

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

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2023

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 001-40793

OCEAN BIOMEDICAL, INC.
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware

87-1309280

55 Claverick St., Room 325
Providence, Rhode Island

02903

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (401) 444-7375

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

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share	OCEA	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC
Warrants, each exercisable for one share of common stock at an exercise price of \$11.50	OCEAW	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emerging growth company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

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.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

As of November 9, 2023, the registrant had 34,149,046 shares of common stock outstanding and as of February 27, 2024, there are 34,649,046 shares of common stock outstanding.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements	3
PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION	4
Item 1. Financial Statements (unaudited)	4
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets	4
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations	5
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Deficit	6
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows	8
Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements	9
Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	36
Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	51
Item 4. Controls and Procedures	51
PART II. OTHER INFORMATION	53
Item 1. Legal Proceedings	53
Item 1A. Risk Factors	53
Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds	54
Item 6. Exhibits	55
Signatures	56

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (this “Report”), including the section entitled “*Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*,” contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 under Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), and such statements are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions contained therein. These forward-looking statements relate to current expectations and strategies, future operations, future financial positioning, future revenue, projected costs, prospects, current plans, current objectives of management and expected market growth, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from expectations, estimates, and projections expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements and, consequently, you should not rely on these forward-looking statements as a guarantee, an assurance, a prediction, or a definitive statement of fact or probability of future events. All statements contained in this Report, other than statements of historical fact, including statements regarding our future operating results and financial position, our business strategy and plans and our objectives for future operations, are forward-looking statements. The words “may,” “should,” “could,” “predict,” “potential,” “plan,” “seeks,” “believe,” “will likely result,” “expect,” “continue,” “will continue,” “will,” “will be,” “anticipate,” “seek,” “estimate,” “intend,” “plan,” “projection,” “would,” “outlook,” and similar expressions that convey uncertainty of future events or outcomes, or the negative version of those words or phrases or other comparable words or phrases of a future or forward-looking nature, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. The absence of such words does not mean that a statement is not forward-looking.

You should not rely on forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. We have based the forward-looking statements contained in this Report primarily on our current expectations and projections about future events and trends that we believe may affect our business, financial condition and operating results. The outcome of the events described in these forward-looking statements is subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors including those below in this Report under the caption “*Risk Factors*” and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022, under the captions “*Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements*” and “*Risk Factors*.” These factors and the other risk factors described in our periodic and current reports filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) from time to time, however, are not necessarily all of the important factors that could cause our actual results, performance, or achievements to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by any of our forward-looking statements.

Moreover, we operate in a very competitive and rapidly changing environment. New risks and uncertainties emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all risks and uncertainties that could have an impact on the forward-looking statements contained in this Report. The results, events and circumstances reflected in the forward-looking statements may not be achieved or occur, and actual results, events or circumstances could differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements.

In addition, statements that “we believe” and similar statements reflect our beliefs and opinions on the relevant subject. These statements are based on information available to us as of the date of this Report. And, while we believe that information provides a reasonable basis for these statements, that information may be limited or incomplete. Our statements should not be read to indicate that we have conducted an exhaustive inquiry into, or review of, all relevant information. These statements are inherently uncertain, and investors are cautioned not to unduly rely on these statements.

The forward-looking statements made in this Report relate only to events as of the date on which the statements are made. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements made in this Report to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this Report or to reflect new information or the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as required by law. We may not actually achieve the plans, intentions or expectations disclosed in our forward-looking statements, and you should not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements. Our forward-looking statements do not reflect the potential impact of any future acquisitions, mergers, dispositions, joint ventures or investments.

Unless the context otherwise requires, the terms “Ocean Biomedical, Inc.,” “the Company,” “we,” “our,” “us,” or similar references in this Report refer to Ocean Biomedical, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

PART I-FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

OCEAN BIOMEDICAL, INC.
 Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets
 (in thousands, except share and per share data)
 (unaudited)

	September 30, 2023	December 31, 2022
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 31	\$ 34
Restricted cash	1,000	-
Deferred offering costs	-	1,808
Total current assets	<u>1,031</u>	<u>1,842</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,031</u>	<u>\$ 1,842</u>
Liabilities and stockholders' deficit		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 16,048	\$ 11,440
Accrued expenses – related party	804	445
Short-term loans, net of issuance costs	12,051	776
SPA Warrant	1,466	-
Ayrton Note Purchase Option	482	-
Total current liabilities	<u>30,851</u>	<u>12,661</u>
Noncurrent liabilities		
Fixed Maturity Consideration	3,825	-
Backstop Put Option Liability	41,579	-
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>45,404</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities	<u>76,255</u>	<u>12,661</u>
Commitments and contingencies (Note 8)		
Stockholders' deficit		
Common stock, \$0.0001 par value; 300,000,000 and 180,564,262 shares authorized as of September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively, 34,087,201 and 23,355,432 shares issued and outstanding as of September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively.	-	-
Additional paid-in capital	103,975	70,770
Accumulated deficit	(179,199)	(81,589)
Total stockholders' deficit	<u>(75,224)</u>	<u>(10,819)</u>
Total liabilities and stockholders' deficit	<u>\$ 1,031</u>	<u>\$ 1,842</u>

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements

OCEAN BIOMEDICAL, INC.
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations
(in thousands, except per share data)
(unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Operating expenses:				
Research and development	\$ 305	\$ 1,858	\$ 726	\$ 8,248
General and administrative	2,350	1,315	10,148	6,935
Total operating expenses	<u>2,655</u>	<u>3,173</u>	<u>10,874</u>	<u>15,183</u>
Operating loss	<u>(2,655)</u>	<u>(3,173)</u>	<u>(10,874)</u>	<u>(15,183)</u>
Other income/(expense):				
Change in fair value of 2023 Convertible Note, SPA Warrant, and the Ayrton Note Purchase Option	570	-	(589)	-
Loss in connection with Share Consideration shares	-	-	(12,676)	-
Loss in connection with Backstop Put Option Liability and Fixed Maturity Consideration	(11,373)	-	(45,404)	-
Fair value of warrant issuances	-	(435)	(2,301)	(1,074)
Fair value of non-cash stock issuances	(109)	-	(686)	-
Transaction costs	-	-	(8,732)	-
Loss on extinguishment of debt	(224)	-	(15,080)	-
Interest expense, including amortization of debt issuance costs	(293)	(61)	(1,262)	(126)
Other	(3)	1	(6)	7
Total other income/(expense)	<u>(11,432)</u>	<u>(495)</u>	<u>(86,736)</u>	<u>(1,193)</u>
Net loss	<u>\$ (14,087)</u>	<u>\$ (3,668)</u>	<u>\$ (97,610)</u>	<u>\$ (16,376)</u>
Weighted average shares outstanding, basic and diluted	26,605,147	23,355,432	25,980,292	23,355,432
Net loss per share, basic and diluted	\$ (0.53)	\$ (0.16)	\$ (3.76)	\$ (0.70)

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

OCEAN BIOMEDICAL, INC.
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Deficit
(in thousands)
(unaudited)

	Common		Additional Paid-In Capital	Accumulated Deficit	Total Stockholders' Deficit
	Shares	Amount			
Balances at June 30, 2023 as Restated	34,012,724	\$ -	\$ 103,455	\$ (165,112)	\$ (61,657)
Net loss	-	-	-	(14,087)	(14,087)
Stock-based compensation	-	-	186	-	186
Issuance of common stock related to short-term loans	74,477	-	334	-	334
Balances at September 30, 2023	<u>34,087,201</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 103,975</u>	<u>(179,199)</u>	<u>\$ (75,224)</u>
Balances at June 30, 2022	23,355,432	\$ -	\$ 67,400	\$ (76,937)	\$ (9,537)
Net loss	-	-	-	(3,668)	(3,668)
Stock-based compensation	-	-	2,934	-	2,934
Issuance of warrants	-	-	435	-	435
Balances at September 30, 2022	<u>23,355,432</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 70,769</u>	<u>(80,605)</u>	<u>\$ (9,836)</u>

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements

OCEAN BIOMEDICAL, INC.
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Deficit
(in thousands)
(unaudited)

	Common		Additional Paid-In Capital	Accumulated Deficit	Total Stockholders' Deficit
	Shares	Amount			
Balances at December 31, 2022	17,496,370	\$ -	\$ 70,770	\$ (81,589)	\$ (10,819)
Retroactive application of recapitalization	5,859,062	-	-	-	-
Adjusted beginning balance	23,355,432	-	70,770	(81,589)	(10,819)
Net loss	-	-	-	(97,610)	(97,610)
Effect of Business Combination including Backstop Agreement, net of redeemed public shares	7,654,035	-	52,070	-	52,070
Backstop Agreement Prepayment	-	-	(51,606)	-	(51,606)
Proceeds from Backstop Agreement	-	-	1,444	-	1,444
Issuance of common stock pursuant to the Subscription Agreement	1,350,000	-	14,260	-	14,260
Issuance of common stock for extension loan shares to related party	1,365,000	-	13,595	-	13,595
Issuance of common stock related to short-term loans	274,477	-	1,595	-	1,595
Shares issued in consideration pursuant to the Marketing Services Agreement	13,257	-	83	-	83
Shares issued in consideration pursuant to the Common Stock Purchase Agreement	75,000	-	494	-	494
Stock-based compensation	-	-	1,018	-	1,018
Offering costs	-	-	(2,049)	-	(2,049)
Issuance of warrants	-	-	2,301	-	2,301
Balances at September 30, 2023	<u>34,087,201</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 103,975</u>	<u>\$ (179,199)</u>	<u>\$ (75,224)</u>
Balances at December 31, 2021	17,496,370	\$ -	\$ 57,567	\$ (64,229)	\$ (6,662)
Retroactive application of recapitalization	5,859,062	-	-	-	-
Adjusted beginning balance	23,355,432	-	57,567	(64,229)	(6,662)
Stock-based compensation	-	-	12,378	-	12,378
Issuance of warrants	-	-	824	-	824
Net loss	-	-	-	(16,376)	(16,376)
Balances at September 30, 2022	<u>23,355,432</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 70,769</u>	<u>\$ (80,605)</u>	<u>\$ (9,836)</u>

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements

OCEAN BIOMEDICAL, INC.
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(in thousands)
(unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2023	2022
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net loss	\$ (97,610)	\$ (16,376)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Non-cash interest expense	799	-
Non-cash debt issuance costs	627	-
Non-cash stock issuances	577	-
Stock-based compensation	1,018	12,378
Loss on issuance of warrants	2,301	824
Loss on extinguishment of debt	15,080	-
Loss in connection with Share Consideration shares	12,676	-
Loss in connection with Backstop Put Option Liability and Fixed Maturity Consideration	45,404	-
Change in fair value of 2023 Convertible Note, SPA Warrant, and the Ayrton Note Purchase Option	589	-
Non-cash transaction costs in excess of Business Combination proceeds	7,578	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	2,038	2,214
Accrued expenses - related party	360	-
Net cash used in operating activities	(8,563)	(960)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Payment to Backstop Parties for Backstop Agreement	(51,606)	-
Payment to Backstop Parties for Share Consideration	(12,676)	-
Issuance of common stock pursuant to the Backstop Agreement and Subscription Agreement	14,260	-
Proceeds from Backstop Agreement	1,444	-
Proceeds from reverse recapitalization	52,070	-
Proceeds from short-term loans, net of issuance costs	8,168	789
Repayments of short-term loans	(2,100)	-
Expenses paid by related-party shareholder	-	227
Net cash provided by financing activities	9,560	1,016
Total change in cash and restricted cash	997	56
Cash and restricted cash at beginning of period	34	60
Cash and restricted cash at end of period	\$ 1,031	\$ 116
Supplemental disclosure of non-cash financing activities:		
Offering costs not yet paid	\$ 2,049	\$ 1,018
Non-cash stock issuances	\$ 15,766	\$ -
SPA warrant liability upon issuance	\$ 1,932	\$ -

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

OCEAN BIOMEDICAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Description of Business and Going Concern Considerations

Description of Business

Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (“the Company”) is a biopharmaceutical company that is focused on discovering and developing therapeutic products in oncology, fibrosis, and infectious diseases.

Restatement of previously issued consolidated financial statements

Prior to filing its financial statements for the quarter ended September 30, 2023, presented in this Report, the Company reviewed its prior interpretation of the accounting guidance applicable to certain elements of the OTC Equity Prepaid Forward Transaction (the “Backstop Agreement”) and determined the prepayment amount of \$51,606,389 (the “Prepayment”), previously recorded as a derivative asset on the condensed consolidated balance sheet, should be reclassified to the stockholders’ deficit section, and the remaining liability balance associated with the Backstop Agreement, including the Backstop Put Option Liability and the Fixed Maturity Consideration (both as defined in Note 2, *Basis of Presentation and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies*, should be reflected as noncurrent in the condensed consolidated balance sheet.

Business Combination

On February 14, 2023, Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp. (“AHAC”) completed the acquisition of Ocean Biomedical Holdings, Inc. (“Legacy Ocean”) pursuant to the definitive agreement dated August 31, 2022, and as amended on December 5, 2022 (the “Business Combination Agreement”), by and among, AHAC, AHAC Merger Sub Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of AHAC, Aesther Healthcare Sponsor, LLC, Legacy Ocean, and Dr. Chirinjeev Kathuria (the “Closing”). Upon Closing, AHAC Merger Sub Inc. merged with and into Legacy Ocean, with Legacy Ocean surviving the merger as a wholly-owned subsidiary of AHAC. AHAC changed its name from “Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp.” to “Ocean Biomedical, Inc.” and is referred to herein as “the Company.” Unless context otherwise requires, reference to “AHAC” refers to the Company prior to Closing.

Under the Business Combination Agreement, the Company acquired all outstanding capital stock of Legacy Ocean for approximately \$240,000,000, in aggregate consideration before transaction and other fees, which Legacy Ocean stockholders received in the form of shares of common stock of the Company (the consummation of the business combination and other transactions contemplated by the Business Combination Agreement, collectively, the “Business Combination”).

The Business Combination was accounted for as a reverse recapitalization with Legacy Ocean as the accounting acquirer and AHAC as the acquired company for accounting purposes. Accordingly, all historical financial information presented in the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements represents Legacy Ocean and its wholly-owned subsidiaries as Legacy Ocean is the predecessor to the Company. The wholly-owned subsidiaries include: (i) Ocean ChitofibroRx Inc., (ii) Ocean ChitoRx Inc., (iii) Ocean Sihoma Inc., and (iv) Ocean Promise, Inc.

The Company’s common stock and warrants commenced trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC under the symbols “OCEA” and “OCEAW,” respectively, on February 15, 2023. Refer to Note 3, *Business Combination and Backstop Agreement*, for additional details.

Going Concern Considerations

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP applicable to a going concern, which contemplates the realization of assets and the satisfaction of liabilities in the normal course of business.

The Company had no cash inflows from operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2023. As of September 30, 2023, the Company had cash of \$31,008, restricted cash of \$1,000,000, and a working capital deficiency of \$29.8 million. The Company’s current operating plan indicates it will incur losses from operations and generate negative cash flows from operating activities, given anticipated expenditures related to research and development activities and its lack of revenue generating ability at this point in the Company’s lifecycle. These events and conditions raise substantial doubt about the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date the financial statements are issued.

The Company will need to raise additional funds in order to advance its research and development programs, operate its business, and meet its current and future obligations as they come due. Based on the Company's current operational plans and assumptions, which may not be realized, the Company expects to use the net proceeds from the Backstop Agreement (as defined in Note 3, *Business Combination and Backstop Agreement*) and future debt and equity financings, including possibly under the Common Stock Purchase Agreement (as defined in Note 3, *Business Combination and Backstop Agreement*) and the SPA entered into in May 2023 (as defined in Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*) as well as further deferrals of certain of its accrued expenses and contingency payments due upon the closing of future financings to fund operations. However, the Company's ability to utilize certain of its in-place financing arrangements, such as the Backstop Agreement, or execute on new sources of liquidity are dependent on various factors outside of the Company's control, including market conditions and the performance of the Company's common stock.

There is no assurance that the Company will be successful in obtaining additional financing on terms acceptable to the Company, if at all, and the Company may not be able to enter into collaborations or other arrangements. If the Company is unable to obtain funding, the Company could be forced to delay, reduce, or eliminate its research and development programs, which could adversely affect its business prospects and its ability to continue operations.

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements do not include any adjustments relating to the recoverability and classification of recorded asset amounts or the amounts and classification of liabilities that might result from the outcome of this uncertainty.

Impacts of Market Conditions on Our Business

Disruption of global financial markets and a recession or market correction, including certain ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing military conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the related sanctions imposed against Russia, the effects of Hamas' attack of Israel and the ensuing war, and other global macroeconomic factors such as inflation and rising interest rates, could reduce the Company's ability to access capital, which could in the future negatively affect the Company's liquidity and could materially affect the Company's business and the value of its common stock.

2. Basis of Presentation and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with U.S. GAAP and stated in U.S. dollars. Any reference in these notes to applicable guidance is meant to refer to the authoritative U.S. GAAP as found in the Accounting Standards Codification and Accounting Standards Updates of the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB"). Certain information and note disclosures normally included in annual financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP have been condensed or omitted pursuant to those rules and regulations. In the opinion of management, the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments, which include only normal recurring adjustments, necessary for the fair statement of the balances and results for the periods presented. A description of the Company's significant accounting policies is included in the Company's audited financial statements as of December 31, 2022. These unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes in the Company's 2022 Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed with the SEC on March 31, 2023, and Form 8-K, as amended, originally filed with the SEC on February 15, 2023.

