



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

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

November 14, 2011

Via E-mail

Mr. Sanj K. Patel  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Synageva BioPharma Corp.  
128 Spring Street, Suite 520,  
Lexington, MA 02421

**Re: Synageva BioPharma Corp.  
Item 4.01 Form 8-K  
Filed November 10, 2011  
File No. 000-23155**

Dear Mr. Patel:

We have reviewed your filing and have the following comments. Where indicated, we think you should revise your document in response to these comments. If you disagree, we will consider your explanation as to why our comment is inapplicable or a revision is unnecessary. Please be as detailed as necessary in your explanation. After reviewing this information, we may raise additional comments.

Please understand that the purpose of our review process is to assist you in your compliance with the applicable disclosure requirements and to enhance the overall disclosure in your filing. We look forward to working with you in these respects. We welcome any questions you may have about our comments or any other aspect of our review. Feel free to call us at the telephone numbers listed at the end of this letter.

Item 4.01

(a) Prior Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

1. Please amend your filing to state, if true that there were no reportable events that occurred within the two most recent fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and November 4, 2011, the subsequent interim period preceding Ernst & Young LLP's dismissal. The current disclosure solely addresses the interim period through September 30, 2011.
2. Upon amending your filing, please include, as Exhibit 16, an updated letter from your former accountants, Ernst & Young LLP, as required by Item 304(a)(3) of Regulation S-K. Please ensure that your former accountants date their letter.

As appropriate, please amend your filing and respond to these comments within five business days or tell us when you will respond. You may wish to provide us with marked copies of the amendment to expedite our review. Please furnish a cover letter with your amendment

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that keys your responses to our comments and provides any requested information. Detailed cover letters greatly facilitate our review. Please understand that we may have additional comments after reviewing your amendment and responses to our comments.

We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes all information required under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that they have provided all information investors require for an informed investment decision. Since the company and its management are in possession of all facts relating to a company's disclosure, they are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosures they have made.

In connection with responding to our comments, please provide, in writing, a statement from the company acknowledging that:

- the company is responsible for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filing;
- staff comments or changes to disclosure in response to staff comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filing; and
- the company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States.

In addition, please be advised that the Division of Enforcement has access to all information you provide to the staff of the Division of Corporation Finance in our review of your filing or in response to our comments on your filing.

If you have any questions, please call Tabatha Akins at (202) 551-3658.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joel Parker

Joel Parker  
Accounting Branch Chief