### **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 18, 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)

99 Hayden Avenue, Suite 120, Building E

Lexington, Massachusetts (Address of principal executive offices)

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))

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

> 02421 (Zip Code)

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  $\boxtimes$ 

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 18, 2022, Keros Therapeutics, Inc. (the "Company") issued a press release announcing preliminary topline results from Part 1 of its ongoing Phase 1 clinical trial evaluating single and multiple ascending doses of KER-012 in healthy postmenopausal volunteers. 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.

During a conference call and webcast scheduled to be held at 8:00 a.m. Eastern time on May 18, 2022, the Company's management will discuss the topline results from Part 1 of its ongoing Phase 1 clinical trial of KER-012. A copy of the presentation for the conference call and webcast is attached as Exhibit 99.2 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated by reference herein.

#### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits. (d) Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press release dated May 18, 2022.
99.2	Investor Presentation dated May 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 18, 2022

#### Keros Therapeutics Announces Preliminary Topline Results from its Ongoing Phase 1 Clinical Trial Evaluating KER-012 in Healthy Volunteers

LEXINGTON, Mass., – May 18, 2022 – Keros Therapeutics, Inc. ("Keros") (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 preliminary topline results from Part 1 of its Phase 1 clinical trial evaluating single and multiple ascending doses of KER-012 in healthy postmenopausal volunteers.

The ongoing trial is designed as a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, two-part trial to assess the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics of KER-012. In Part 1 of this ongoing trial, 32 subjects received either a single 0.75, 1.5, 3 or 5 mg/kg dose of KER-012 and eight subjects received a single dose of placebo, each administered subcutaneously with an eight-week safety follow-up. The subjects were enrolled in sequential single-ascending dose escalation cohorts of ten subjects each.

KER-012 was generally well tolerated in Part 1 of this trial at dose levels up to 5 mg/kg, the highest dose level tested, when administered as a single dose. While one subject withdrew consent after receiving a single 1.5 mg/kg dose of KER-012 and did not complete the safety follow-up, there were no discontinuations due to treatment-related adverse events in Part 1 of this trial. No serious adverse events were reported in Part 1 of this trial. Additionally, the majority of the adverse events that were observed in Part 1 of this trial were mild in severity.

Preliminary topline results from Part 1 of this trial include the following:

- Pharmacokinetic parameters were observed to be generally dose proportional with increasing doses.
- Maximal target engagement was observed following a single 5 mg/kg dose of KER-012, with a mean (standard deviation, "SD") 39.6 (12.7)% reduction in follicle-stimulating hormone levels observed on Day 22.
- Robust increases in markers of bone formation were observed:
- Bone specific alkaline phosphatase increased, starting at the lowest dose of 0.75 mg/kg, with mean (SD) maximum increases from baseline of 36.4 (4.0)% at the highest dose of 5 mg/kg.
   No clinically meaningful changes in red blood cells or hemoglobin were observed in Part 1 of this trial.

"We are pleased to report the preliminary topline findings from Part 1 of the Phase 1 clinical trial in KER-012, as we observed target engagement and changes in bone remodeling markers consistent with the restoration of signaling of the bone morphogenetic protein ("BMP") pathway, with no clinically meaningful observed changes in red blood cells or hemoglobin," said Jasbir S. Seehra, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Keros. "We believe these results support the potential of KER-012 as a treatment for diseases that are associated with reduced BMP signaling, such as pulmonary arterial hypertension ("BAM"), without a potentially dose-limiting red blood cell effect."

Part 2 of this trial is ongoing, with dosing for Cohort 3 of Part 2 initiated at 4.5 mg/kg of KER-012, to be administered once every four weeks for three doses. Keros expects to report data from Part 2 of this trial in the second half of 2022.

Following the completion of this Phase 1 clinical trial, Keros expects to initiate a Phase 2 clinical trial of KER-012 in patients with PAH, and expects to share the trial design for the Phase 2 clinical trial in early 2023.

#### **Conference Call and Webcast**

Keros will host a conference call and webcast today, May 18, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. Eastern time to discuss the topline results from Part 1 of the KER-012 Phase 1 clinical trial. The conference call will be webcast live at https://event.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1548072&tp\_key=90cb438f4c. The live teleconference may be accessed by dialing (877) 405-1224 (domestic) or (201) 389-0848 (international). An archived version of the call will be available in the Investors section of the Keros website at https://ir.kerostx.com/ for 90 days following the conclusion of the call.