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries after elimination of all intercompany accounts and transactions. The subsidiaries were formed to organize the Company's therapeutic programs in order to optimize multiple commercialization options and to maximize each program's value.

Prior to filing the Company's third quarter financial statements on Form 10-Q, the Company determined that its prior interpretation of the accounting guidance applicable to certain elements of the Backstop Agreement was incorrect. As a result, the Company has revised the accounting treatment of the Backstop Agreement in its financial statements as of September 30, 2023 to reclassify the Prepayment (as defined below) of \$51,606,389, previously recorded as a Backstop Forward Purchase Agreement Asset in the condensed consolidated balance sheet, to the stockholders' deficit section of the condensed consolidated balance sheet. As this change was made as of inception, the Company restated the June 30, 2023 balances in its condensed consolidated statement of stockholders' deficit. The remaining liability balance of \$45,404,000 associated with the Backstop Agreement, including the Fixed Maturity Consideration and the Backstop Put Option Liability (both as defined below), are now reflected as noncurrent liabilities in the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheet.

The Company restated its financial statements for the quarters ended March 31, 2023 and June 30, 2023 to be consistent with this accounting treatment.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires the Company to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from those estimates. On an ongoing basis, the Company evaluates its estimates, as applicable, including those related to the fair values of the Company's common stock and related stock-based compensation and the valuation of (i) the Backstop Put Option Liability and Fixed Maturity Consideration (both as defined below) and (ii) the 2023 Convertible Note, SPA Warrant, and Ayrton Note Purchase Option (all defined in Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*). The Company bases its estimates using Company forecasts and future plans, current economic conditions, and information from third-party professionals that management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying value of assets and liabilities and recorded amounts of expenses that are not readily apparent from other sources and adjusts those estimates and assumptions when facts and circumstances dictate.

The Company's results can also be affected by economic, political, legislative, regulatory or legal actions. Economic conditions, such as recessionary trends, inflation, interest rates, changes in regulatory laws and monetary exchange rates, and government fiscal policies, can have a significant effect on operations. The Company could also be affected by civil, criminal, regulatory or administrative actions, claims, or proceedings.

Restricted Cash

The Company's restricted cash is comprised of cash that is restricted as to withdrawal or use. Restricted cash as of September 30, 2023 was \$1,000,000, consisting of the portion of proceeds received from the 2023 Convertible Note, as defined in Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*, that is being held in an escrow account.

Concentrations of Credit Risk, Off-balance Sheet Risk and Other Risks

The Company has held minimal cash since its inception and certain of its expenses have been primarily paid for by the proceeds from the issuance of common stock and debt.

The Company has no significant off-balance sheet arrangements, as defined in the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company's future results of operations involve several other risks and uncertainties. Factors that affect the Company's future operating results and cause actual results to vary materially from expectations could include, but are not limited to, uncertainty of results of clinical trials and reaching milestones, uncertainty of regulatory approval of the Company's product candidates, uncertainty of market acceptance of the Company's product candidates, competition from other products, securing and protecting intellectual property, strategic relationships and dependence on key employees and research partners. The Company's product candidates require Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") and other non-U.S. regulatory agencies approval prior to commercial sales. There can be no assurance that any product candidates will receive the necessary approvals. If the Company were denied approval, if approval were delayed, or if approval were unable to be maintained, it could have a materially adverse impact on the Company.

Revenue

The Company has not generated any revenue from any sources since its inception, including from product sales. The Company does not expect to generate any revenue from the sale of products in the foreseeable future. If the Company's development efforts for its product candidates are successful and result in regulatory approval, or license agreements with third parties, the Company may generate revenue in the future from product sales. However, there can be no assurance as to when revenue will be generated, if at all.

Research and Development Expenses

Research and development expenses consist primarily of costs incurred for research activities, including the development of product candidates. Research and development costs are expensed as incurred. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023 and 2022, research and development expenses consist of expenses recognized for stock-based compensation and incurred for initial license fees, annual maintenance license fees, and services agreements. Payments associated with licensing agreements to acquire exclusive licenses to develop, use, manufacture and commercialize products that have not reached technological feasibility and do not have alternate commercial use are expensed as incurred.

Deferred Offering Costs

The Company capitalizes certain legal, professional accounting, and other third-party fees associated with equity financings such as the Business Combination as deferred offering costs until such financings are consummated. After consummation of the equity financings, these costs are recorded in stockholders' deficit as a reduction of proceeds generated as a result of the offering. The Company recorded deferred offering costs of \$2,048,530 as a reduction to the Business Combination proceeds into additional paid-in capital during the first quarter of 2023. The Company recorded \$7,578,000 as a component of other income/(expense) in its condensed consolidated statements of operations as the amounts were in excess of the proceeds generated as a result of the Business Combination.

Income Taxes and Tax Credits

Income taxes are recorded in accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification 740, *Income Taxes* ("ASC 740"), which provides for deferred taxes using an asset and liability approach. The Company recognizes deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been included in the financial statements or tax returns. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the difference between the financial statement and tax basis of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to reverse, and net operating loss ("NOL") carryforwards and research and development tax credit ("R&D Credit") carryforwards. Valuation allowances are provided, if based upon the weight of available evidence, it is more likely than not that some or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The Company has recorded a full valuation allowance to reduce its net deferred income tax assets to zero. There is no provision for income taxes because the Company has incurred operating losses and capitalized certain items for income tax purposes since its inception and maintains a full valuation allowance against its net deferred tax assets. In the event the Company were to determine that it would be able to realize some or all its deferred income tax assets in the future, an adjustment to the deferred income tax asset valuation allowance would increase income in the period such determination was made. The Company accounts for uncertain tax positions in accordance with the provisions of ASC 740. When uncertain tax positions exist, the Company recognizes the tax benefit of tax positions to the extent that the benefit would more likely than not be realized assuming examination by the taxing authority. The determination as to whether the tax benefit will more likely than not be realized is based upon the technical merits of the tax position as well as consideration of the available facts and circumstances. As of September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022, the Company had no liability for income tax associated with uncertain tax positions.

Net Loss Per Share

Net loss per share is computed by dividing net loss attributed to common stockholders by the weighted-average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period, less shares subject to repurchase, and, if dilutive, the weighted-average number of potential shares of common stock. For the purposes of the diluted net loss per share calculation, common stock warrants, common stock options outstanding, and contingently issuable Earnout Shares (as defined in Note 3, *Business Combination and Backstop Agreement*) are considered to be potentially dilutive securities for all periods presented, and as a result, diluted net loss per share is the same as basic net loss per share for those periods.

Fair Value Measurements

Certain instruments of the Company are carried at fair value under U.S. GAAP. Fair value is defined as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. Valuation techniques used to measure fair value must maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. Financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value are to be classified and disclosed in one of the following three levels of the fair value hierarchy, of which the first two are considered observable and the last is considered unobservable:

- Level 1—Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2—Observable inputs (other than Level 1 quoted prices), such as quoted prices in active markets for similar assets or liabilities, quoted prices in markets that are not active for identical or similar assets or liabilities, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.
- Level 3—Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity that are significant to determining the fair value of the assets or liabilities, including pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies and similar techniques.

The Company's Backstop Put Option Liability and Fixed Maturity Consideration (both as defined below), 2023 Convertible Note, SPA Warrant, and Ayrton Note Purchase Option, (each as defined and discussed in Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*), are carried at fair value, determined according to Level 3 inputs in the fair value hierarchy described above (see Note 4, *Fair Value Measurements*). The carrying values of cash, accounts payable, accrued expenses, and short-term loans approximate their fair values due to the short-term nature of these liabilities.

Backstop Put Option Liability and Fixed Maturity Consideration

Backstop Agreement

In connection with the execution of the Business Combination, AHAC and Legacy Ocean entered into an OTC Equity Prepaid Forward Transaction (as amended, the “Backstop Agreement”) with the Backstop Parties (as defined in Note 3, *Business Combination and Backstop Agreement*). The Backstop Agreement grants the Backstop Parties the right to purchase up to a maximum of 8,000,000 of the Company’s common stock on the open market for \$10.56 per share (the “Redemption Price”). The Company agreed to purchase the unsold portion of the Backstop Shares from the Backstop Parties on a forward basis upon the “Maturity Date” (as amended, the third anniversary of the closing of the Business Combination, subject to certain acceleration provisions). The purchase price payable by the Company includes a prepayment in the amount of the redemption price per share (the “Prepayment”) from the proceeds released from the trust account related to those shares. Among the acceleration provisions is the Backstop Parties’ right to accelerate the Maturity Date if the Company’s stock price trades below a stipulated price per share for any 30 trading days during a 45 day consecutive trading-day period (in October 2023, this acceleration provision was amended with one Backstop Party providing it the right to accelerate the Maturity Date if the Company’s stock price trades below a stipulated price per share for any 20 trading days during a 30 day consecutive trading-day period). On any date following the closing of the Business Combination, the Backstop Parties also have the option to early terminate the arrangement in whole or in part by providing an optional early termination date notice to the Company (the “Optional Early Termination”). For those shares that are early terminated (the “Terminated Shares”), the Backstop Parties will owe the Company an amount equal to the product of (x) the number of Terminated Shares and (y) the Redemption Price, which may be reduced in the case of certain dilutive events (the “Reset Price”).

Upon the Maturity Date, the Company is obligated to pay the Backstop Parties an amount equal to the product of (i) the maximum number of shares of 8,000,000 less the number of Terminated Shares by (ii) \$2.50 (the “Maturity Consideration”). The Company can pay the Maturity Consideration in cash or shares of the Company’s common stock if certain conditions are met.

The Backstop Parties have purchased a fixed total of 4,885,466 of the Company’s common stock, referred to herein as the “Backstop Shares.” The Backstop Parties’ Optional Early Termination economically results in the Backstop Agreement operating in substance to grant the Backstop Parties’ a put option with the right to sell all or a portion of the 4,885,466 Backstop Shares. Over the three-year maturity period, the Company is entitled to either a return of the Prepayment, the underlying shares, or a combination thereof, at the sole discretion of the Backstop Parties.

For further information regarding the Backstop Agreement, refer to Note 3, *Business Combination and Backstop Agreement*.

Backstop Put Option Liability and Fixed Maturity Consideration

The Backstop Agreement consists of two financial instruments that are accounted for as follows:

- (i) The in-substance written put option which is recorded in the Company’s condensed consolidated financial statements as the “Backstop Put Option Liability” and treated as a derivative liability recorded at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net loss. The Company measures the fair value of the Backstop Put Option Liability on a recurring basis, with any fair value adjustment recorded within other income/(expense) in the condensed consolidated statements of operations. Refer to Note 4, *Fair Value Measurements*, for further detail.
- (ii) The “Fixed Maturity Consideration” representing the 8,000,000 in maximum shares less the 4,885,466 Backstop Shares multiplied by \$2.50. The Company has elected to measure the Fixed Maturity Consideration using the Fair Value Option (“FVO”) under ASC 825, *Financial Instruments*. The Company measures the fair value of the Fixed Maturity Consideration on a recurring basis, with any fair value adjustment recorded within other income/(expense) in the condensed consolidated statements of operations. Refer to Note 4, *Fair Value Measurements*, for further detail.

The Prepayment is accounted for as a reduction to equity to reflect the substance of the overall arrangement as a net purchase of the Backstop Shares and sales of shares to the Backstop Parties.

The Company restated its financial statements for the quarters ended March 31, 2023 and June 30, 2023 to reflect this accounting treatment.

2023 Convertible Note, SPA Warrant, and Ayrton Note Purchase Option

As discussed within Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*, in May 2023, the Company entered into a securities purchase agreement with an accredited investor for the sale of up to three Senior Secured Convertible Notes (each, a “Note” and collectively, the “Notes”), which Notes are convertible into shares of the Company’s common stock, in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$27,000,000, in a private placement. On May 25, 2023, the Company consummated the closing for the sale of (i) the initial Note in the principal amount of \$7,560,000 (referred to in this Report as the “2023 Convertible Note”) and (ii) a warrant to initially acquire up to 552,141 additional shares of the Company’s common stock with an initial exercise price of \$11.50 per share of common stock, subject to adjustment, exercisable immediately and expiring five years from the date of issuance (the “SPA Warrant”).

The Company has elected to account for the Notes at fair value under the fair value option, under which the Notes are initially measured at fair value and subsequently remeasured during each reporting period. Changes in fair value will be reflected within other income/(expense) in the condensed consolidated financial statements, except for the portions, if any, related to the instrument specific credit risk which would be recorded in other comprehensive income.

Further, the Company concluded that the investor’s right to acquire additional Notes is separately exercisable from the 2023 Convertible Note and the SPA Warrant. If and when the additional Notes are issued, the Company will evaluate whether to account for such additional Notes at (a) fair value under the fair value option or (b) an amortized cost. Refer to Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*, for further detail on the terms of the Notes and potential future issuances.

In addition, the Company determined that the SPA Warrant was (i) freestanding from the 2023 Convertible Note and (ii) classified as a derivative liability. Accordingly, upon issuance the SPA Warrant was measured at fair value with an offset to cash proceeds from the 2023 Convertible Note, with the remainder recorded to other income/(expense) on the condensed consolidated statements of operations. The Company reassess the classification of the SPA Warrant at each reporting period and record any changes to fair value as necessary. To date, there have been no changes in classification.

In addition to the liabilities recorded for the 2023 Convertible Note and the SPA Warrant, the Company also recorded a liability for the purchase option within the SPA in favor of the investor (the “Ayrton Note Purchase Option”), which gives the investor, at its option through 2025, the right to purchase from the Company additional Notes (up to the sum of the aggregate principal amount) at one or more additional closings. The initial fair value of the instrument was recorded to other income/(expense) on the condensed consolidated statements of operations and are remeasured at each reporting period.

Emerging Growth Company

The Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012 permits an “emerging growth company” to take advantage of an extended transition period to comply with new or revised accounting standards applicable to public companies until those standards would otherwise apply to private companies. The Company has elected to not “opt out” of this provision and, as a result, the Company will adopt new or revised accounting standards at the time private companies adopt the new or revised accounting standard and will do so until such time that the Company either (i) irrevocably elects to “opt out” of such extended transition period or (ii) no longer qualifies as an emerging growth company.

Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements

In August 2020, the FASB issued Accounting Standard Update (“ASU”) No. 2020-06, *Debt — Debt with Conversion and Other Options (Subtopic 470-20) and Derivatives and Hedging-Contracts in Entity’s Own Equity (Subtopic 815-40) — Accounting for Convertible Instruments and Contracts in an Entity’s Own Equity*, which simplifies the accounting for convertible instruments, amends the guidance on derivative scope exceptions for contracts in an entity’s own equity, and modifies the guidance on diluted earnings per share calculations as a result of these changes. The Company early adopted ASU 2020-06 as of January 1, 2023, using a modified retrospective approach, noting the Company’s prior instruments would not be impacted by this adoption. The Company utilized the updated derivative guidance when accounting for the 2023 Convertible Note (as defined in Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*).

3. Business Combination and Backstop Agreement

Business Combination

On February 14, 2023, the Company consummated its Business Combination pursuant to the terms of the Business Combination Agreement.

Upon consummation of the Business Combination and other transactions (or immediately prior to, where indicated), the following occurred:

- AHAC changed its name from “Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp.” to “Ocean Biomedical, Inc.” and is referred to herein as “the Company.” Unless the context otherwise requires, references to “AHAC” herein refer to the Company prior to Closing.
- AHAC issued approximately 23,355,432 shares, with an aggregate value equal to \$233,554,320, of AHAC’s Class A common stock to the holders of Legacy Ocean’s securities immediately prior to the Closing, in exchange for all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Legacy Ocean. The aggregate value was adjusted as required by the Business Combination Agreement to take into account net working capital, closing net debt and Legacy Ocean transaction expenses.
- The 2,625,000 shares of AHAC Class B common stock held by Aesther Healthcare Sponsor, LLC (the “Sponsor”) were converted on a one-for-one basis into shares of AHAC’s Class A common stock immediately prior to the Closing.
- The Backstop Parties (as defined below within *Backstop Agreement*) purchased 3,535,466 shares of AHAC’s Class A common stock prior to the Closing that are subject to the Backstop Agreement (these shares, referred to as the “Recycled Shares,” and the “Backstop Agreement” are both further discussed and defined below).

- AHAC issued an additional 1,365,000 shares of Class A common stock to the Sponsor prior to the Closing in consideration for obtaining extensions beyond the September 2022 deadline to complete an initial business combination.
- The Backstop Parties purchased 1,200,000 shares of AHAC's Class A common stock in the open market for an aggregate purchase price of \$12,675,912 prior to the Closing (the "Share Consideration Shares").
- The Company issued to Second Street Capital, LLC ("Second Street Capital"), Legacy Ocean's lender, three warrants (the "Converted Ocean Warrants") exercisable to acquire that number of shares of the Company's common stock equal to the economic value of the Legacy Ocean warrants previously issued to Second Street Capital in exchange for the termination of the Legacy Ocean warrants. The Converted Ocean Warrants are exercisable for a total of 511,712 shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price of \$8.06 per share and 102,342 shares of the Company's common stock at an exercise price of \$7.47 per share.
- The Company issued to Polar (as defined below within *Backstop Agreement*) 1,350,000 newly issued shares of its common stock that are subject to the forward purchase provisions of the Backstop Agreement.
- Each share of AHAC's Class A common stock was automatically reclassified into one share of the Company's common stock, including the remaining shares of AHAC Class A common stock that were not redeemed.

