



July 19, 2019

Ms. Vanessa Countryman
Secretary
Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street NE
Washington, DC 20549-0609

Re: File No. S7-06-19: Amendments to the Accelerated Filer and Large Accelerated Filer Definitions

Dear Ms. Countryman:

On behalf of Adamas Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“Adamas”), we are pleased to support the SEC’s proposed rule to amend the definitions of “accelerated” and “large accelerated” filers. Adamas is a commercial biopharmaceutical company with one product on the market, GOCOVRI® (amantadine) extended release capsules, for the treatment of dyskinesia in patients with Parkinson’s disease receiving levodopa-based therapy, with or without concomitant dopaminergic medications. GOCOVRI product sales for 2018 were \$34 million and the company has a public float of approximately \$140 million as of June 30, 2019. Additionally, we are advancing a second indication for GOCOVRI to address patients with multiple sclerosis walking impairment which we would hope to bring to market in the next few years. Our company went public in 2014 as an emerging growth company (EGC), which enabled us to access public capital markets earlier in our growth cycle due to the onramp and regulatory relief provisions provided by the JOBS Act of 2012. Further, it allowed us to continue to raise funds to plan for commercialization of our first product, which was approved in 2017 and commercially launched in 2018 in addition to drive research and development for potential additional indications and other product candidates.

Both the ability to access public capital markets and the regulatory relief afforded EGCs have enabled us to invest significantly in research and development to advance our clinical pipeline and make potential drug discoveries to treat chronic central nervous systems disorders. For instance, in 2018, we invested over \$39 million in research and development, alone. We commend the SEC for pursuing thoughtful and targeted regulatory relief—as indicated by the proposed rule—to enable companies like ours to continue to invest heavily in generating long-term value for our shareholders and patients, alike.

If the proposed rule is implemented in its current form, Adamas and other small public companies will benefit from relief from Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) 404(b), the auditor’s attestation of internal controls over financial reporting, until the company exceeds the \$100 million annual revenue cap and \$700 million in public float. The certainty and predictability provided by the proposed rule will enable small public companies like ours to prioritize investments in factors that actually

1900 Powell Street, Suite 1000 Emeryville, CA 94608
Tel|510.450.3500 Fax|510.428.0519
www.adamaspharma.com

determine success or failure in the biotech industry, such as the science and technology underpinning our company's potential, expanding our clinical pipeline to treat new and broader patient populations, and the design and execution of clinical trials that enhance our opportunity to garner approval from the Food and Drug Administration, among others. While well-intentioned, SOX 404(b) has harmed small public companies because of its disproportionate expense, which diverts capital away from research and development, and the evidence¹ and our experience that it is not material for or important to our investors. We strongly believe that this proposed rule will benefit small public companies and their investors by freeing up more capital to hire talent, invest further in research and development, and expand our clinical pipeline to improve our ability to innovate succeed in developing new drugs to treat the nation's most intractable health problems. For these reasons, the SEC's proposal to expand relief from SOX 404(b) for small public companies is a welcome step forward to making our public capital markets more accessible and attractive to small companies.

We commend the SEC's efforts to ease the regulatory burdens facing small companies under the proposed rule.

Sincerely,



Alfred G. Merriweather
Chief Financial Officer

¹ Study by Profs. Craig Lewis and Joshua T. White of Vanderbilt University, "Science or Compliance: Will Section 404(b) Compliance Impede Innovation by Emerging Growth Companies in the Biotech Industry?" February 2019, https://www.bio.org/sites/default/files/BIO_EGC_White_Paper_02_11_2019_FINAL.pdf.