#### About KER-012

KER-012 is designed to bind to and inhibit the signaling of TGF-ß ligands that suppress bone growth, including activin A and activin B. Keros believes that KER-012 has the potential to increase the signaling of 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 disorders associated with bone loss, such as 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: Keros' expectations regarding its growth, strategy, progress and the design, objectives and timing of its clinical trials for KER-012; and the potential of KER-012 to treat diseases such as PAH without a dose-limiting red blood cell effect. 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; and risks relating to the impact on our business of the COVID-19 pandemic or similar uses.

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:

Justin Frantz jfrantz@soleburytrout.com 617-221-9100





### **Corporate Update**

May 2022

### Disclaimer

Statements contained in this presentation 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: Keros' expectations regarding its growth, strategy, progress and the design, objectives and timing of its preclinical studies and clinical trials for KER-050, KER-047 and KER-012; the potential of KER-012 to treat diseases such as pulmonary arterial hypertension without a doselimiting red blood cell effect; the potential impact of COVID-19 on Keros' ongoing and planned preclinical studies, clinical trials, business and operations; and the potential of Keros' proprietary discovery approach. 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, actual results may differ 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; and risks relating to the impact on our business of the COVID-19 pandemic or similar public health crises.

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Certain information contained in this presentation relates to or is based on studies, publications, surveys and other data obtained from third-party sources and the Company's own internal estimates and research. While we believe these third-party sources to be reliable as of the date of this presentation, it has not independently verified, and makes no representation as to the adequacy, fairness, accuracy or completeness of, any information obtained from third -party sources. Finally, while we believe our own internal research is reliable, such research has not been verified by any independent source.

The trademarks included in this presentation are the property of the owners thereof and are used for reference purposes only



### Introductions

- Jasbir Seehra, President and Chief Executive Officer
- Keith Regnante, Chief Financial Officer
- Simon Cooper, Chief Medical Officer
- Jenn Lachey, Chief Scientific Officer
- Christopher Rovaldi, Chief Operating Officer

### Harnessing the Powerful Biology of the TGF- $\beta$ Superfamily

- Clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing novel therapeutics that target the TGF-β superfamily
- Leveraging our extensive experience in TGF-β superfamily protein structure, function and protein engineering to
- generate a clinical pipeline of differentiated therapeutics:

#### Hematology

- KER-050: Modified activin receptor IIA (ActRIIA) ligand trap
  - Designed to address ineffective hematopoiesis by modulating TGF-β superfamily signaling
     Potential to correct multiple cytopenias in patients with MDS and myelofibrosis (MF)
- KER-047: Activin receptor-like kinase-2 (ALK2) inhibitor
  - Designed to address anemias resulting from iron imbalance
     Potential to treat iron-refractory iron deficiency anemia (IRIDA), iron deficiency anemia and other diseases

#### Pulmonary and Musculoskeletal

- KER-012: Modified activin receptor IIB (ActRIIB) ligand trap
  - Designed to inhibit vascular remodeling and bone loss
  - Potential to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) and bone loss in osteogenesis imperfecta and osteoporosis

### Keros is Developing Differentiated Clinical Assets in Hematological and Musculoskeletal Disorders







101

### **KER-012** is Designed to Address PAH and Bone Disorders

- KER-012 is a proprietary, wholly-owned, investigational ligand trap
   Modified ActRIIB fused to the Fc region of IgG1
- KER-012 is designed to bind and inhibit activins and SMAD 2/3 signaling
- In preclinical studies, a research form of KER-012 (RKER-012):
  - Reduced inflammation, fibrosis and vascular remodeling in a rat Sugen/hypoxia model of PAH
  - Increased trabecular bone volume, bone volume fraction, trabecular number, trabecular thickness and reduced trabecular separation in the Sugen/hypoxia rat model
  - Did not increase red blood cells (RBCs) in rodents or cynomolgus monkeys in single and multiple dose studies
- Phase 1 clinical trial in healthy postmenopausal volunteers is ongoing



## Role of TGF- $\beta$ in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is a debilitating disorder characterized by elevated pulmonary vascular resistance, resulting in diminished oxygenation, impaired cardiac output, and right ventricle (RV) overload