The following table reconciles the elements of the Business Combination to the unaudited condensed consolidated statements of stockholders' equity/(deficit) and cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2023:

<i>(in thousands)</i>	
Cash from AHAC trust, net of redemptions	\$ 52,070
Issuance costs from Business Combination	(2,049)
Net impact on total stockholders' equity	<u>50,021</u>
Non-cash offering costs	2,049
Net impact on cash provided by financing activities	<u>\$ 52,070</u>

Earnout Shares

In addition, pursuant to Business Combination Agreement, Legacy Ocean's stockholders prior to the Closing (the "Legacy Ocean Stockholders") are entitled to receive from the Company, in the aggregate, up to an additional 19,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock (the "Earnout Shares") as follows: (a) in the event that the volume-weighted average price (the "VWAP") of the Company's common stock exceeds \$15.00 per share for twenty (20) out of any thirty (30) consecutive trading days beginning on the Closing date until the 36-month anniversary of the Closing, the Legacy Ocean Stockholders shall be entitled to receive an additional 5,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock, (b) in the event that the VWAP of the Company's common stock exceeds \$17.50 per share for twenty (20) out of any thirty (30) consecutive trading days beginning on the Closing date until the 36-month anniversary of the Closing, the Legacy Ocean Stockholders shall be entitled to receive an additional 7,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock and (c) in the event that the VWAP of the Company's common stock exceeds \$20.00 per share for twenty (20) out of any thirty (30) consecutive trading days beginning on the Closing date until the 36-month anniversary of the Closing, the Legacy Ocean Stockholders shall be entitled to receive an additional 7,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock. In addition, for each issuance of Earnout Shares, the Company will also issue to Sponsor an additional 1,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock.

The Company has concluded that the Earnout Shares represent a freestanding equity-linked financial instrument as the arrangement (i) can be indexed to the Company's stock and (ii) meets all of the criteria for equity classification within ASC 815-40. The Company performed the two-step analysis described within ASC 815-40-15 to determine indexation and noted that while the arrangement does contain contingencies, these contingencies are based on the market for the Company's stock and do not preclude indexation.

Upon Closing, the fair value of the Earnout Shares was accounted for as a deemed dividend as of the Closing date. Since the entries to recognize the fair value of the Earnout Shares offset within additional paid-in capital, there is no inherent impact to the condensed consolidated financial statements. Since the Earnout Shares are contingent on the Company's stock price, there will be no impact to outstanding shares and will not represent participating securities until the time at which the contingencies have been met.

Backstop Agreement

As discussed in Note 2, *Basis of Presentation and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies*, on August 31, 2022, AHAC and Legacy Ocean entered into the Backstop Agreement with Vellar in connection with the execution of the Business Combination Agreement. Pursuant to the terms of the Backstop Agreement and its subsequent amendments, Vellar agreed to purchase up to 8,000,000 shares of AHAC's Class A common stock in the open market in exchange for up to \$80,000,000, including from other stockholders that elected to redeem in connection with the Closing and subsequently revoked their prior elections to redeem their shares, following the expiration of AHAC's redemption offer.

On February 13, 2023, AHAC, Vellar and Legacy Ocean entered into an assignment and novation agreement with Meteora Special Opportunity Fund I, LP, Meteora Select Trading Opportunities Master, LP and Meteora Capital Partners, LP (collectively "Meteora") (the "Meteora Agreement"), pursuant to which Vellar assigned its obligation to purchase 2,666,667 shares of the Company's common stock under the Backstop Agreement to Meteora. In addition, on February 13, 2023, AHAC, Vellar and Legacy Ocean entered into an assignment and novation agreement with Polar Multi-Strategy Master Fund ("Polar" and, collectively with Vellar and Meteora, the "Backstop Parties") (the "Polar Agreement"), as amended on October 2, 2023, pursuant to which Vellar assigned its obligations to 2,667,667 shares of common stock of the Company to be purchased under the Backstop Agreement to Polar.

Further, the Backstop Agreement grants the Backstop Parties the right to purchase additional shares from the Company (the "Additional Shares" and, together with the Recycled Shares (defined below), the "Backstop Shares") up to an amount equal to the difference between the number of Recycled Shares and the maximum number of shares of 8,000,000.

As further discussed in Note 2, *Basis of Presentation and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies*, the Company agreed to purchase the unsold portion of the Backstop Shares from the Backstop Parties on a forward basis upon the Maturity Date. The purchase price payable by the Company includes a Prepayment from the proceeds released from the trust account related to those shares. Upon the Maturity Date, the Company is obligated to pay the Backstop Parties an amount equal to the product of (i) the maximum number of shares of 8,000,000 less the number of Terminated Shares by (ii) \$2.50, defined as the Maturity Consideration in the Backstop Agreement. The Company can pay the Maturity Consideration in cash or shares of the Company's common stock if certain conditions are met.

On February 14, 2023, (i) pursuant to the Backstop Agreement, the Backstop Parties purchased 3,535,466 shares of AHAC's Class A common stock for \$10.56 per share (the "Recycled Shares") and (ii) pursuant to Polar's exercise of its right to purchase Additional Shares, AHAC, Legacy Ocean and Polar entered into a subscription agreement pursuant to which Polar purchased 1,350,000 newly issued shares of the Company's common stock at a per share purchase price of approximately \$10.56 (the "Polar Subscription"). Under the Backstop Agreement, the Additional Shares are subject to the same terms as the Recycled Shares, including with regard to repayment and repurchase.

Subsequent to Closing, the Prepayment amount was equal to \$51,606,389, consisting of \$37,345,985 for the Recycled Shares and \$14,260,404 for the Polar Subscription shares. As the \$14,260,404 was a netted transaction between the Company and Polar, only \$37,345,985 was paid out of the funds the Company received from AHAC's trust account. This net impact from the payment outflow to Backstop Parties for the Backstop Agreement of \$51,606,389 and the proceeds inflow from the issuance of common stock pursuant to the Backstop Agreement and Polar Subscription of \$14,260,404 are reported in the Company's condensed consolidated statement of cash flows. The Prepayment amount was accounted for as a reduction to equity to reflect the substance of the overall arrangement as a net purchase of the Backstop Shares.

The Backstop Agreement consists of two financial instruments that are accounted for as follows:

- (i) The in-substance written put option which is recorded in the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements as the "Backstop Put Option Liability" and treated as a derivative liability recorded at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net loss. The Company measures the fair value of the Backstop Put Option Liability on a recurring basis, with any fair value adjustment recorded within other income/(expense) in the condensed consolidated statements of operations. Refer to Note 4, *Fair Value Measurements*, for further detail.
- (ii) The "Fixed Maturity Consideration" representing the 8,000,000 in maximum shares less the 4,885,466 Backstop Shares multiplied by \$2.50. The Company has elected to measure the Fixed Maturity Consideration using the Fair Value Option ("FVO") under ASC 825, *Financial Instruments*. The Company measures the fair value of the Fixed Maturity Consideration on a recurring basis, with any fair value adjustment recorded within other income/(expense) in the condensed consolidated statements of operations. Refer to Note 4, *Fair Value Measurements*, for further detail.

The Prepayment is accounted for as a reduction to equity to reflect the substance of the overall arrangement as a net purchase of the Backstop Shares and sales of shares to the Backstop Parties.

At any time prior to the Maturity Date, and in accordance with the terms of the Backstop Agreement, the Backstop Parties may elect an Optional Early Termination to sell some or all of the Backstop Shares. If the Backstop Parties sell any shares prior to the Maturity Date, the pro-rata portion of the Prepayment amount is due back to the Company. As of September 30, 2023, the Backstop Parties have sold 143,261 Backstop Shares, for which the Company has received net proceeds of \$1,443,854, after paying related fees to the Backstop Parties. Depending on the manner in which the Backstop Agreement is settled, the Company may never have access to the full Prepayment.

On May 23, 2023 the Company received an Equity Prepaid Forward Transaction - Valuation Date Notice (“Notice”) from Vellar stating that due to the Company’s alleged failure to timely register the shares held by Vellar, Vellar had the right to terminate the Backstop Agreement as to their portion of the shares and Vellar claimed that it is entitled to receive Maturity Consideration (as defined in the Backstop Agreement) equal to \$6,667,667, which at the Company’s discretion may be paid in cash or by offset to the shares currently held by Vellar. Management takes issue with multiple aspects of the Notice including, but not limited to, Vellar’s right to terminate their portion of the Backstop Agreement and their asserted Maturity Consideration calculation. As such, the Company is consulting with advisors and other parties and is considering the potential resources and remedies it may elect to pursue and intends to assert its rights should this matter not be resolved. After a review of all applicable documents related to the Backstop Agreement, the Company believes its position with respect to the terms of the Backstop Agreement and intent of the parties is supported by the Backstop Agreement and facts and circumstances under which it was entered into. Further, given the early stage of this matter and the uncertainty inherent in litigation and investigations, the Company does not currently believe it is (i) probable to incur losses or (ii) possible to develop estimates of reasonably possible losses (or a range of possible losses) for this matter.

Common Stock Purchase Agreement

The Company is subject to the terms and conditions of (i) a common stock purchase agreement, dated September 7, 2022, and as amended on October 4, 2023 (the “Common Stock Purchase Agreement”) and (ii) a registration rights agreement, dated September 7, 2022 (the “White Lion Registration Rights Agreement”), that AHAC entered into with White Lion Capital LLC (“White Lion”). Pursuant to the Common Stock Purchase Agreement, the Company has the right from time to time at its option to sell to White Lion up to \$75,000,000 in aggregate gross purchase price of newly issued shares of the Company’s common stock (the “Equity Line Shares”), subject to certain limitations and conditions set forth in the Common Stock Purchase Agreement. These limitations stipulate, among other things, that the Company may not sell, and White Lion may not purchase, shares of the Company common stock that would result in White Lion owning more than 9.99% of the outstanding common stock of the Company. The Common Stock Purchase Agreement expires after two years.

In accordance with ASC 815, *Derivatives and Hedging*, the Company has determined that the right to sell additional shares represents a freestanding put option, and as such, the financial instrument was classified as a derivative asset with a nominal fair value.

In consideration for the commitments of White Lion to purchase Equity Line Shares, the Common Stock Purchase Agreement included 75,000 initial commitment shares to White Lion, which had a fair value of \$493,500 upon issuance. The \$493,500 in commitment costs was recorded in other income/(expense) in the Company’s condensed consolidated statements of operations.

Sponsor Promissory Notes

Upon consummation of the Business Combination, the Company assumed two of AHAC’s loans, totaling \$2,100,000, one of which accrued interest at 8% per annum and the other accrued interest at 15% per annum. Both loans were due within five days of Closing. \$500,000 was paid down at Closing, with the remaining paid down in May 2023 via the proceeds received from the initial Note under the Ayrton Convertible Note Financing. Refer to Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*, for further detail on the Notes.

In connection with the assumption of AHAC's loans and pursuant to the terms of the Business Combination Agreement described above, the Company issued 1,365,000 shares of its common stock to the Sponsor as consideration for providing the loans to the Company (the "Sponsor Extension Shares"). In addition, pursuant to the terms of an amendment entered into prior to the paydown of the loans, the Company issued a total of 200,000 shares of its common stock in exchange for extensions of the maturity date.

The Company recognized a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$224,000 and \$1,208,000 in its condensed consolidated statements of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, respectively, for the 200,000 shares issued in exchange for extensions of the maturity date, based on the grant date fair value of the shares issued. In addition, the Company recognized a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$13,595,400 in its condensed consolidated statements of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 for the issuance of the Sponsor Extension Shares, based on the grant date fair value. Further, the Company recorded interest expense of \$0 and \$36,852 in its condensed consolidated statements of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, respectively.

Deferred Underwriting Commissions

At Closing, the underwriters for AHAC's initial public offering ("IPO") agreed to defer payment of \$3,150,000 of deferred underwriting discounts otherwise due to them until November 14, 2023, pursuant to the terms of a promissory note. The deferred amounts bear interest at 9% per annum and 24% per annum following an event of default under the promissory note. The Company has a right to pay up to fifty percent (50%) of the principal and interest due on this promissory note using the common stock of the Company at a price per share of \$10.56. The remaining fifty percent (50%) of the principal and interest due on this promissory note must be paid in cash. The amount is recorded as a short-term loan in the condensed consolidated financial statements. The Company recorded \$72,450 and \$180,338 of interest expense on the outstanding balance in the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023.

4. Fair Value Measurements

Financial liabilities measured at fair value during the year on a recurring basis consisted of the following as of September 30, 2023:

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Fair Value Hierarchy			Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
Financial liabilities:				
Backstop Put Option Liability	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (41,579)	\$ (41,579)
Fixed Maturity Consideration	-	-	(3,825)	(3,825)
2023 Convertible Note ⁽¹⁾	-	-	(6,201)	(6,201)
SPA Warrant	-	-	(1,466)	(1,466)
Ayrton Note Purchase Option	-	-	(482)	(482)
Total financial liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (53,553)	\$ (53,553)

(1) Refer to Note 6, *Short-Term Loan Agreements*, for a reconciliation of the fair value of the 2023 Convertible Note to the total short-term loans, net of issuance costs in the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheets.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, there were no transfers between Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3.

Valuation of Backstop Put Option Liability and Fixed Maturity Consideration

The Company utilized a Monte-Carlo simulation to value the Backstop Put Option Liability and Fixed Maturity Consideration. The key inputs and assumptions used in the Monte-Carlo Simulation, including volatility, expected term, expected future stock price, and various simulated paths, were utilized to estimate the fair value of the associated derivative liabilities. The value of the Backstop Put Option Liability and Fixed Maturity were calculated as the average present value over 50,000 simulated paths. The Company measures the fair value at each reporting period, with subsequent fair values to be recorded within other income/(expense) in its condensed consolidated statements of operations.

	<u>Estimated volatility</u>	<u>Expected future stock price</u>	<u>Risk-free rate</u>
Backstop Put Option Liability and Fixed Maturity Consideration	80%	\$ 1.95-\$13.93	4.6%

Valuation of the 2023 Convertible Note and SPA Warrant

The Company utilized a Monte-Carlo simulation at inception to value the 2023 Convertible Note and SPA Warrant. The Monte-Carlo simulation is calculated as the average present value over all simulated paths. The key inputs and assumptions used in the Monte-Carlo Simulation, including volatility, estimated market yield, risk-free rate, the probability of various scenarios, including subsequent placement and change in control, and various simulated paths, were utilized to estimate the fair value of the associated liabilities. The value of the 2023 Convertible Note and SPA Warrant was calculated as the average present value over 50,000 simulated paths. The Company will continue to measure the fair value at each reporting period, with subsequent fair values to be recorded within other income/(expense) in the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations.

The following table summarizes some of the significant inputs and assumptions used in the Monte-Carlo simulation:

	<u>Estimated volatility</u>	<u>Range of probabilities</u>	<u>Risk-free rate</u>
2023 Convertible Note	50.0%	5%-80%	5.5%
SPA Warrant	80.0%	5%-80%	4.6%

Valuation of the Ayrton Note Purchase Option

The Company utilized the Black-Scholes Merton model to value the Ayrton Note Purchase Option. The key inputs and assumptions used in the Black-Scholes Merton model, including volatility and risk-free rate, were utilized to estimate the fair value of the associated liability. The Company will continue to measure the fair value at each reporting period, with subsequent fair values to be recorded within other income/(expense) in the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations.

The following table summarizes some of the significant inputs and assumptions used in the Black-Scholes Merton model:

	<u>Estimated volatility</u>	<u>Risk-free rate</u>
Ayrton Note Purchase Option	15%	4.0%-5.0%

The following table provides a roll forward of the aggregate fair values of the Company's Fixed Maturity Consideration, Backstop Put Option Liability, the 2023 Convertible Note, SPA Warrant, and Ayrton Note Purchase Option for which fair value is determined using Level 3 inputs:

Level 3 Rollforward (in thousands)	Backstop Put Option Liability	Fixed Maturity Consideration	2023 Convertible Note	SPA Warrant	Ayrton Note Purchase Option
Balances as of January 1, 2023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Initial fair value measurement	(12,414)	(3,166)	-	-	-
Changes in fair value	(15,606)	(126)	-	-	-
Balance as of March 31, 2023	(28,020)	(3,292)	-	-	-
Initial fair value measurement	-	-	(5,628)	(1,932)	(269)
Changes in fair value	(2,462)	(257)	(448)	(250)	(192)
Balance as of June 30, 2023	(30,482)	(3,549)	(6,076)	(2,182)	(461)
Changes in fair value	(11,097)	(276)	(125)	716	(21)
Balance as of September 30, 2023	<u>\$ (41,579)</u>	<u>\$ (3,825)</u>	<u>\$ (6,201)</u>	<u>\$ (1,466)</u>	<u>\$ (482)</u>

5. Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses

Accounts payable and accrued expenses consisted of the following:

<i>(in thousands)</i>	September 30, 2023	December 31, 2022
Accounts payable and accrued expenses:		
Accounting and legal fees	\$ 12,816	\$ 10,250
Vendor fees	2,471	646
Research and development	647	544
Other	114	-
Total accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 16,048	\$ 11,440

6. Loan Agreements

EF Hutton Note

On February 14, 2023, Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp. (predecessor to the Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (collectively, the “Company”) executed and delivered a \$3.15 million principal amount promissory note (“Note”) to Benchmark Investments LLC (former name of EF Hutton LLC, “EFH”). The terms of the Note call for a 9% annual interest rate, with a 24% default interest rate. The Note matured on November 14, 2023 (with interest payable since that date at 24% per annum). Under the Note, the Company is required to pay EFH 50% of the principal amount and interest thereon in cash, and has the right to convert up to 50% of the principal amount and interest due thereon into Company common stock at a per share conversion price of \$10.56 (the “Convertible Portion”).

