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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 17, 2022

Keros Therapeutics, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(state or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-39264
(Commission
File Number)

81-1173868
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

99 Hayden Avenue, Suite 120, Building E
Lexington, Massachusetts
(Address of principal executive offices)

02421
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (617) 314-6297

Not applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
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Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| Title of each class | Trading Symbol | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|---|----------------|---|
| Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share | KROS | The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC |

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

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 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 8.01 Other Events.

On May 17, 2022, Keros Therapeutics, Inc. (the “Company”) issued a press release announcing results from a preclinical study of a research form of KER-012 on pulmonary arterial pressure and right ventricle hypertrophy in an established rodent model of pulmonary arterial hypertension, being presented at the American Thoracic Society International Conference held May 13 through 18, 2022.

A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|--------------------|--|
| 99.1 | Press release dated May 17, 2022. |
| 104 | Cover Page Interactive Data File (the cover page XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document) |

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 hereunto duly authorized.

KEROS THERAPEUTICS, INC.

By: /s/ Jasbir Seehra
Jasbir Seehra, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: May 17, 2022

Keros Therapeutics Presents Results from a Preclinical Study of RKER-012 in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension at the American Thoracic Society International Conference

Lexington, Mass. – May 17, 2022 – Keros Therapeutics, Inc. (“Keros” or the “Company”) (Nasdaq: KROS), a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of novel treatments for patients suffering from hematological and musculoskeletal disorders with high unmet medical need, today announced results from a preclinical study of RKER-012 on pulmonary arterial pressure and right ventricle hypertrophy in an established rodent model of pulmonary arterial hypertension (“PAH”) at the American Thoracic Society (“ATS”) International Conference held May 13 through 18, 2022. Additional data from a separate nonclinical study in cynomolgus monkeys was also included in the presentation.

RKER-012 prevented increased pulmonary arterial pressure and right ventricle hypertrophy in a rodent PAH model and KER-012 did not alter red blood cell number in non-human primates.

- *RKER-012 Therapy Prevented Increased Pulmonary Arterial Pressure And Right Ventricle Hypertrophy In A Rat Model Of PAH*

Keros combined administration of SUGEN5416, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor of vascular endothelial growth factor receptors 1/2, with exposure to chronic hypoxia to recapitulate the biology in PAH. A research form of KER-012 (“RKER-012”) was tested in this SUGEN/hypoxia (“SH”) rat model of PAH. Adult male rats were subjected to SH and received either vehicle, 10 mg/kg of activin receptor type IIA-Fc (“ActRIIA-Fc”) or 10 mg/kg RKER-012 twice weekly for three weeks. Rats maintained under normal oxygen conditions (“normoxic controls”) received only vehicle.

Consistent with the development of cardiac and pulmonary impairment, vehicle-treated SH rats exhibited increases in Fulton index, which measures enlargement of the right ventricle ($p < 0.0001$), and systolic pulmonary arterial pressure (“sPAP”) ($p < 0.0001$) relative to normoxic controls. Treatment of the SH rats with ActRIIA-Fc attenuated increased Fulton index ($p < 0.05$) and sPAP ($p < 0.05$), relative to the vehicle-treated SH rats.

Similarly, relative to the vehicle-treated SH rats, treatment of the SH rats with RKER-012 attenuated increased Fulton index ($p < 0.001$) and prevented an increase in sPAP ($p < 0.001$) such that the observed sPAP was not different from normoxic controls. In a separate nonclinical study, six months of treatment with KER-012 (3, 10 and 50 mg/kg dose levels, dosed once every two weeks) did not increase red blood cells in healthy naïve non-human primates, a model highly translatable to humans.

Additionally, vehicle-treated SH rats exhibited increased lung inflammation/fibrosis ($p < 0.0001$), and smooth muscle hypertrophy ($p < 0.0001$) relative to normoxic controls, while treatment with RKER-012 reduced these pathologies (both $ps < 0.0001$, relative to vehicle). Vehicle-treated SH rats also exhibited increased atrial natriuretic peptide (“ANP”) and B-type natriuretic peptide (“BNP”; both $ps < 0.05$) relative to normoxic controls. Treatment with RKER-012 significantly reduced ANP expression ($p < 0.05$) and trended to reduce BNP expression ($p = 0.11$), which Keros believes indicates that KER-012 could potentially reduce PAH-induced damage to the heart.

Finally, vehicle-treated SH rats exhibited elevated expression of genes associated with the development of PAH-associated pathology in the lung and right ventricle, which were reduced with RKER-012 treatment.

“We are excited to announce additional preclinical data for our KER-012 program at ATS,” said Jasbir S. Seehra, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Keros. “Treatment with KER-012 did not increase red blood cells in nonhuman primates, which was observed in third-party preclinical studies of rats

treated with ActRIIA-Fc. We believe these data support that KER-012 has the potential to treat PAH in patients without potentially dose-limiting increases in red blood cells.”

About KER-012

KER-012 is designed to bind to and inhibit the signaling of TGF- β ligands that suppress bone growth, including activin A and activin B. Keros believes that KER-012 has the potential to increase the signaling of bone morphogenic protein (“BMP”) pathways through this inhibition of activin A and activin B signaling, and consequently treat diseases such as PAH that are associated with reduced BMP signaling due to inactivating mutations in the BMP receptors. KER-012 is being developed for the treatment of PAH and for the treatment of disorders associated with bone loss, such as osteogenesis imperfecta and osteoporosis.

About Keros Therapeutics, Inc.

Keros is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of novel treatments for patients suffering from hematologic and musculoskeletal disorders with high unmet medical need. Keros is a leader in understanding the role of the transforming growth factor-beta family of proteins, which are master regulators of red blood cell and platelet production as well as of the growth, repair and maintenance of muscle and bone. Keros’ lead protein therapeutic product candidate, KER-050, is being developed for the treatment of low blood cell counts, or cytopenias, including anemia and thrombocytopenia, in patients with myelodysplastic syndromes and in patients with myelofibrosis. Keros’ lead small molecule product candidate, KER-047, is being developed for the treatment of anemia resulting from iron imbalance. Keros’ third product candidate, KER-012, is being developed for the treatment of PAH and for the treatment of disorders associated with bone loss, such as osteoporosis and osteogenesis imperfecta.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Statements contained in this press release regarding matters that are not historical facts are “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended. Words such as “anticipates,” “believes,” “expects,” “intends,” “plans,” “potential,” “projects,” “would” and “future” or similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Examples of these forward-looking statements include statements concerning: the potential of KER-012 to treat diseases such as PAH without dose-limiting increases in red blood cells. Because such statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, among others: Keros’ limited operating history and historical losses; Keros’ ability to raise additional funding to complete the development and any commercialization of its product candidates; Keros’ dependence on the success of its lead product candidates, KER-050 and KER-047; that Keros may be delayed in initiating, enrolling or completing any clinical trials; competition from third parties that are developing products for similar uses; Keros’ ability to obtain, maintain and protect its intellectual property; Keros’ dependence on third parties in connection with manufacturing, clinical trials and pre-clinical studies; Keros’ ability to enter into new collaborations; and risks relating to the impact on our business of the COVID-19 pandemic or similar public health crises.

These and other risks are described more fully in Keros’ filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), including the “Risk Factors” section of the Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed with the SEC on May 5, 2022, and its other documents subsequently filed with or furnished to the SEC. All forward-looking statements contained in this press release speak only as of the date on which they were made. Except to the extent required by law, Keros undertakes no obligation to update such statements to reflect events that occur or circumstances that exist after the date on which they were made.

Investor Contact:

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