PAH is associated with imbalanced TGF-ß superfamily signaling, including insufficient SMAD 1/5/8 signaling\*

A third-party Phase 2 clinical trial demonstrated that rebalancing SMAD signaling by inhibiting ligands that bind ActRIIA provided benefit but was accompanied by a potentially dose-limiting increase in red blood cells (RBCs)\*



\*Data from: Humbert, M. et. al., N Engl J Med 2021;384:1204-15

### **RKER-012 Reduced Pulmonary Arterial Pressure and Right** Ventricle (RV) Hypertrophy in a Rat PAH Model



### **RKER-012** Prevented Bone Loss in a Rat PAH Model

 In a separate preclinical study, RKER-012 demonstrated activity in improving bone mass in the Sugen/hypoxia rat model of PAH

- Hypoxic rats were dosed with vehicle or RKER-012 (20 mg/kg), twice weekly for four weeks
- Normoxic rats were dosed with vehicle
- Hypoxic rats dosed with vehicle exhibited decreased bone volume, bone volume fraction and trabecular number, and increased trabecular separation compared to normoxic controls
- RKER-012 prevented loss of bone volume, bone volume fraction, trabecular number, and reduced trabecular separation that was observed in vehicle-treated hypoxic rats
- Taken together, we believe this preclinical data suggests that:
  - RKER-012 potentially inhibited activins and growth differentiation factor ligands (GDFs), which are negative regulators of bone
  - Inhibition of activins and GDFs also potentially facilitated signaling of bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs), factors that promote bone growth
- RKER-012 protected rats from PAH-induced bone loss



(Left) Representative three-dimensional of the tibia demonstrating trabecular architecture is reduced in Hx + Vehicle compared to Nx + Vehicle and Hx + RKER-012. (Right) Transverse cross section of the proximal tibia  $_{10}$  depicting trabecular (red) and cortical (opaque) bone; Scale bar = 1 mm.





A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo Controlled, Two-Part, Dose-Escalation Phase 1 Clinical Trial to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, Pharmacokinetic, and Pharmacodynamic Effects of KER-012 in Healthy Post Menopausal Women



Inclusion:		
• Po	stmenopausal female aged 45 to 70 years (inclusive) at screening	
	<ul> <li>NOTE: Postmenopausal is defined as ≥ 6 months of spontaneous amenorrhea <u>OR</u> 6 weeks postsurgical bilateral oophorectomy with or without hysterectomy</li> </ul>	
• Sei	rum follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) levels > 40 IU/L	
Exclusion:		
• Cli im dis	nically significant (as determined by the investigator) cardiac, endocrinologic, hematologic, hepatic, munologic, metabolic, urologic, pulmonary, neurologic, dermatologic, psychiatric, renal, and/or other major sease	
• Hi	story of osteoporosis or any past treatment for osteoporosis	
• Ho pli at	ormone replacement therapy (i.e., estrogen, or estrogen plus progesterone) within 3 months prior to dosing or ans to begin hormone replacement therapy at any time during the study. Local estrogen therapy for vaginal rophy is permitted	
• Sy	stemic glucocorticoid therapy for more than 1 month within 6 months before screening	
• M m	edications that may affect muscle function, including muscle anabolic agents and high intensity statins, within onths prior to dosing (moderate stable doses of statins are permitted)	3
• Ar	tiresorptive and anabolic osteoporosis treatments within 1 year prior to dosing	