The issue at hand is how to account for the Convertible Portion. Historically, the Company has recorded the entire amount as a debt instrument for \$3.15M. This was accounted for as debt as a result of an analysis of the applicable accounting guidance. Under ASU2020-06, convertible debt shall be accounted for as debt unless either the convertible instrument contains features which require bifurcation as a derivative under ASC 815 or the instrument was issued at a substantial premium. The Note does not contain features which require bifurcation as a derivative under ASC 815.

On March 4, 2024, the Company converted the Convertible Portion into 169,582 restricted shares of its common stock.

Short-term Loan Agreements

As of September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022, the Company had the following short-term loan balances:

(in thousands)

	September 30, 2023	December 31, 2022
Short-term loans:		
Second Street Loan	\$ 600	\$ 600
Second Street Loan 2	400	200
March Second Street Loan	700	-
McKra Loan	1,000	-
Underwriter Promissory Note	3,150	-
2023 Convertible Note	6,201	-
Less: issuance costs remaining to be amortized	-	(24)
Short-term loans, net of issuance costs	\$ 12,051	\$ 776

Second Street Capital Loans

Second Street Loan

In February 2022, the Company entered into a loan agreement (the “Second Street Loan”) with Second Street Capital, pursuant to which the Company borrowed \$600,000. The Second Street Loan accrues interest at the rate of 15% per annum, with principal and interest due at maturity. In connection with the loan, the Company issued a warrant to purchase 312,500 shares of the Company’s common stock, with an exercise price of \$11.00 per share, exercisable until February 22, 2026. For a period of 180 days from the closing of the Company’s next financing, Second Street Capital has the right to put the warrants to the Company in exchange for a payment of \$250,000. The accounting treatment for the warrants is discussed within Note 10, *Warrants*.

Second Street Loan 2

In April 2022, the Company entered into a second loan agreement with Second Street Capital (the “Second Street Loan 2”) to borrow \$200,000, which was later amended in January 2023 to borrow an additional \$200,000. The Second Street Loan 2 accrues interest at the rate of 15% per annum, with principal and interest due at maturity. In connection with this loan, the Company issued a warrant to purchase 62,500 shares of the Company’s common stock, with an exercise price of \$11.00 per share, exercisable until February 22, 2026. There is no put option associated with this loan. The accounting treatment for the warrants is discussed within Note 10, *Warrants*.

March Second Street Loan

In March 2023, the Company entered into a new loan agreement with Second Street Capital (the “March Second Street Loan” and together with the Second Street Loan and Second Street Loan 2, the “Second Street Loans”) pursuant to which the Company could borrow up to \$1,000,000 to pay certain accrued expenses. Of this amount, the Company borrowed \$700,000. The loan bears interest at 15% per annum. The Company issued a warrant to Second Street Capital for 200,000 shares of the Company’s common stock, exercisable for five years at an exercise price of \$10.34 and will pay up to \$150,000 in loan fees at maturity. Since the Company only advanced \$700,000, the loan fee of \$105,000 is due at maturity. The accounting treatment for the warrants is discussed within Note 10, *Warrants*.

Second Street Capital Loan Amendments

In connection with amendments to the Second Street Loans, an additional 225,000 and 75,000 warrants to purchase the Company’s common stock were issued in 2023 and 2022, respectively. The terms of the warrants and respective accounting treatments are summarized in Note 10, *Warrants*.

The most recent amendment, effective as of May 2023, included the following terms:

- (i) Upon execution of the amendment, the Company paid the remainder of outstanding fees due.
- (ii) Within 5 business days of the receipt of the first Additional Closing (as defined within the Securities Purchase Agreement, discussed in Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*), the Company is required to pay \$500,000 towards its outstanding loans.
- (iii) Within 5 business days of the second Additional Closing (as defined within the Securities Purchase Agreement), the Company is required to pay \$1,200,000 towards its outstanding loans plus any accrued unpaid interest.
- (iv) In the event the Company raises additional equity through financing arrangements of at least \$25,000,000, the Company is required to use the proceeds to repay the remainder of its outstanding loans plus any accrued unpaid interest.
- (v) In exchange for the amendment, the Company issued 25,000 shares of its common stock to Second Street Capital. The fair value of the shares issued are recorded in the Company’s condensed consolidated statements of operations as a loss on debt extinguishment.

Second Street Capital Loans – Interest Expense

During the three months ended September 30, 2023 and 2022, the Company recognized \$106,383 and \$61,210 of interest expense on the Second Street Loans, respectively, including \$41,216 and \$25,556, respectively, related to the amortization of debt issuance costs. During the nine months ended September 30, 2023 and 2022, the Company recognized \$592,000 and \$126,164 of interest expense on the Second Street Loans, respectively, including \$425,000 and \$54,167, respectively, related to the amortization of debt issuance costs.

McKra Investments III Loan

In March 2023, the Company entered into a Loan Agreement with McKra Investments III (“McKra”) pursuant to which the Company borrowed \$1,000,000, which bears interest at 15% per annum (the “McKra Loan”). The Company is required to pay a \$150,000 loan and convenience fee due upon repayment of the loan. The Company issued a warrant to purchase 200,000 shares of the Company’s common stock, with an exercise price of \$10.34 per share, exercisable until March 27, 2028. The accounting treatment for the warrants is discussed within Note 10, *Warrants*.

The McKra Loan was amended, effective as of May 2023, including the following terms:

- (i) Upon execution of the amendment, the Company paid the remainder of outstanding fees due.
- (ii) Within 5 business days of the receipt of the first Additional Closing (as defined within the Securities Purchase Agreement, discussed in Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*), the Company is required to pay \$500,000 towards its outstanding loans.
- (iii) Within 5 business days of the second Additional Closing (as defined in Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*), the Company is required to pay \$500,000 towards its outstanding loans plus any accrued unpaid interest.
- (iv) In the event the Company raises additional equity through financing arrangements of at least \$25,000,000, the Company is required to use the proceeds to repay the remainder of its outstanding loans plus any accrued unpaid interest.
- (vi) As consideration for entering into the amendment, the Company issued 25,000 shares of its common stock to McKra. The fair value of the shares issued are recorded in the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations as a loss on debt extinguishment.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Company recognized \$52,072 and \$252,917 of interest expense on the McKra Loan, respectively, including \$13,739 and \$175,000, respectively, related to the amortization of debt issuance costs.

Underwriter Promissory Note

For a discussion of an outstanding note due to the underwriters in AHAC's IPO, see Note 3, *Business Combination and Backstop Agreement*.

7. Senior Secured Convertible Notes

Senior Secured Convertible Notes

In May 2023, the Company entered into a Securities Purchase Agreement (the "SPA") with an accredited investor (the "Investor") for the sale of up to three Senior Secured Convertible Notes (each, a "Note" and collectively, the "Notes"), which Notes are convertible into shares of the Company's common stock, in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$27,000,000, in a private placement (the "Ayrton Convertible Note Financing"). In May 2023, the Company consummated the closing for the sale of (i) the initial note in the principal amount of \$7,560,000 (the "2023 Convertible Note") and (ii) a warrant to initially acquire up to 552,141 additional shares of the Company's common stock with an initial exercise price of \$11.50 per share of common stock, subject to adjustment, exercisable immediately and expiring five years from the date of issuance (the "SPA Warrant"). Each Note will be sold at an original issue discount of 8%. Future issuances of Notes ("Additional Closings") are subject to satisfaction of certain conditions. At the closing of the first Additional Closing, \$8,640,000 in principal amount of Notes will be issued (the "First Additional Closing Date") and \$10,800,000 in principal amount of Notes will be issued at the closing of the second Additional Closing. So long as any Notes remain outstanding, the Company and each of its subsidiaries are prohibited from effecting or entering into an agreement to effect any subsequent placement involving a Variable Rate Transaction, as defined within the SPA, other than pursuant to the White Lion Common Stock Purchase Agreement.

The interest rate applicable to each Note is, as of any date of determination, the lesser of (i) 8% per annum and (ii) the greater of (x) 5% per annum and (y) the sum of (a) the "secured overnight financing rate," which from time to time is published in the "Money Rates" column of The Wall Street Journal (Eastern Edition, New York Metro), in effect as of such date of determination and (b) 2% per annum. Each Note will mature on the first anniversary of its issuance.

All or any portion of the principal amount of each Note, plus accrued and unpaid interest is convertible at any time, in whole or in part, at the noteholder's option, into shares of the Company's common stock at an initial fixed conversion price of \$10.34 per share, subject to certain adjustments and alternative conditions. A noteholder will not have the right to convert any portion of a Note, to the extent that, after giving effect to such conversion, the noteholder (together with certain of its affiliates and other related parties) would beneficially own in excess of 9.99% of the shares of the Company's common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to such conversion. Upon a change of control of the Company, noteholders may require the Company to redeem all, or any portion, of the Notes at a price stipulated by certain conditions as discussed within the SPA.

The Notes provide for certain events of default, including, among other things, any breach of the covenants described in the SPA and any failure of Dr. Chirinjeev Kathuria to be the chairman of the Company's Board of Directors. In connection with an event of default, the noteholders may require the Company to redeem all or any portion of the Notes, at a premium set forth in the SPA.

The Company is subject to certain customary affirmative and negative covenants regarding the rank of the Notes, the incurrence of indebtedness, the existence of liens, the repayment of indebtedness and the making of investments, the payment of cash in respect of dividends, distributions or redemptions, the transfer of assets, the maturity of other indebtedness, and transactions with affiliates, among other customary matters. The Company is also subject to financial covenants requiring that (i) the amount of the Company's available cash equals or exceeds \$3,000,000 at the time of each Additional Closing; (ii) the ratio of (a) the outstanding principal amount of the Notes, accrued and unpaid interest thereon, and accrued and unpaid late charges to (b) the Company's average market capitalization over the prior ten trading days, not exceeding 35%; and (iii) at any time any Notes remain outstanding, with respect to any given calendar month (each, a "Current Calendar Month") (x) the available cash on the last calendar day in such Current Calendar Month shall be greater than or equal to the available cash on the last calendar day of the month prior to such Current Calendar Month less \$1,500,000.

The Company has elected to account for the Notes at fair value under the fair value option, under which the Notes will be initially measured at fair value and subsequently re-measured during each reporting period. Changes in fair value will be reflected within other income/(expense) in the condensed consolidated financial statements, except for the portions, if any, related to the instrument specific credit risk which would be recorded in other comprehensive income.

Further, the Company concluded that the right to acquire additional Notes is separately exercisable from the 2023 Convertible Note and the SPA Warrant. If and when the additional Notes are issued, the Company will evaluate whether to account for such additional Notes at (a) fair value under the fair value option or (b) an amortized cost.

In addition, the Company determined that the SPA Warrant was (i) freestanding from the 2023 Convertible Note and (ii) classified as a derivative liability. Accordingly, upon issuance the SPA Warrant was measured at fair value with an offset to cash proceeds from the 2023 Convertible Note, with the remainder of \$626,600 recorded to other income/(expense) on the condensed consolidated statements of operations. The Company reassess the classification of the SPA Warrant at each reporting period and records any changes to fair value as necessary. To date, there have been no changes to the classification of the SPA Warrant.

In addition to the liabilities recorded for the 2023 Convertible Note and the SPA Warrant, the Company also recorded a liability for the Ayrton Note Purchase Option, which gives the Investor, at its option through 2025, the right to purchase from the Company additional Notes (up to the sum of the aggregate principal amount) at one or more Additional Closings. The initial recognition of this liability was measured at fair value utilizing the Black-Scholes Merton model and the fair value of \$461,000 was recorded to other income/(expense) on the condensed consolidated statements of operations. The liability is recorded within current liabilities on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2023. The liability is remeasured at each reporting period and the Company records any changes to fair value as necessary.

The Company issued 24,477 shares of its common stock to the Investor during the third quarter of 2023 as interest payments. A total of \$109,816 was recorded to other income/(expense) for the shares issued based on the grant date fair values.

8. Commitments and Contingencies

Litigation

Heller v. Ocean Biomedical, Inc. et al., Case No. 1:23cv212. On May 23, 2023, Jonathan Heller (“Heller”) filed a civil action against the Company, Poseidon Bio LLC, Chirinjeev Kathuria and Elizabeth Ng (collectively, the “Defendants”) in the District Court of Rhode Island. Heller has asserted claims alleging that he is entitled to earned salary and various other payments following his resignation from the Company. On July 27, 2023, Defendants filed their Answer and Affirmative Defenses. Defendants intend to vigorously defend against Heller’s claims. Given the early stage of this matter and the uncertainty inherent in litigation and investigations, the Company does not currently believe it is (i) probable to incur losses or (ii) possible to develop estimates of reasonably possible losses (or a range of possible losses) for this matter.

License Fees

The Company entered into license agreements with its academic research institution partners. Under these license agreements, the Company is required to make annual fixed license maintenance fee payments. The Company is also required to make payments upon successful completion and achievement of certain milestones as well as royalty payments upon sales of products covered by such licenses. The payment obligations under the license and collaboration agreements are contingent upon future events such as achievement of specified development, clinical, regulatory, and commercial milestones. As the timing of these future milestone payments are not known, the Company has not included these fees in the condensed consolidated balance sheets as of September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022.

For further discussion on license fees recorded during the period, refer to Note 12, *License and Manufacturing Agreements*.

Contingent Compensation and Other Contingent Payments

The Company currently has approximately \$14,590,121 in contingently issuable payments that are triggered upon its first cumulative capital raise of at least \$50,000,000 and consists of \$12,403,625 of contingent compensation and bonuses to certain members of senior management, \$2,050,000 of contingent vendor payments, and \$136,496 of related party expense.

These amounts will not be paid if the contingencies do not occur. Since the payment of obligations under the employment agreements are contingent upon these future events, which are not considered probable as such future events are deemed outside of the Company’s control, the Company has not included these amounts in its condensed consolidated financial statements.

Directors and Officers Liability Insurance

On February 14, 2023, the Company obtained directors and officers liability (“D&O”) insurance that includes (i) a one-year run-off policy for AHAC’s directors and officers that provides coverage for claims that arise out of wrongful acts that allegedly occurred prior to the date of the Business Combination and (ii) a standard one-year policy for the Company’s directors and officers that provides coverage for claims made by stockholders or third parties for alleged wrongdoing. The total annual premiums for the policies are approximately \$1,200,000 paid over twelve months. As of September 30, 2023, the Company has paid \$1,076,936 of the premiums that is recorded as general and administrative expenses in its condensed consolidated financial statements.

9. Equity

Common Stock

The holders of common stock of the Company are entitled to dividends when and if declared by the Company’s Board of Directors. The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted upon by the stockholders. As of September 30, 2023, the Company had 300,000,000 authorized shares of common stock with a par value of \$0.0001 per share. As of December 31, 2022, the Company had 180,564,262 authorized shares of common stock with a par value of \$0.0001 per share.

Profit Interests in Poseidon

Legacy Ocean's founder and then sole stockholder was issued 17,454,542 shares of Legacy Ocean's common stock ("Founders Shares") upon the formation of Legacy Ocean on January 2, 2019. After inception and prior to the Business Combination, the majority of the Founders Shares were contributed to Poseidon Bio, LLC ("Poseidon"), with Poseidon subsequently granting Class A and Class B profit interests to Legacy Ocean's founder and other certain executives and employees, respectively, and resulting in Legacy Ocean's founder holding 100% of the voting power of Poseidon. Further, after inception and prior to the Business Combination, Legacy Ocean implemented reverse stock splits which are appropriately reflected as applicable to the condensed consolidated financial statements.

These profit interests grants in the Company's controlling shareholder were deemed to be transactions incurred by the shareholder and within the scope of ASC 718, *Stock Compensation*. As a result, the related transactions by the shareholder were pushed down into the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements. As of September 30, 2023, Legacy Ocean's founder held 100% of the voting power and 68% of the equity interests in Poseidon. The related stock-based compensation recognized is discussed below.

Stock Options

2022 Stock Option and Incentive Plan

The Company's Board of Directors ("the Board") approved and adopted the 2022 Stock Option and Incentive Plan and Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Agreement for Non-Employee Directors (the "Incentive Plan") prior to the Closing of the Business Combination.

The maximum number of shares of common stock that may be initially issued or transferred pursuant to awards under the Incentive Plan equals 4,360,000 shares (the "Share Limit"). The Share Limit will automatically increase on the first trading day in January of each calendar year during the term of the Incentive Plan, with the first such increase to occur in January 2024, by an amount equal to the lesser of (i) three percent (3%) of the total number of shares of common stock issued and outstanding on December 31 of the immediately preceding calendar year or (ii) such number of shares of common stock as may be established by the Board.

The Incentive Plan authorizes stock options, stock appreciation rights, and other forms of awards granted or denominated in the Company's common stock or units of the Company's common stock, as well as cash bonus awards. The Incentive Plan retains flexibility to offer competitive incentives and to tailor benefits to specific needs and circumstances. Any award may be structured to be paid or settled in cash. Any awards under the Incentive Plan (including awards of stock options and stock appreciation rights) may be fully-vested at grant or may be subject to time- and/or performance-based vesting requirements.

