s/ Kristin VanderPas  
Kristin VanderPas

Cooley LLP 3 Embarcadero Center, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor San Francisco, CA 94111  
t: (415) 693-2000 f: (415) 693-2222 cooley.com

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Spruce Biosciences, Inc.  
Daly City, California

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our report dated March 14, 2022, relating to the financial statements of Spruce Biosciences, Inc. appearing in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2021.

/s/ BDO USA, LLP  
San Jose, California

March 14, 2022

## Calculation of Filing Fee Table

Form S-8  
(Form Type)

Spruce Biosciences, Inc.  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Table 1: Newly Registered Securities

Security Type	Security Class Title	Fee Calculation Rule	Amount Registered <sup>(1)</sup>	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Fee Rate	Amount of Registration Fee <sup>(2)</sup>
Equity	<b>2020 Equity Incentive Plan</b> Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share	Other <sup>(3)</sup>	1,174,594 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$1.96 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$2,302,204.24	.0000927	\$213.41
Equity	<b>2020 Employee Stock Purchase Plan</b> Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share	Other <sup>(5)</sup>	234,918 <sup>(6)</sup>	\$1.67 <sup>(5)</sup>	\$392,313.06	.0000927	\$36.37
Equity	<b>Non-Plan Inducement Awards</b> Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share	Other <sup>(7)</sup>	1,000,000 <sup>(8)</sup>	\$4.59 <sup>(7)</sup>	\$4,590,000.00	.0000927	\$425.49
<b>Total Offering Amounts</b>					\$7,284,517.30		\$675.27
<b>Total Fees Previously Paid</b>							—
<b>Total Fee Offsets</b>							—
<b>Net Fee Due</b>							\$675.27

(1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), this Registration Statement shall also cover any additional shares of common stock (“Common Stock”) of Spruce Biosciences, Inc. (the “Registrant”) that become issuable under the Registrant’s 2020 Equity Incentive Plan (the “2020 Plan”) and the Registrant’s 2020 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the “2020 ESPP”) by reason of any stock dividend, stock split, recapitalization or other similar transaction.

(2) The Registrant does not have any fee offsets.

- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(h) and 457(c) of the Securities Act. The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per share and proposed maximum aggregate offering price are calculated using the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock as reported on Nasdaq Global Select Market on March 7, 2022.
- (4) Represents shares of Common Stock that were automatically added to the shares available for issuance under the 2020 Plan on January 1, 2022 pursuant to the automatic increase feature of such plan, which provides that the number of shares reserved for issuance under the 2020 Plan will automatically increase on January 1st of each year, for a period of ten years, commencing on January 1, 2021 and ending on (and including) January 1, 2030, in an amount equal to 5% of the total number of shares of Common Stock outstanding on December 31 of the preceding year; provided, however, that the Registrant's board of directors may act prior to January 1st of a given year to provide that the increase for such year will be a lesser number of shares of the Registrant's Common Stock.
- (5) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(h) and 457(c) of the Securities Act. The proposed maximum aggregate offering price per share and proposed maximum aggregate offering price are calculated using the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock as reported on Nasdaq Global Select Market on March 7, 2022, multiplied by 85%.
- (6) Represents shares of Common Stock that were automatically added to the shares available for issuance under the 2020 ESPP on January 1, 2022 pursuant to the automatic increase feature of such plan, which provides that the number of shares reserved for issuance under the 2020 ESPP will automatically increase on January 1st of each year, for a period of ten years, commencing on January 1, 2021 and ending on (and including) January 1, 2030, in an amount equal to the lesser of (i) 1% of the total number of shares of Common Stock outstanding on December 31st of the preceding calendar year, (ii) 441,280 shares of Common Stock and (iii) a number of shares of Common Stock designated by action of the Registrant's board of directors prior to the applicable January 1st.
- (7) Pursuant to Rule 457(h) of the Securities Act, the offering price per share and the aggregate offering price are based upon \$4.59 per share, which is the exercise price of the stock options granted by the Registrant to its Chief Executive Officer as a material inducement to his acceptance of employment with the Registrant in accordance with Rule 5635(c)(4) of the Nasdaq Listing Rules.
- (8) Represents shares of Common Stock reserved for issuance upon the exercise of outstanding stock options granted outside the 2020 Plan but pursuant to the terms of the 2020 Plan as if such stock options were granted under the 2020 Plan, as inducement grants pursuant to Rule 5635(c)(4) of the Nasdaq Listing Rules.