



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

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

January 24, 2020

Gil Van Bokkelen, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Athersys, Inc.  
3201 Carnegie Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44115-2634

**Re: Athersys, Inc.**  
**Registration Statement on Form S-3**  
**Filed January 16, 2020**  
**File No. 333-235945**

Dear Dr. Van Bokkelen:

This is to advise you that we have not reviewed and will not review your registration statement.

Please refer to Rules 460 and 461 regarding requests for acceleration. We remind you that the company and its management are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of their disclosures, notwithstanding any review, comments, action or absence of action by the staff.

Please contact Jeffrey Gabor at 202-551-2544 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Division of Corporation Finance  
Office of Life Sciences

cc: Michael J. Solecki, Esq.