The Incentive Plan does not limit the authority of the Board or any committee to grant awards or authorize any other compensation, with or without reference to the Company's common stock, under any other plan or authority. The Board may amend or terminate the Incentive Plan at any time and in any manner. Stockholder approval for an amendment will be required only to the extent then required by applicable law or deemed necessary or advisable by the Board. Unless terminated earlier by the Board and subject to any extension that may be approved by stockholders, the authority to grant new awards under the Incentive Plan will terminate on the tenth anniversary of its establishment.

Stock Options to Non-Employee Directors

Under the Non-employee Director Compensation Policy, upon initial election or appointment to the Board, each new non-employee director will be granted under the Incentive Plan a one-time grant of a non-statutory stock option to purchase 75,000 shares of its common stock on the date of such director's election or appointment to the Board, issuable under the incentive plan. These will vest in substantially equal monthly installments over three years, subject to the director's continued service as a member of the Board through each applicable vesting date.

On February 15, 2023, 75,000 options were granted to each of the non-employee directors at a strike price of \$10.00 per share.

The estimated fair value of a non-statutory stock option to purchase common stock on the grant date was \$3.73 per share and was determined using the Black-Scholes Merton model. The stock-based compensation recorded for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023 was \$186,370 and \$1,018,364, respectively, was recorded within general and administrative expense in the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations, as discussed below. The total unrecognized compensation related to unvested stock option awards granted was \$1,801,936 which the Company expects to recognize over a weighted-average period of approximately 2.4 years.

2022 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

The Board approved and adopted the 2022 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the “ESPP”) prior to the Closing of the Business Combination.

Subject to adjustment, 2,180,000 shares of common stock are available for purchase pursuant to the exercise of options under the ESPP. Shares to be delivered upon exercise of options under the ESPP may be authorized but unissued stock, treasury stock, or stock acquired in an open-market transaction. Subject to certain requirements and exceptions, all individuals classified as employees on the payroll records of the Company or its subsidiaries are eligible to participate in any one or more of the offerings under the ESPP.

The ESPP allows eligible employees to purchase shares of common stock during specified offering periods, with such offering periods not to exceed 27 months. During each offering period, eligible employees will be granted an option to purchase shares of common stock on the last business day of the offering period. The purchase price of each share of common stock issued pursuant to the exercise of an option under the ESPP on an exercise date will be 85% (or such greater percentage as specified by the administrator of the ESPP) of the lesser of: (a) the fair market value of a share of common stock date the option is granted, which will be the first day of the offering period, and (b) the fair market value of a share of common stock on the exercise date, which will be the last business day of the offering period.

The Board has discretion to amend the ESPP to any extent and in any manner it may deem advisable, provided that any amendment that would be treated as the adoption of a new plan for purposes of Section 423 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) will require stockholder approval. The Board may suspend or terminate the ESPP at any time.

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company recognizes stock-based compensation costs for equity-based compensation awards granted to employees, nonemployees, and directors in accordance with GAAP. The Company estimates the fair value and the resulting amounts using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The fair value is recognized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service periods but accelerated to the extent that grants vest sooner than on a straight-line basis. Forfeitures are accounted for as they occur and requires management to make a number of other assumptions, including the volatility of the underlying shares, the risk-free interest rate, and expected dividends. Expected volatility is based on the historical share volatility of a set of comparable publicly traded companies over a period of time equal to the expected term of the grant or option.

Stock-based compensation for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023 consisted of costs related to (i) stock options granted to non-employee directors in the first quarter of 2023 and (ii) warrants issued to advisors and consultants, as discussed below. Stock-based compensation for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022 solely consisted of costs related to the profit interests in Poseidon. The following table summarizes the allocation of stock-based compensation for the stock options, warrants, and Class B profit interests for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively:

(in thousands)	For the Three Months Ended September 30,		For the Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Stock-based compensation:				
Research and development ⁽¹⁾	\$ -	\$ 1,859	\$ -	\$ 8,231
General and administrative ⁽²⁾	186	1,075	1,018	4,147
Total stock-based compensation	<u>\$ 186</u>	<u>\$ 2,934</u>	<u>\$ 1,018</u>	<u>\$ 12,378</u>

(1) As discussed above, certain executives and employees of the Company hold profit interests in Poseidon. The fair value of these profit interest were recorded on the grant dates at fair value utilizing an option-pricing model under which interests are valued by creating a series of call options with exercise prices based on the liquidation preferences and conversion terms of each equity class, adjusted for a discount for the lack of marketability to account for a lack of access to an active public market. As of the end of fiscal 2022, the profit interests were fully amortized.

(2) In March 2023, the Company issued warrants to advisors and consultants as discussed below in Note 10, *Warrants*. Refer to discussion below for further detail. Also included in general and administrative expense is the stock-based compensation expense for the options awards to non-employee directors.

As discussed above, as of September 30, 2023, there was \$1,801,936 of unamortized stock-based compensation, to be recognized over a weighted-average period of approximately 2.4 years.

10. Warrants

As of September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022, the following warrants to purchase common stock were outstanding:

September 30, 2023					
Lender/Name	Issuance Date	Number of Shares Issuable	Exercise Price	Classification	Expiration
Second Street Capital (1) (2)	February 2023	426,427	\$ 8.06	(2)	3/8/2026
Second Street Capital (1)	February 2023	85,285	\$ 8.06	Equity-classified	4/22/2026
Second Street Capital (1)	February 2023	102,342	\$ 7.47	Equity-classified	9/30/2026
Second Street Capital (1)	February 2023	75,000	\$ 10.34	Equity-classified	2/15/2028
Second Street Capital	March 2023	200,000	\$ 10.34	Equity-classified	3/29/2028
Second Street Capital	March 2023	150,000	\$ 11.50	Equity-classified	3/31/2028
McKra Investments warrant	March 2023	200,000	\$ 10.34	Equity-classified	3/28/2028
Special Forces F9 warrant	March 2023	150,000	\$ 11.50	Equity-classified	3/7/2028
Public Warrants	(4)	5,250,000	\$ 11.50	Equity-classified	2/14/2028
Private Warrants	(4)	5,411,000	\$ 11.50	Equity-classified	2/14/2028
SPA Warrant (3)	May 2023	552,141	\$ 11.50	Liability-classified	5/25/2028
		<u>12,602,195</u>			

December 31, 2022					
Lender/Name	Issuance Date	Number of Shares Issuable	Exercise Price	Classification	Expiration
Second Street Capital (1) (2)	February 2022	312,500	\$ 11.00	(2)	3/8/2026
Second Street Capital (1)	April 2022	62,500	\$ 11.00	Equity-classified	4/22/2026
Second Street Capital (1)	September 2022	75,000	\$ 10.20	Equity-classified	9/30/2026
		<u>450,000</u>			

- (1) Upon Closing, and as discussed in Note 3, *Business Combination and Backstop Agreement*, Second Street Capital's warrants issued from Legacy Ocean in 2022 were terminated in exchange for the Converted Ocean Warrants.
- (2) The Legacy Ocean warrant issued in February 2022 was issued with the right to put the warrant in exchange for a payment of \$250,000. At the time of issuance, these warrants were recorded as a liability and as Second Street Capital had the intention to exercise the put option in the near-term, the Company determined that recording the liability at its fair value of \$250,000 was appropriate.
- (3) For further detail on the SPA Warrant, refer to Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*.
- (4) For further detail on the Public Warrants and Private Warrants, refer to the "Public and Private Warrants" discussion below.

In 2022 and 2023, the Company entered into certain agreements with Second Street Capital, Special Forces F9, LLC (“Special Forces”), and McKra for which it issued warrants exercisable to purchase the Company’s common stock. For each of the warrants issued, the Company utilized the guidance within ASC 480, *Distinguishing Liabilities from Equity*, to determine whether the instruments should be recorded as liabilities or as equity. For warrants that are fully vested upon issuance with a fixed life term, the instrument is classified as equity and the Company recognizes the estimated fair value of the warrant within equity on the date of grant, with the offset be recorded within (i) other income/(expense) for those issued in conjunction with loans and (ii) stock-based compensation for those issued to advisors and consultants. Further, for any warrants that are issued in connection with a loan and are not fully vested upon issuance, the fair value of the debt issuance is amortized over the set term. The estimated fair value for the equity-classified warrants is determined utilizing the Black-Scholes Merton model, as described below. For the warrant with a put option, the Company recorded a corresponding liability in its condensed consolidated balance sheets as discussed above.

In addition, the Company has Public Warrants and Private Warrants that were assumed in connection with the closing of the Business Combination. They are treated as equity-classified instruments, as discussed below.

The use of the Black-Scholes Merton model requires management to make the following assumptions:

Expected volatility: The Company estimates volatility for warrants issued by evaluating the average historical volatility of a peer group of companies for a period of time equal to the expected term of the warrants.

Expected term: Derived from the life of the warrants issued and is based on the simplified method which is essentially the weighted average of the vesting period and contractual term.

Risk-Free Interest Rate: The risk-free interest rate is based on the implied yield currently available on U.S. Treasury zero-coupon issues, with a term that is equal to the warrants’ expected term at the grant date.

Dividend Yield: The Company has not declared or paid dividends to date and does not anticipate declaring dividends. As such, the dividend yield has been estimated to be zero.

The fair value is recognized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service periods but accelerated to the extent that grants vest sooner than on a straight-line basis. Forfeitures are accounted for as they occur and requires management to make a number of other assumptions, including the volatility of the underlying shares, the risk-free interest rate, and expected dividends. Expected volatility is based on the historical share volatility of a set of comparable publicly traded companies over a period of time equal to the expected term of the grant.

Prior to the Business Combination, Legacy Ocean estimated the fair value of its common stock considering, among other things, contemporaneous valuations for its common stock prepared by third-party valuation firms and prices set forth in Legacy Ocean’s previous filings with the SEC for a proposed IPO of its common stock that was not pursued by Legacy Ocean. Upon execution of the Business Combination Agreement in September 2022, the value of the Second Street Warrants was based on the closing price of AHAC’s Class A common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on the grant date.

Following the Closing of the Business Combination, the value of warrants issued by the Company was based on the closing price of its common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Capital Market on the grant date. The Company estimates the fair value, based upon these values, using the Black-Scholes Merton model, which is affected principally by the life of the warrant, the volatility of the underlying shares, the risk-free interest rate, and expected dividends. Expected volatility is based on the historical share volatility of a set of comparable publicly traded companies over a period of time equal to the expected term of the warrants. The risk-free interest rate is determined by reference to the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of grant of the warrant for time periods approximately equal to the expected term of the warrant. Expected dividend yield is zero based on the fact that the Company has never paid cash dividends and does not expect to pay any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. The Company expenses the amount for warrants and stock-based awards within other income/(expense) and stock-based compensation, as applicable, in its condensed consolidated statements of operations.

Second Street Warrants

In connection with the Second Street Loans discussed in Note 6, *Short-Term Loan Agreements*, the Company issued a total of eight warrants exercisable to purchase an aggregate of 1,039,054 shares of its common stock to Second Street Capital (including the Converted Ocean Warrants, as discussed above). During the three months ended September 30, 2023 and 2022, the Company recognized \$0 and \$435,075, respectively, in other income/(expense) in its condensed consolidated statements of operations to record the issuance of warrants based on the estimated fair value of the awards on the date of grant. During the nine months ended September 30, 2023 and 2022, the Company recognized \$1,511,625 and \$824,013, respectively, in other expense in its condensed consolidated statements of operations to record the issuance of warrants based on the estimated fair value of the awards on the date of grant.

Of the warrants issued to Second Street Capital, the warrant issued in connection with the March Second Street Loan, exercisable for 200,000 shares of the Company's common stock, was treated as a debt discount and the respective fair value is being amortized over the life of the term of the loan. For those warrants issued in exchange for maturity extensions, the Company concluded that they met the accounting requirements for debt extinguishments and as such the fair values of the warrants, as well as related fees, were recorded in full to other income/(expense) in the period of issuance, with the offset to additional paid-in capital. As of September 30, 2023, all of the warrants remain outstanding.

McKra Investments III Warrant

In connection with the McKra Loan, discussed in Note 6, *Short-Term Loan Agreements*, the Company issued a warrant exercisable to purchase 200,000 shares of its common stock. The warrant is being treated as a debt discount and the fair value is being amortized over the life of the term. During nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Company recognized \$789,400 in other income/(expense) in its condensed consolidated statements of operations based on the estimated fair value of the awards on the date of grant. There was no related expense recognized during the three months ended September 30, 2023. As of September 30, 2023, the warrant remains outstanding.

Special Forces F9 Warrant

In connection with a strategic advisory agreement, dated March 19, 2023, between the Company and Special Forces, the Company issued to Special Forces a warrant to purchase 150,000 shares of its common stock with an exercise price of \$11.50 per share exercisable until March 7, 2028. Warrants issued to advisors and consultants are also considered stock-based compensation. The estimated fair value of the warrant to purchase common stock on the grant date was \$3.89 per share and was determined using the Black-Scholes Merton model.

In the first quarter of 2023, the full amount of the \$583,500 of the fair value of the warrant was recognized since the warrant was fully vested upon issuance. The fair value was recorded as stock-based compensation within general and administrative expense on the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations. As of September 30, 2023, the warrant remains outstanding.

SPA Warrant

In connection with the Ayrton Convertible Note Financing, the Company issued to an accredited investor a warrant exercisable for 552,141 shares of its common stock. Refer to Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*, for further detail.

Public and Private Warrants

The Company has a total of 10,661,000 outstanding warrants to purchase one share of its common stock with an exercise price of \$11.50 per share. Of these warrants, 5,250,000 were originally issued in AHAC's IPO (the "Public Warrants") and 5,411,000 were originally issued in a private placement in connection with the IPO (the "Private Warrants," and together with the Public Warrants, the "IPO Warrants").

Each whole IPO Warrant entitles the registered holder to purchase one share of common stock at a price of \$11.50 per share, subject to adjustment as discussed within the underlying agreements, at any time commencing 30 days after the completion of the Business Combination. However, the IPO Warrants are not exercisable for cash unless the Company has an effective and current registration statement covering the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the IPO Warrants.

The Company may call the IPO Warrants for redemption, in whole and not in part, at a price of \$0.01 per warrant:

- at any time after the warrants become exercisable;
- upon not less than 30 days' prior written notice of redemption to each warrant holder;
- if, and only if, the reported last sale price of the shares of common stock equals or exceeds \$18.00 per share (as adjusted for stock splits, stock dividends, reorganizations and recapitalizations), for any 20 trading days within a 30-trading-day period commencing after the warrants become exercisable and ending on the third business day prior to the notice of redemption to warrant holders; and
- if, and only if, there is a current registration statement in effect with respect to the shares of common stock underlying such warrants.

The right to exercise will be forfeited unless the IPO Warrants are exercised prior to the date specified in the notice of redemption. On and after the redemption date, a record holder of an IPO Warrant will have no further rights except to receive the redemption price for such holder's warrant upon surrender of such warrant. If the Company calls the IPO Warrants for redemption as described above, its management will have the option to require all holders that wish to exercise warrants to do so on a "cashless basis." In such event, each holder would pay the exercise price by surrendering the warrants for that number of shares of the Company's common stock equal to the quotient obtained by dividing (x) the product of the number of shares of common stock underlying the warrants, multiplied by the difference between the exercise price of the warrants and the "fair market value" (defined below) by (y) the fair market value. The "fair market value" for this purpose shall mean the average reported last sale price of the shares of common stock for the five trading days ending on the third trading day prior to the date on which the notice of redemption is sent to the holders of warrants.

For accounting purposes, the Company accounts for the IPO Warrants (i) in accordance with the guidance contained in ASC 480-10-25-8 and ASC 815-40 and (ii) classified as an equity instrument. The fair values of the IPO Warrants were accounted for as deemed dividends. Since the entries to recognize the fair value of the IPO Warrants offset within additional paid-in capital, there is no inherent impact to the condensed consolidated financial statements.

Additional Share Consideration

In connection with the Marketing Services Agreement, dated March 7, 2023, between the Company and Outside The Box Capital ("OTBC"), the Company issued to OTBC 13,257 shares of its common stock as consideration, pursuant to the Marketing Services Agreement, in the second quarter of 2023. The fair value of this stock issuance of \$83,121 was recorded within other income/(expense) in the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations.

11. Net loss Per Share

The Company computes basic loss per share using net loss attributable to stockholders and the weighted-average number of the Company's common stock shares outstanding during each period, less shares subject to repurchase under the Backstop Agreement. Diluted earnings per share include shares issuable upon exercise of outstanding stock options and stock-based awards where the conversion of such instruments would be dilutive. The Company's potentially dilutive securities, which include stock options, earnout shares, and warrants to purchase shares of common stock, have been excluded from the computation of diluted net loss per share as the effect would be to reduce the net loss per share. Therefore, the weighted average number of common shares outstanding used to calculate both basic and diluted net loss per share attributable to the Company's stockholders' is the same.