# Demographics and Disposition (Part 1 SAD)

	PBO (N=8)	0.75 mg/kg (N=8)	1.5 mg/kg (N=8)	3.0 mg/kg (N=8)	5.0 mg/kg (N=8)	All Subjects (N=40)
<b>Age, years</b> mean (range)	56.0 (48 – 60)	58.3 (52 -70)	54.9 (50 - 59)	57.8 (50 - 66)	59.3 (53 - 68)	57.2 (48 - 70)
Race, n (%) White Multiple*	8 (100) 0	8 (100) 0	8 (100) 0	7 (87.5) 1 (12.5)	8 (100) 0	39 (97.5) 1 (2.5)
<b>Veight, kg</b> mean (SD)	68.4 (10.09)	71.6 (9.60)	67.5 (8.05)	68.1 (9.49)	67.1 (10.35)	68.6 (9.19)
<b>SH, IU/L</b> mean (SD) [range] at Screening at C1D1	88.9 (16.34) [62, 107] 70.4 (28.91) [18, 105]	75.5 (19.87) [56, 112] 53.3 (28.16) [26, 103]	95.0 (22.93) [64, 133] 86.5 (16.64) [64, 109]	77.9 (26.31) [60, 127] 49.5 (23.65) [21, 92]	91.0 (35.02) [45, 146] 87.1 (35.49) [63, 162]	85.6 (25.02) [45, 146 68.9 (30.18) [18, 162
%chg from SCRN	-16.9 (35.65) [-83.2, 11.9]	-31.9 (23.02) [-58.3, 1.1]	-7.7 (8.78) [-18.3, 7.1]	-33.3 (24.57) [-83.5, 2.6]	4.4 (17.71) [-17.0, 40.0]	-17.7 (26.38) [-83.5, 40.
Disposition						
Completed Study, n (%)	8 (100%)	8 (100%)	7 (87.5%)	8 (100%)	8 (100%)	39 (97.5)
Discontinuation, n (%)	0	0	1** (12.5%)	0	0	1** (2.5)

# Safety, Tolerability and PK (Part 1 SAD)

- KER-012 was generally well tolerated at doses up to 5 mg/kg when administered as a single dose
- There were no serious adverse events observed in Part 1

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• The majority of adverse events observed in Part 1 were mild in severity (CTCAE Grade 1)

- No clinically meaningful changes in hemoglobin (Hgb), RBCs or reticulocytes were observed at doses up to 5 mg/kg when administered as a single dose
- PK parameters were generally dose proportional with increasing doses







# **Observed Mean Maximal Increase in BSAP at Doses of 1.5 mg/kg and Higher**



### KER-012 Part 1 SAD Summary

- KER-012 was generally well tolerated at all doses up to 5 mg/kg when administered as a single dose in healthy postmenopausal women
- KER-012 was associated with generally dose proportional exposure
- Maximal target engagement was observed following a single 5 mg/kg dose of KER-012 (40% mean reduction in FSH on Day 22)
- No clinically meaningful changes in Hgb or RBCs were observed at doses up to 5 mg/kg when administered as a single dose
- 🕐 Robust changes in markers of bone formation were observed, starting at the lowest dose of 0.75 mg/kg
- Mean maximal increases in BSAP as high as 35% were observed at the higher dose cohorts (1.5, 3 and 5 mg/kg), which is similar to the mean maximal increase observed with other ligand traps, including KER-050
- The observed KER-012-mediated increases in BSAP are consistent with restoration of BMP signaling; Keros believes this supports the development of KER-012 as a potential treatment for patients with PAH, which is associated with reduced BMP signaling
- Keros believes the preclinical data and data from Part 1 of its ongoing Phase 1 clinical trial support that KER-012 has the potential to treat patients with PAH without a potentially dose-limiting red blood cell effect, if approved



### KER-012 Elicited Maximum Increases in Bone-Specific Alkaline Phosphatase (BSAP)



### Sotatercept Increased BSAP Concurrently with Observed Increases in Hemoglobin in a Third-Party Phase 1 Clinical Trial\*



# **KER-012: Next Steps**

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• Part 2 of this trial (multiple ascending dose) is ongoing; expected to report data in H2 2022

- Expect to confirm SAD biomarkers and include changes in bone mineral density by dualenergy x-ray absorptiometry
- Keros expects to initiate a Phase 2 clinical trial of KER-012 in PAH patients following the completion of the Phase 1 clinical trial

23

• Keros expects to announce the design of this Phase 2 clinical trial in early 2023

# Anticipated Key Milestones\*

### **KER-050**

Announce additional data from Phase 2 trial in MDS
Announce initial data from Phase 2 trial in myelofibrosis

#### **KER-047**

- Initiate Phase 2 trial in IDA
- Initiate Phase 2 trial in IRIDA

#### **KER-012**

1

- Announce additional data from Part 2 of Phase 1 trial
- Announce design of Phase 2 trial in PAH

Mid-2022 (EHA 2022) End of 2022

H1 2022 (initial data end of 2022) H1 2022 (initial data end of 2022)

24

H2 2022 Early 2023

\*Anticipated clinical milestones are subject to the impact of COVID-19 on our business.