The net loss per share for the basic and diluted earnings calculations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023 and 2022 is as follows (in thousands, except share and per share data):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Numerator:				
Net loss	\$ (14,087)	\$ (3,668)	\$ (97,610)	\$ (16,376)
Denominator:				
Weighted-average shares of common stock outstanding, basic and diluted	26,605,147	23,355,432	25,980,292	23,355,432
Net loss per common share, basic and diluted	\$ (0.53)	\$ (0.16)	\$ (3.76)	\$ (0.70)

As noted above, the following securities were excluded from the computation of diluted loss per share in the periods presented, as their effect would be anti-dilutive:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Stock options	600,000	-	600,000	-
Warrants to purchase common stock	12,602,195	375,000	12,602,195	375,000

As discussed in Note 3, *Business Combination and Backstop Agreement*, Legacy Ocean is also entitled to receive up to an additional 19,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock, referred to herein as the Earnout Shares. These Earnout Shares are subject to certain performance conditions that expire on the 36 month anniversary of Closing. None of these conditions have been met as of September 30, 2023.

12. License and Manufacturing Agreements

Elkurt/Brown License Agreements

In 2020, the Company entered into four separate Exclusive License Agreements (the "Initial Brown License Agreements") with Elkurt, Inc. ("Elkurt"), a licensee of Brown University, which were subsequently amended in 2021 and 2022. Elkurt is a company formed by the Company's scientific co-founders and members of our Board, Jack A. Elias, M.D., former Dean of Medicine and current Special Advisor for Health Affairs to Brown University, and Jonathan Kurtis, M.D., PhD, Chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Brown University. Under the Initial Brown License Agreements, Elkurt grants the Company exclusive, royalty-bearing licenses to patent rights and nonexclusive, royalty-bearing licenses to know-how, solely to make, have made, market, offer for sale, use, and sell licensed products for use in certain fields.

The latest amendment, executed on November 13, 2023, (i) extended the date after which Elkurt can terminate the license agreements if the Company has not raised at least \$10.0 million in equity financing by May 1, 2024 and (ii) extended the dates of the commercialization plan of the license agreement to an additional three years.

For each of the Initial Brown License Agreements, as amended, the Company is required to pay Elkurt (i) a maintenance fee of \$67,000 increased by interest at the rate of 1% per month from October 15, 2021 until paid and (ii) an annual license maintenance fee of \$3,000 beginning on January 1, 2022, which increases to \$4,000 on January 1, 2028. In addition, upon successful commercialization, the Company is required to pay Elkurt (i) between 0.5% to 1.5% of net sales based on the terms of each of the Initial Brown License Agreements and (ii) 25% of all non-royalty sublicense income prior to the first commercial sale, and 10% of non-royalty sublicense income thereafter, in the event that the Company enters into sublicenses for the subject intellectual property. If net sales or non-royalty sublicense income are generated from know-how products, the amounts otherwise due (royalty or non-royalty sublicense income) shall be reduced by 50%. As of September 30, 2023, the Company recorded annual license maintenance fees of \$24,000, and license fees of \$268,000.

The Company will also pay Elkurt developmental and commercialization milestone payments for each of the Initial Brown License Agreements ranging from \$50,000 for the filing of an Investigational New Drug Application (“IND”), or the equivalent outside of the United States, to \$250,000 for enrollment of the first patient in a Phase 3 clinical trial in the United States or the equivalent outside of the United States. The Company is also responsible for reimbursement of patent costs. The Company records reimbursement of patent costs as general and administrative costs in the condensed consolidated statements of operations as incurred. As of September 30, 2023, the Company has incurred reimbursed patent costs expenses to Brown University in the amount of \$408,661 of which \$379,221 has been paid.

The contract term for each of the Initial Brown License Agreements, as amended, continues until the later of (i) the date on which the last valid claim expires or (ii) ten years. Either party may terminate each of the Initial Brown License Agreements in certain situations, including Elkurt being able to terminate the Initial Brown License Agreements at any time and for any reason after May 1, 2024, as discussed above. For the oncology programs, three of the license agreements have been sublicensed to the Company’s subsidiary, Ocean ChitoRx Inc, and for the fibrosis program, one license agreement has been sublicensed to the Company’s subsidiary, Ocean ChitofibroRx Inc.

Brown Anti-PfGARP Small Molecules License Agreement

On September 13, 2022, the Company entered into an additional Exclusive License Agreement (the “Brown Anti-PfGARP Small Molecules License Agreement”) with Elkurt. Under the Brown Anti-PfGARP Small Molecules License Agreement, Elkurt grants the Company an exclusive, royalty-bearing license to patent rights and a nonexclusive, royalty-bearing license to know-how, solely to make, have made, market, offer for sale, use, and sell licensed products for use in the field of malaria research.

For the Brown Anti-PfGARP Small Molecules License Agreement, the Company is required to pay Elkurt (i) an initial license fee of \$70,000 which was paid during the second quarter of 2023 and (ii) an annual license fee maintenance fee of \$3,000 beginning on September 13, 2023, which increases to \$4,000 annually on September 13, 2028. Upon successful commercialization, based on the terms of the agreement, the Company is required to pay Elkurt (i) 1.25% of net sales and (ii) Elkurt 25% of all non-royalty sublicense income prior to the first commercial sale, and 10% of non-royalty sublicense income thereafter, in the event that the Company enters into sublicenses for the subject intellectual property. If net sales or non-royalty sublicense income are generated from know-how products, the amounts otherwise due (royalty or non-royalty sublicense income) shall be reduced by 50%. The Company also is required to pay Elkurt \$100,000 in the event that the Company or one of its sublicensees sublicenses this technology to a major pharmaceutical company or if the license agreement or any sublicense agreement for this technology is acquired by a major pharmaceutical company. A major pharmaceutical company is one that is publicly traded, with market capitalization of at least \$5.0 billion and has been engaged in drug discovery, development, production and marketing for no less than 5 years.

The Company will also pay Elkurt developmental and commercialization milestone payments pursuant to the Brown Anti-PfGARP Small Molecules License Agreement ranging from \$50,000 for the filing of an IND, or the equivalent outside of the United States, to \$250,000 for enrollment of the first patient in a Phase 3 clinical trial in the United States or the equivalent outside of the United States. The Company is also responsible for reimbursement of patent costs.

The contract term for the Brown Anti-PfGARP Small Molecules License Agreement continues until the later of (i) the date on which the last valid claim expires or (ii) ten years. Either party may terminate the Brown Anti-PfGARP Small Molecules License Agreement in certain situations, including Elkurt being able to terminate the Brown Anti-PfGARP Small Molecules License Agreement at any time and for any reason after May 1, 2024 if the Company has not raised at least \$10,000,000 in equity financing by then.

Refer to Note 13, *Related Party Transactions*, for further detail on the Company's relationship to Elkurt.

Rhode Island License Agreement

In January 2021, the Company entered into an Exclusive License Agreement (the "Rhode Island License Agreement") with Elkurt, a licensee of Rhode Island Hospital, as subsequently amended throughout that year. Under the Rhode Island License Agreement, as amended, Elkurt grants the Company an exclusive, royalty-bearing license to patent rights and a nonexclusive, royalty-bearing license to know-how, solely to make, have made, market, offer for sale, use, and sell licensed products for use in a certain field.

For the Rhode Island License Agreement, the Company was required to pay Elkurt (i) \$110,000, due within 45 days of an equity financing of at least \$10.0 million or November 1, 2023, whichever comes first, and (ii) an annual maintenance fee of \$3,000 beginning on January 1, 2022, which increases to \$4,000 annually on January 1, 2029. As of the filing date of this Quarterly Report, next steps for the licensing agreements are still being negotiated.

Upon successful commercialization, under the terms of the agreement, the Company is also required to pay Elkurt (i) 1.5% of net sales and (ii) 25% of all nonroyalty sublicense income prior to the first commercial sale, and 10% of non-royalty sublicense income thereafter, in the event that the Company enters into sublicenses for the subject intellectual property. If net sales or non-royalty sublicense income are generated from know-how products, the amounts otherwise due (royalty or non-royalty sublicense income) shall be reduced by 50%. The Company will also pay Elkurt developmental and commercialization milestone payments under the Rhode Island License Agreement, ranging from \$50,000 for the filing of an IND, or the equivalent outside of the United States, to \$250,000 for enrollment of the first patient in a Phase 3 clinical trial in the United States or the equivalent outside of the United States. To date, the Company has incurred total reimbursed patent costs expenses to Rhode Island Hospital in the amount of \$485,216 of which \$229,393 has been paid. As of September 30, 2023, the Company recorded an expense for the annual license maintenance fee of \$3,000 and the initial license fee of \$110,000.

The contract term for the Rhode Island License Agreement began February 1, 2020 and will continue until the later of (i) the date on which the last valid claim expires or (ii) fifteen years. Either party may terminate the Rhode Island License Agreement in certain situations, and as discussed above, the next steps for the licensing agreements are still being negotiated. The Rhode Island License Agreement has been sublicensed to the Company's subsidiary, Ocean Sihoma Inc.

Refer to Note 13, *Related Party Transactions*, for further detail on the Company's relationship to Elkurt.

Development and Manufacturing Services Agreement

In December 2020, the Company entered into a Development and Manufacturing Services Agreement with Lonza AG and affiliate Lonza Sales AG ("Lonza"). The Company engaged Lonza pursuant to the development and manufacture of certain products and services along with the assistance in developing the product OCX-253. The agreement outlines the pricing for services and raw materials as incurred and payment terms. Through September 30, 2023, the Company has incurred an aggregate of \$598,663 in expenses under this agreement since its inception, all of which is included in accounts payable at September 30, 2023.

The Development and Manufacturing Services Agreement will terminate on December 31, 2025. Either party may terminate the agreement within 60 days after it becomes apparent to either party that it will not be possible to complete the services for a scientific or technical reason after a good faith effort is made to resolve such problems. The agreement may be terminated by either party, immediately for any uncured material breach, insolvency, or liquidation. In the event of termination, the Company will pay Lonza all costs incurred through the termination date.

13. Related Party Transactions

License Agreements with Elkurt, Inc.

Elkurt/Brown Licenses

The Company is party to the four Initial Brown License Agreements with Elkurt and the Brown Anti-PfGARP Small Molecules License Agreement with Elkurt relating to the Elkurt licenses with Brown University. Elkurt is a company formed by the Company's scientific co-founders Jack A. Elias, M.D., former Dean of Medicine and current Special Advisor for Health Affairs to Brown University, and Jonathan Kurtis, M.D., PhD, Chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Brown University. Dr. Elias and Dr. Kurtis are members of the Company's Board. Under the Initial Brown License Agreements and the Brown Anti-PfGARP Small Molecules License Agreement, Elkurt grants to the Company exclusive, royalty-bearing licenses to patent rights and nonexclusive, royalty-bearing licenses to know-how, solely to make, have made, market, offer for sale, use, and sell licensed products for use in certain fields. License fees are expensed as incurred as research and development expenses.

Patent reimbursement fees are expensed as incurred as general and administrative expenses. As of September 30, 2023, the Company has incurred a total amount of \$408,661 for patent reimbursement expenses to Brown University, of which \$379,221 has been paid. As of September 30, 2023, the amount due to Elkurt for the Initial Brown License Agreements and the Brown Anti-PfGARP Small Molecules License Agreement that is currently due to Brown University is \$346,521 consisting of (i) license maintenance fees in the amount of \$24,000, and (ii) initial license fees in the amount of \$268,000 recorded as research and development costs, and (iii) other costs. The amounts were recorded as accounts payable-related party on the condensed consolidated balance sheets.

Elkurt/Rhode Island Hospital License

As discussed in Note 12, *License and Manufacturing Agreements*, under the Rhode Island License Agreement, Elkurt grants to the Company an exclusive, royalty-bearing license to patent rights and a nonexclusive, royalty-bearing license to know-how, solely to make, have made, market, offer for sale, use, and sell licensed products for use in a certain field. As of September 30, 2023, the Company has incurred \$482,216 for patent reimbursement expenses, of which \$229,393 has been paid. As of September 30, 2023, the Company recorded an expense for the annual license fee of \$3,000 and the initial license fee of \$110,000.

Transactions with Legacy Ocean's Founder and Executive Chairman

To date, Legacy Ocean's Founder and Executive Chairman had paid for certain general and administrative expenses totaling \$93,769 on behalf of the Company. The amounts were recorded as accounts payable on the condensed consolidated balance sheets. As of September 30, 2023, the amount due was \$92,919. The reduction of \$850 was actually paid by the Company for state taxes in 2022. The amounts were recorded as accounts payable on the condensed consolidated balance sheets.

Transactions with Chief Accounting Officer

The Company's Chief Accounting Officer previously provided consulting services to Legacy Ocean through RJS Consulting, LLC, his wholly owned limited liability company, through June 15, 2021, before becoming the Company's Chief Accounting Officer. As of September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022, the Company owed RJS Consulting, LLC \$107,500 and \$142,500, respectively. The amounts were recorded as accounts payable on the condensed consolidated balance sheets and were expensed as accounting fees in general and administrative expenses in 2021.

14. Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events to determine if events or transactions occurring through the filing date of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q require adjustments to or disclosures in the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements. Aside from the items discussed below, the Company did not have any subsequent events that required recognition or disclosure in the condensed consolidated financial statements for the nine months ended September 30, 2023.

On October 2, 2023, Poseidon loaned the Company \$650,000 pursuant to a demand loan.

On October 2, 2023, the Company entered into a Side Letter Agreement (the "Side Letter") with Polar. The Side Letter amended certain terms of the Polar Agreement, as discussed in Note 3, *Business Combination and Backstop Agreement*. The Side Letter amended the definitions of "Seller VWAP Trigger Event" and "Reset Price" as used in the Backstop Agreement as it relates to Polar and the Polar Agreement. Per the amended definitions, the (i) "Seller VWAP Trigger Event" is an event that occurs if the VWAP price is below \$2.50 per share for any 20 trading days during a 30 consecutive trading day-period thereafter and (ii) the "Reset Price" is defined as \$8.00. The Side Letter did not amend any terms of the Backstop Agreement as it relates to the other Backstop Parties.

The "Seller VWAP Trigger Event" for Polar occurred in October 2023 and the other Backstop Parties in November 2023. The Company received written notice from Polar on November 6, 2023 acknowledging its right to designate any date as the Maturity Date from the date of the notice to, and including, the third anniversary of the Business Combination. As of the date of this filing, two of the Backstop Parties, Polar and Meteora had not designated a Maturity Date. Refer to Note 3, *Business Combination and Backstop Agreement*, for further detail around the purported Maturity Date for Vellar.

Effective October 4, 2023, the Company and White Lion entered into the first amendment of the Common Stock Purchase Agreement (the "Amendment"). The Amendment is intended to afford the Company greater flexibility and provide the Company an additional alternative to issue a fixed price "Purchase Notice" under the Common Stock Purchase Agreement [at \$7.00 per share if the market price for the Common Stock exceeds \$9.00 per share]. In addition, on November 2, 2023, White Lion purchased 41,677 shares of the Company's common stock under the Common Stock Purchase Agreement for which the Company received approximately \$64,000.

Also on October 4, 2023, the Company issued an additional 15,173 shares to the Investor of the SPA as interest payment.

On October 11, 2023, the Company entered into an Amended and Restated Contribution Agreement (the “Contribution Agreement”) with Virion Therapeutics, LLC (“Virion”) and Poseidon Bio LLC to provide financial, technical and operational assistance to further growth and development of Virion’s Intelligent and Adaptable CD8⁺ T cell-based Immunotherapy (“VIACT”) platform. Pursuant to the Contribution Agreement, the Company acquired a 50% membership interest in Virion and purchased one membership unit of Virion for an initial contribution of 750,000 shares of the Company’s common stock, 250,000 of which were to be transferred to Virion by Poseidon Bio LLC, with the remainder due from the Company on November 30, 2023, which still remains outstanding.

In October 2023, the Company's market capitalization fell below \$100,000,000 for 10 consecutive trading days, triggering the "Initial Installment Trigger Date" under the SPA, which per the terms of the SPA, requires the Company to pay installments to the Investor commencing on November 1, 2023, in shares of the Company's common stock, if there had been no provided there has been no "Equity Conditions Failure" (as defined in the SPA) and in cash otherwise. As of November 1, 2023, when the first installment was due, an Equity Conditions Failure was also triggered due to the daily trading volume of Company shares falling below \$1,500,000 during the 20 day period preceding the Initial Installment Trigger Date. The Investor elected to defer the first installment amount to December 1, 2023, and no amounts other than de minimis have been paid.

On November 6, 2023, the Company issued 5,005 shares of common stock to the Investor upon conversion of a portion of the outstanding principal due under the 2023 Convertible Note.

On November 9, 2023, the Company received information related to a view of the Staff of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") that the Company understands is applicable to SPAC-related companies that have entered into "forward purchase agreements," "pre-paid forward transactions," and/or "backstop agreements" (collectively, "Forward Purchase Agreements"). The view relates to the accounting and reporting for certain Forward Purchase Agreements for which the repurchase price has been partially prepaid; in particular, that the prepayment amount may not be reported as an asset.

On November 10, 2023, the Audit Committee of the Company, after considering the recommendations of management, concluded that the Company's previously issued consolidated financial statements as of and for the quarters ended March 31, 2023 and June 30, 2023 (collectively, the "Previous Financial Statements"), included in the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2023, its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2023, its Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-271392) effective June 22, 2023, and its Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-272859) effective July 7, 2023, should no longer be relied upon. Similarly, any other previously filed or furnished reports, related earnings releases, guidance, investor presentations, or similar communications of the Company describing the Previous Financial Statements should no longer be relied upon.

The determination relates to the Company's interpretation of the aforementioned accounting guidance applicable to the Backstop Agreement. The Company determined that the prepayment amount under the Backstop Agreement, currently recorded as the backstop forward purchase agreement asset in the condensed consolidated balance sheets of the Previous Financial Statements, should be accounted for in the Stockholders' Deficit section of the condensed consolidated balance sheets, and that the value of the prepaid forward transaction, including the minimum maturity consideration, should be accounted for as liabilities in its condensed consolidated balance sheet for the relevant periods.

As a result of the foregoing, an event of default has occurred under the 2023 Convertible Note, although no action has been taken as a result.

On November 13, 2023, the Company and Elkurt amended the Initial Brown License Agreement, which (i) extended the date after which Elkurt can terminate the license agreements if the Company has not raised at least \$10,000,000 in equity financing by May 1, 2024 and (ii) extended the dates of the commercialization plan of the license agreement to an additional three years.

On November 15, 2023, Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (the "**Company**") filed a Notification of Late Filing on Form 12b-25 with the Securities Exchange Commission (the "**SEC**"), indicating that the filing of its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2023 (the "**Form 10-Q**") would be delayed, after determining that it was unable, without unreasonable effort or expense, to file the Form 10-Q by the due date of November 14, 2023.

The Company received a notice (the "**Notice**") on November 22, 2023, from the Nasdaq Listing Qualifications Department ("**Nasdaq**") indicating that the Company remains in non-compliance with the timely filing requirement for continued listing under Nasdaq Listing Rule 5250(c)(1), which requires listed companies to timely file all required periodic reports with the SEC.

The Notice will have no immediate effect on the listing or trading of the Company's common stock, although there can be no assurances that further delays in the filing of the Form 10-Q will not have an impact on the listing or trading of the Company's common stock. Nasdaq indicated that the Company must: (i) no later than January 22, 2024, submit a plan to regain compliance with respect to the filing requirement; and (ii) on or before May 20, 2024, file the delinquent Form 10-Q. The Company intends to file the delinquent Form 10-Q as soon as practicable. The Plan of Compliance was submitted and accepted requiring filing by March 31, 2024.

Heller v. Ocean Biomedical, Inc. et al., Case No. 1:23cv212. On May 23, 2023, Jonathan Heller ("Heller") filed a civil action against the Company, Poseidon Bio LLC, Chirinjeev Kathuria and Elizabeth Ng (collectively, the "Defendants") in the District Court of Rhode Island. Heller has asserted claims alleging that he is entitled to earned salary and various other payments following his resignation from the Company. On July 27, 2023, Defendants filed their Answer and Affirmative Defenses. In January 2024, Plaintiffs filed a default judgment, and the Company has hired counsel and is vigorously defending against said default judgment. Furthermore, Defendants intend to vigorously defend against Heller's claims. Given the early stage of this matter and the uncertainty inherent in litigation and investigations, the Company does not currently believe it is (i) probable to incur losses or (ii) possible to develop estimates of reasonably possible losses (or a range of possible losses) for this matter.

On September 22, 2022, counsel for John Solak, a shareholder of Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp. (n/k/a Ocean Biomedical, Inc.) sent a demand letter to AHAC's board demanding that certain revisions be made to AHAC's proxy statement. Following the Closing, Solak demanded a fee in the sum of \$850,000 for the alleged corporate benefit his demand provided to AHAC. To this counsel's knowledge, no further correspondence was received, and no complaint was filed.

On March 22, 2024, the Company received a letter from counsel to Meteora Fund in reference to: (1) that certain February 12, 2023 OTC Equity Prepaid Forward Transaction (the "Confirmation") entered into as between Ocean Biomedical Inc. ("OCEA") and Vellar Opportunity Fund SPV LLC – Series 3; together with (2) that certain Assignment and Novation Agreement, dated February 13, 2023, in favor of Meteora. Meteora demanded payment or delivery of the Maturity Consideration, as defined in the letter, on or before March 29, 2024. The Company is currently evaluating the validity of the demand.

As of September 30, 2023, the Company is in default of its obligations with respect to Ayrton LLC as a result of, among other things, its delinquent SEC filings.

On March 4, 2024, the Company converted the Convertible Portion into 169,582 restricted shares of its common stock.

Between March 4, 2024 and March 8, 2024, the holder of its May 2022 Note sent Alternate Conversion Notices to the Company to convert the principal value and accrued and unpaid interest under its Note with the Company into shares of Company common stock pursuant to the Alternate Conversion Price mechanism in the Note. The Company is currently evaluating the situation and working with the noteholder to arrive at an equitable resolution.

Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

You should read the following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations together with Ocean Biomedical, Inc.’s (the “Company,” “Ocean Biomedical,” “we,” “us” and “our”) condensed consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this Report and the audited consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto included in Exhibit 99.2 our Amendment No. 2 to Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 31, 2023. The information contained in this discussion and other parts of this Report include forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties, and assumptions in our business plans, strategy, and related financing. Our actual results could differ materially from the results discussed in or implied by these forward-looking statements. Factors that could contribute or cause such differences include, but are not limited to, the information below and the information discussed in the section titled “Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-looking Statements.”

On February 14, 2023, we consummated a business combination (the “Business Combination”) pursuant to that certain Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated August 31, 2022, as amended on December 5, 2022 by Amendment No. 1 (as amended, the “Business Combination Agreement”), by and among Ocean Biomedical, Inc., formerly known as Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp. (the “Company”), AHAC Merger Sub, Inc., a Delaware corporation, Aesther Healthcare Sponsor, LLC (the “Sponsor”), in its capacity as purchaser representative, Ocean Biomedical Holdings, Inc., formerly known as Ocean Biomedical, Inc., a Delaware corporation (“Legacy Ocean”), and Dr. Chirinjeev Kathuria, in his capacity as seller representative. In connection with the closing of the Business Combination (the “Closing”), the Company changed its name from “Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp.” to “Ocean Biomedical, Inc.” References to the “Company”, “Ocean Biomedical”, “we”, “us” and “our” refer to the Legacy Ocean prior to the Closing of the Business Combination and Ocean Biomedical, Inc., formerly known as Aesther Healthcare Corp., on a consolidated basis with Legacy Ocean, for periods after the Closing of the Business Combination.

Overview

We are a biopharmaceutical company that seeks to bridge the “bench-to-bedside” gap between medical research discoveries and patient solutions. We do this by leveraging our strong relationships with research universities and medical centers to license their inventions and technologies with the goal of developing them into products that address diseases with significant unmet medical needs. We believe that our differentiated business model positions us to capture inventions created at these institutions that might otherwise fail to be commercialized to benefit patients. Our team of accomplished scientists, business professionals and entrepreneurs bring together the interdisciplinary expertise and resources required to develop and commercialize a diverse portfolio of assets. We are organized around a licensing and subsidiary structure that we believe will enable us to create mutual value both for us and potential licensing partners. We believe this structure, combined with the professional networks of our leadership team members, allows us to opportunistically build a continuous pipeline of promising product innovations through our existing and potential future relationships with research institutions.

Our goal is to optimize value creation for each of our product candidates, and we intend to continuously assess the best pathway for each as it progresses through the preclinical and clinical development process—including through internal advancement, partnerships with established companies and spin-outs or other strategic transactions—in order to benefit patients through the commercialization of these products. Our current active assets are licensed from Brown University and Rhode Island Hospital. Our scientific co-founders and members of our Board of Directors (“Board”), Dr. Jack A. Elias and Dr. Jonathan Kurtis, are both affiliated with Brown University and with Rhode Island Hospital. Our strategy is to accelerate the flow of the academic discoveries and the required clinical development required for these product candidates and advance them commercially. The number of potential opportunities at research universities and medical centers is large, but only a small fraction of these opportunities is currently tapped in the market. The gap remains wide and we believe this presents an attractive opportunity for us to become an industry leader by addressing a need to accelerate the advancement of therapeutics that can address significant unmet medical needs. The core elements that we believe differentiate our business model include:

- **Harnessing inventions and technologies from research universities and medical centers.** We are experienced at identifying and sourcing breakthrough discoveries at academic and research institutions, including our current partnerships with Brown University and Rhode Island Hospital.

- **Developing new drug therapies through an operationally efficient, evidence-based and milestone- driven approach.** Once we select an asset for development, we pursue what we believe are appropriate development strategies that we aim to execute efficiently by leveraging contract research organizations (“CROs”) and contract manufacturing organizations (“CMOs”), and other drug development experts and consultants.
- **Building a diverse portfolio of product candidates.** We are evidence-based and program agnostic, meaning that our resources are driven strictly by program progress and milestone achievements. Our approach is to develop multiple diverse programs in parallel which mitigates business risk.
- **Providing attractive economic upside to our partners at research universities and medical centers.** We have a structure wherein our parent company houses each program in a subsidiary. We believe this structure is optimal to provide attractive economic incentives to the discovering institution and its researchers.
- **Employing a multi-disciplinary approach to drug discovery and development across our programs.** Our business model is based on bringing together the appropriate disciplines and expertise needed for each of our programs and leveraging learnings across programs and disease areas.
- **Exploiting multiple commercialization options to maximize each program’s value.** Throughout the development of our product candidates, we plan to continually assess that program’s potential paths to market, and we will endeavor to identify and maximize commercial value through various options, including internal advancement, partnerships with established companies, and spin-outs or other strategic transactions.
- **Leadership team comprised of academic, scientific and business innovators.** We have assembled an industry-leading, multi-disciplinary team consisting of physicians, scientists and business leaders with significant experience in progressing product candidates from early-stage research through clinical trials, regulatory approval and ultimately to commercialization. Although our company has not yet developed or commercialized any biopharmaceutical products, key members of our management team have experience doing so in previous endeavors.

We believe our differentiated business model will enable us to commercialize our products, if approved, and will allow us to replicate our licensing partnerships through aligned incentive structures with research universities and medical centers.

Our pipeline consists of clinical-stage programs. We anticipate moving certain preclinical product candidates in our oncology, fibrosis and/or infectious disease programs into the clinic in the next 12 to 24 months.

Since Legacy Ocean’s inception in 2019, we have devoted substantially all of our efforts to organizing, research and development activities, business planning, building our intellectual property positions and providing general and administrative support for these operations. We have not generated any revenue from product sales.

We have incurred significant operating losses since inception. Our ability to generate product revenues sufficient to achieve profitability will depend heavily upon the successful development and eventual commercialization of one or more of our current products or any future products. Our net losses were \$14.1 million and \$3.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively, and \$97.6 million and \$16.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively. As of September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022, we had an accumulated deficit of \$179.2 million and \$81.6 million, respectively. Our current liabilities are \$30.9 million and \$12.7 million as of September 30, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively. Our current liabilities consisted of accrued expenses including transaction costs, accounting and legal fees, accrued research and development costs, and short-term loans. We expect that our expense and capital requirements will increase substantially in connection with ongoing activities to commercialize our products in the future.

We expect to continue to generate operating losses for the foreseeable future. Our future viability is dependent on the success of our research and development and our ability to access additional capital to fund our operations. There can be no assurance that our current operating plan will be achieved or that additional funding will be available on terms acceptable to us, or at all.

We are subject to risks and uncertainties common to early-stage companies in the biotechnology industry including, but not limited to, new technological innovations, protection of proprietary technology, dependence on key personnel, compliance with government regulations, and the ability to obtain additional capital to fund operations. Our therapeutic products will require significant additional research and development efforts, including preclinical and clinical testing and regulatory approval prior to commercialization. These efforts require additional capital, adequate personnel and extensive compliance reporting capabilities. There can be no assurance that our research and development will be successfully completed, that adequate protection for our intellectual property will be obtained, that any products developed will obtain necessary government regulatory approval, or that any approved products will be commercially viable.

Basis of Presentation

The Company's condensed consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with US GAAP. See Note 2, *Basis of Presentation and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies*, to our condensed consolidated financial statements for a full description of our basis of presentation.

Market Conditions on Our Business

Disruption of global financial markets and a recession or market correction, including as a result of certain ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing military conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the related sanctions imposed against Russia, the effects of Hamas' attack of Israel and the ensuing war, and other global macroeconomic factors such as inflation, could reduce the Company's ability to access capital, which could in the future negatively affect our liquidity and could materially affect our business and the value of its common stock.

Business Combination Agreement with Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp.

Closing of Business Combination

On February 14, 2023, we consummated our previously announced Business Combination pursuant to the Business Combination Agreement, at which time AHAC Merger Sub Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of AHAC, merged with and into Legacy Ocean, with Legacy Ocean surviving the merger as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company. In connection with the Closing, the Company changed its name from "Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp." to "Ocean Biomedical, Inc."

In connection with the Closing (or immediately prior to, where indicated), among other things:

- We became a SEC-registrant and our common stock and public warrants commenced trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market on February 15, 2023 under the symbols "OCEA" and "OCEAW," respectively.
- We issued to the holders of Legacy Ocean's securities as of immediately prior to the Closing approximately 23,355,432 shares of the Company's Class A common stock (with a per-share value of \$10.00) with an aggregate value equal to \$233.6 million, as adjusted as required by the Business Combination Agreement to take into account net working capital, closing net debt and Legacy Ocean's transaction expenses, in exchange for all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Legacy Ocean.
- Holders of 5,570,965 shares of the Company's Class A common stock elected to redeem their shares immediately prior to Closing of the Business Combination for a full pro rata portion of the trust account holding the proceeds from AHAC's IPO.

- 2,625,000 shares of AHAC's Class B common stock held by the Sponsor were converted on a one-for-one basis into 2,625,000 shares of AHAC's Class A common stock immediately prior to the Closing.
- AHAC issued an additional 1,365,000 shares of the Company's Class A common stock prior to the Closing in consideration for the Sponsor obtaining extensions beyond the September 16, 2022 deadline to complete an initial business combination.
- The Backstop Parties purchased 3,535,466 shares of the Company's Class A common stock prior to the closing that were not redeemed and are subject to the forward purchase provisions of the Backstop Agreement (the "Recycled Shares").
- The Backstop Parties purchased an additional 1,200,000 shares of the Company's Class A common stock prior to the Closing that were not redeemed (the "Share Consideration Shares").
- We issued three warrants to Second Street Capital exercisable to acquire that number of shares of our common stock equal to the economic value of the Legacy Ocean warrants previously issued to Second Street Capital in exchange for the termination of the Legacy Ocean warrants. The new warrants are exercisable for a total of 511,712 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$8.06 per share and 102,342 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$7.47 per share.
- We issued to Polar 1,350,000 newly issued shares of our common stock that are subject to the forward purchase provisions of the Backstop Agreement.
- On February 15, 2023, one day following the Closing, we paid the Prepayment of \$51.6 million to the Backstop Parties utilizing funds from AHAC's trust account, pursuant to the terms of the Backstop Agreement, as discussed below. The total Prepayment includes \$37.3 million from the purchase of the Recycled Shares and \$14.3 million from the purchase of the Share Consideration Shares. As the \$14.3 million was a netted transaction between us and Polar, only \$37.3 million was actually paid out of the funds received from the trust account.
- Each share of AHAC's Class A common stock was automatically reclassified into one share of the Company's common stock, including the remaining shares of AHAC Class A common stock that were not redeemed.

The Business Combination is accounted for as a reverse capitalization in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Under the guidance in ASC 805, *Business Combinations*, AHAC is treated as the "acquired" company for financial reporting purposes. See Note 3, *Business Combination and Backstop Agreement*, of our condensed consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this Report for additional detail about the Business Combination and related transactions. The *Liquidity and Capital Resources* section below also includes further discussion of these transactions.

As a result of becoming a public company, we have begun, and will continue to need to hire additional staff and implement processes and procedures to address public company regulatory requirements and customary practices. We incurred and expect to continue to incur additional annual expenses for, among other things, directors' and officers' liability insurance, director fees and additional internal and external accounting, legal and administrative resources and fees.

Components of Our Results of Operations

Revenue

To date, we have not generated any revenue from any sources, including from product sales, and we do not expect to generate any revenue from the sale of products in the foreseeable future. If our development efforts for our product candidates are successful and result in regulatory approval, or license agreements with third parties, we may generate revenue in the future from product sales. However, there can be no assurance as to when we will generate such revenue, if at all.

Operating Expenses

Research and Development Expenses

To date, research and development expenses consist, or will consist, primarily of costs incurred for our research activities, including the development of our product candidates, as well as stock-based compensation. We expense research and development costs as incurred, which we expect will primarily include:

- expenses incurred under our licenses and services agreements;
- employee related expenses, including salaries and benefits for personnel engaged in research and development functions; and
- expenses incurred for outside services with our CMO relating to the development of certain of our preclinical assets.

We recognize external development costs based on an evaluation of the progress to completion of specific milestones using information provided to us by our service providers. This process involves reviewing open contracts and purchase orders, communicating with our personnel to identify services that have been performed on our behalf and estimating the level of service performed and the associated cost incurred for the service when we have not yet been invoiced or otherwise notified of actual costs. Such amounts are expensed as the related goods are delivered or the related services are performed, or until it is no longer expected that the goods will be delivered or the services rendered.

Our direct external research and development expenses consist (or are expected to consist) primarily of external costs, such as fees paid to outside consultants, CROs, CMOs and research laboratories in connection with our preclinical development, process development, manufacturing and clinical development activities. Our direct research and development expenses also include fees incurred under license agreements. We have not allocated and do not expect to allocate employee costs, costs associated with our discovery efforts, laboratory supplies, and facilities, including depreciation or other indirect costs, to specific programs because these costs are or will be deployed across multiple programs and, as such, are not separately classified. We use internal resources primarily to conduct our research and discovery as well as for managing our preclinical development, process development, manufacturing and clinical development activities. These employees work across multiple programs and, therefore, we do not track their costs by program.

Research and development activities are key to our business model. Product candidates in later stages of clinical development generally have higher development costs than those in earlier stages of clinical development, primarily due to the increased size and duration of later stage clinical trials. As a result, we expect that our research and development expenses will increase substantially over the next several years, which will include:

- expenses incurred under our licenses and services agreements to conduct the necessary preclinical studies and clinical trials required to obtain regulatory approval;
- expenses incurred under agreements with CROs, that are primarily engaged in the oversight and conduct of our drug discovery efforts and preclinical studies, clinical trials and CMOs, that are primarily engaged to provide preclinical and clinical product for our research and development candidates;
- other costs related to acquiring and manufacturing materials in connection with our drug discovery efforts and preclinical studies and clinical trial materials, including manufacturing validation batches, as well as investigative sites and consultants that conduct our clinical trials, preclinical studies and other scientific development services;
- employee-related expenses, including salaries and benefits, and stock-based compensation expense for employees engaged in research and development functions; and
- costs related to compliance with regulatory requirements.

At this time, we cannot reasonably estimate or know the nature, timing and costs of the efforts that will be necessary to complete the preclinical and clinical development of any of our product candidates or when, if ever, material net cash inflows may commence from any of our product candidates. The successful development and commercialization of our product candidates is highly uncertain. This uncertainty is due to the numerous risks and uncertainties associated with product development and commercialization, including the following:

- scope, progress, outcome and costs of our preclinical development activities, clinical trials and other research and development activities;
- ability to successfully in-license attractive product candidates from our partners;
- establishing an appropriate safety and efficacy profile with Investigational New Drug, or IND, enabling studies;
- successful patient enrollment in and the initiation and completion of clinical trials;
- the timing, receipt and terms of approvals from applicable regulatory authorities including the FDA and other non-U.S. regulators;
- the extent of any required post-marketing approval commitments to applicable regulatory authorities;
- establishing clinical and commercial manufacturing capabilities with third-party manufacturers in order to ensure that we or our third-party manufacturers are able to produce product successfully;
- development and timely delivery of clinical-grade and commercial-grade drug formulations that can be used in our clinical trials and for commercial launch;
- launching commercial sales of our product candidates, if and when approved, whether alone or in collaboration with others;
- maintaining a continued acceptable safety protocol of our product candidates following any approval; and
- significant and potential changing government regulations.

Any changes in the outcome of any of these variables with respect to the development of our product candidates in preclinical and clinical development could mean a significant change in the costs and timing associated with the development of these product candidates, such as if the FDA or another regulatory authority were to delay our planned start of clinical trials or require us to conduct other clinical trials or testing beyond those that we currently expect or if significant delays in enrollment in any of our planned clinical trials occurred. Such delays or changes may require us to expend significant additional financial resources and time on the completion of clinical development of that product candidate.

General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses consist, or will consist, primarily of salaries and benefits, travel and stock-based compensation expense for personnel in executive, business development, finance, legal, human resources, information technology, pre-commercial and support personnel functions. General and administrative expenses also include direct and allocated facility-related costs, insurance costs, stock-based compensation, and professional fees for internal and external accounting services, legal, patent, consulting, investor and public relations.

We anticipate that our general and administrative expenses will increase in the future as we increase our headcount to support our continued research activities and development of our product candidates and prepare for potential commercialization activities. We also incur significantly increased accounting, audit, legal, regulatory, tax, compliance with Nasdaq and SEC requirements, and director and officer insurance costs as well as investor and public relations expenses associated with operating as a public company. If and when we believe a regulatory approval of a product candidate appears likely, we anticipate an increase in payroll and other employee-related expenses as a result of our preparation for commercial operations as it relates to the sales and marketing of that product candidate.

Income Taxes

Income taxes are recorded in accordance with FASB ASC 740, *Income Taxes*, which provides for deferred taxes using an asset and liability approach. We recognize deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been included in the financial statements or tax returns. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the difference between the financial statement and tax bases of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to reverse, and net operating loss, or NOL, carryforwards and research and development tax credit carryforwards. Valuation allowances are provided, if based upon the weight of available evidence, it is more likely than not that some or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. We have recorded a full valuation allowance to reduce our net deferred income tax assets to zero. In the event we were to determine that we would be able to realize some or all of our deferred income tax assets in the future, an adjustment to the deferred income tax asset valuation allowance would increase income in the period such determination was made. As a consequence, we have recorded no income tax expense nor benefit for all years presented.

Comparison of the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 and 2022

(in thousands)	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
Operating expenses:						
Research and development	\$ 305	\$ 1,858	\$ (1,553)	\$ 726	\$ 8,248	\$ (7,522)
General and administrative	2,350	1,315	1,035	10,148	6,935	3,213
Total operating expenses	2,655	3,173	(518)	10,874	15,183	(4,309)
Operating loss	(2,655)	(3,173)	518	(10,874)	(15,183)	4,309
Other income/(expense)	(11,432)	(495)	(10,937)	(86,736)	(1,193)	(85,543)
Net loss	\$ (14,087)	\$ (3,668)	\$ (10,419)	\$ (97,610)	\$ (16,376)	\$ (81,234)

Operating Expenses

Research and development

Research and development expense for the three months ended September 30, 2023 decreased by \$1.6 million, as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2022. During the three months ended September 30, 2022, \$1.9 million in stock-based compensation expense was recognized for the profit interests granted to our executives and employees by Poseidon, our controlling shareholder, in 2021. Of the total profit interest, 60% of the profits interests granted were immediately vested and the remaining 40% of the profits interests were amortized over 18 months. The profit interests were 100% amortized as of August 31, 2022. There was no stock-based compensation recorded to research and development expense during the three months ended September 30, 2023.

Research and development expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 decreased by \$7.5 million, as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2022. The \$7.5 million decrease was primarily driven by \$8.2 million in stock-based compensation expense that was recognized during the nine months ended September 30, 2022 related to profit interests in Poseidon, as described above. There was no stock-based compensation recorded to research and development expense during the nine months ended September 30, 2023. This was partially offset by an increase of approximately \$0.4 million in license fees.

General and administrative

General and administrative expense for the three months ended September 30, 2023 increased by \$1.0 million, as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2022. The \$1.0 million increase was primarily driven by increases of (i) \$0.8 million in professional services, (ii) \$0.6 million in salaries and wages, and (iii) \$0.5 million in additional insurance fees that are required to operate as a public company. These increases were partially offset by a decrease of \$0.9 million in stock-based compensation expense. There was \$1.1 million in stock-based compensation expense recognized in the nine months ended September 30, 2022 related to the profit interest in Poseidon, as described above, as compared to \$0.2 million of stock-based compensation expense recognized in the nine months ended September 30, 2023 related to options granted to non-executive directors.

General and administrative expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 increased by \$3.2 million, as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2022. The increase of \$3.2 million was primarily driven by increases of (i) \$4.2 million in professional services, (ii) \$1.0 million in salaries and wages, and (iii) \$1.1 million in additional insurance fees that are required to operate as a public company. These increases were partially offset by a decrease of \$3.1 million in stock-based compensation expense. There was \$4.1 million in stock-based compensation expense recognized in the nine months ended September 30, 2022 related to the profit interest in Poseidon, as described above, as compared to \$1.0 million of stock-based compensation expense recognized in the nine months ended September 30, 2023 related to options granted to non-executive directors and the Special Forces F9 warrant.

Other Income/(Expense)

Other expense for the three months ended September 30, 2023 increased by \$10.9 million, as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2022. The increase of \$10.9 million was primarily driven by (i) \$11.4 million related to the changes in fair values of the Fixed Maturity Consideration and Backstop Put Option Liability, (ii) \$0.3 million increase related to the fair value of stock issuances, including \$0.2 million and \$0.1 million in connection to short-term and related-party loan extensions and other non-cash stock issuances, respectively, and (iii) \$0.2 million in interest expense, primarily driven by the amortization of other debt issuance costs. These increases to other expense were partially offset by (i) \$0.6 million in the net changes in the fair values of the 2023 Convertible Note, SPA Warrant, and Ayrton Note Purchase Option and (ii) (i) a \$0.4 million decrease in the fair value of warrant issuances as there were no warrants issued in the third quarter 2023, as compared to the prior year quarter.

Other expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 increased by \$85.5 million, as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2022. The increase of \$85.5 million was primarily driven by (i) \$45.4 million related to the changes in fair values of the Fixed Maturity Consideration and Backstop Put Option Liability, (ii) a \$12.7 million stock issuance loss related to the fair value of the 1,200,000 Share Consideration shares issued to the Backstop Parties in February 2023, (iii) \$15.8 million related to the fair value of stock issuances, including \$13.6 million for the loss on extinguishment of debt related to the fair value of the 1,365,000 Sponsor Extension Shares, \$1.5 million for the loss on extinguishment of debt related to the fair value of stock issuances in connection to short-term and related-party loan extensions, and \$0.7 million in other non-cash stock issuances, (iv) transaction costs of \$8.7 million, (v) \$1.2 million related to the fair value of warrant issuances, (vi) \$0.6 million in the net changes in fair value of the 2023 Convertible Note, SPA Warrant, and Ayrton Note Purchase Option, and (vii) \$1.1 million in interest expense, primarily driven by the amortization of debt issuance costs.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Overview

Since our inception, we have incurred significant operating losses. We have not yet commercialized any products and we do not expect to generate revenue from sales of products for several years, if at all. We had no cash inflows from operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 and as of September 30, 2023, we borrowed approximately \$13.5 million which was primarily used to pay for (i) fees and expenses related to the Business Combination, (ii) accounting and legal fees, and (iii) the Sponsor Extension Loans. Further, as of September 30, 2023, we had minimal cash and a working capital deficiency of \$29.8 million.

To date, we have funded our operations from the proceeds from the issuance of common stock and debt, proceeds from the Backstop Agreement and through self-funding by our founder and have limited current cash on hand to fund our operations. Based on our current operational plans and assumptions, we expect that the net proceeds from the Backstop Agreement, the Ayrton Convertible Note Financing and future debt and equity financings, including possibly under the Common Stock Purchase Agreement, as well as further deferrals of certain of our accrued expenses and contingency payments due upon the closing of future financings, are required to fund operations into the third quarter of 2024. As of September 30, 2023 we received \$1.4 million in proceeds from the Backstop Agreement.

We borrowed \$13.5 million in the first half of 2023, including the proceeds from the initial Note under the Ayrton Convertible Note Financing, the proceeds of which were used to pay the related-party loans and certain accrued expenses. We consummated the closing of the sale of the initial Note on May 25, 2023 for approximately \$6.1 million, net of expenses and issuance costs, which we used to pay the remainder of our existing related-party loans and a portion of our existing short-term loans, totaling \$1.6 million. As of September 30, 2023, the principal of our remaining short-term loans outstanding was \$12.1 million.

There is an economic disincentive for the Backstop Parties to sell shares of our common stock that are subject to the restrictions set forth in the Backstop Agreement unless our common stock is trading above \$10.34 per share (as it relates to certain of the Backstop Parties) or \$8.00 per share (as it relates to one of the Backstop Parties), which means that we need to assume that no cash will be returned to us pursuant to any sales under the Backstop Agreement unless our common stock is trading above \$8.00 and one or more of our Backstop Parties are otherwise able to sell their shares. Based upon the level of funding that we receive from the foregoing sources, we will determine the amount of accrued expenses and contingency payments that we will seek to have our vendors further defer and how much we are able to spend on our operations. We have based these estimates on assumptions that may prove to be wrong, and we could utilize our available capital resources sooner than we expect, in which case, we would need to raise more capital and sooner than expected. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to draw down additional loans under the Ayrton Convertible Note Financing or raise additional capital on reasonable terms or at all, that our common stock will trade above \$8.00, permitting one of the Backstop Parties to sell shares under the Backstop Agreement, that our common stock will trade above \$10.34, permitting the other Backstop Parties to sell shares under the Backstop Agreement, that the Backstop Parties will sell any shares of our common stock held by them or elect to terminate the Backstop Agreement in respect of those shares, or that our vendors will agree to further deferrals of payments due to them. Although the Common Stock Purchase Agreement provides that we have the right, but not the obligation to require White Lion to purchase, from time to time, up to \$75.0 million in aggregate gross purchase price of Equity Line Shares, we are not required or permitted to issue any shares of our common stock under the Common Stock Purchase Agreement if such sale would result in White Lion owning more than 9.99% of our outstanding shares of common stock.

As an emerging growth company, we are dependent on outside capital in order to advance our research and development programs, operate our business, and meet our future obligations as they come due. Our current operating plan indicates that we will incur losses from operations and generate negative cash flows from operating activities, given anticipated expenditures related to research and development activities we lack revenue generating ability at this point in our lifecycle. These events and conditions raise substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern.

We will seek additional funding through private equity financings, debt financings, collaborations, strategic alliances, marketing, distribution, or licensing arrangements. There is no assurance that we will be successful in obtaining additional financing on terms acceptable to us, if at all, and we may not be able to enter into collaborations or other arrangements. If we are unable to obtain funding, we could be forced to delay, reduce, or eliminate our research and development programs, which could adversely affect our business prospects and our ability to continue operations.

Funding Requirements

We expect our expenses to increase substantially in connection with our ongoing activities, particularly as we advance the preclinical activities and clinical trials of our product candidates. In addition, we will incur additional ongoing costs associated with operating as a public company, including significant legal, accounting, compliance, investor relations and other expenses that we did not incur as a private company. The timing and amount of our operating expenditures will depend on our ability to:

- advance preclinical development of our early-stage programs;
- manufacture, or have manufactured on our behalf, our preclinical and clinical drug material and develop processes for late stage and commercial manufacturing;
- Obtain regulatory approvals for any product candidates that successfully complete clinical trials;
- establish a sales, marketing and distribution infrastructure to commercialize our product candidates for which we may obtain marketing approval and intend to commercialize on our own;
- hire additional clinical, quality control and scientific personnel;
- expand our operational, financial and management systems and increase personnel, including personnel to support our research and clinical development, manufacturing and commercialization efforts and our operations as a public company; and
- obtain, maintain, expand and protect our intellectual property portfolio.

We will require additional capital as we seek regulatory approval of our product candidates and if we choose to pursue in-licenses or acquisitions of other product candidates. If we receive regulatory approval for our product candidates, we expect to incur significant commercialization expenses related to product manufacturing, sales, marketing and distribution, depending on where we choose to commercialize. Because of the numerous risks and uncertainties associated with research, development and commercialization of biologic product candidates, we are unable to estimate the exact amount of our working capital needs.

Backstop Agreement

As discussed above, prior to Closing, on February 12, 2023, AHAC, Legacy Ocean and Vellar entered into an amended and restated OTC Equity Prepaid Forward Transaction, referred to herein as the Backstop Agreement. Concurrently, on February 13, 2023, AHAC, Vellar and Legacy Ocean entered into separate assignment and novation agreements (as amended as it relates to Polar on October 2, 2023), whereby Vellar assigned its rights and obligations to a portion of the shares of Class A common stock subject to the Backstop Agreement to Meteora and Polar. Further, the Backstop Agreement granted the Backstop Parties the right to purchase Additional Shares from us of up to an amount equal to the difference between the number of Recycled Shares and the maximum number of shares of 8,000,000.

On February 14, 2023, pursuant to the Backstop Agreement, (i) the Backstop Parties purchased 3,535,466 Recycles Shares of AHAC's Class A common stock for \$10.56 per share and (ii) pursuant to Polar's exercise of its right to purchase Additional Shares, AHAC, Legacy Ocean and Polar entered into a subscription agreement pursuant to which Polar purchased 1,350,000 newly issued shares of our common stock at a per share purchase price of approximately \$10.56 (the "Polar Subscription"). Under the Backstop Agreement, the Additional Shares are subject to the same terms as the Recycled Shares, including with regard to repayment and repurchase.

We agreed to purchase those shares from the Backstop Parties on a forward basis upon the "Maturity Date" (as amended, the third anniversary of the closing of the Business Combination, subject to certain acceleration provisions). The purchase price payable by us includes a prepayment in the amount of the redemption price per share (the "Prepayment").

Subsequent to Closing, the Prepayment amount was equal to \$51.6 million, consisting of \$37.3 million for the Recycled Shares and \$14.3 million for the Polar Subscription shares. As the \$14.3 million was a netted transaction between us and Polar, only \$37.3 million was paid out of the funds we received from AHAC's trust account. This net impact from the payment outflow to Backstop Parties for the Backstop Agreement of \$51.6 million and the proceeds inflow from the issuance of common stock pursuant to the Backstop Agreement and Polar Subscription of \$14.3 million are reported in our condensed consolidated statement of cash flows.

At any time prior to the Maturity Date, the Backstop Parties may elect an optional early termination to sell some or all of the Recycled Shares in the open market. If the Backstop Parties sell any shares prior to the Maturity Date, the pro-rata portion of the Prepayment is due back to us. As of September 30, 2023, the Backstop Parties have sold 143,261 shares, for which we received net proceeds of \$1.4 million, after paying related fees to the Backstop Parties. Depending on the manner in which the OTC Equity Prepaid Forward Transaction is settled, we may never have access to the full Prepayment.

On May 23, 2023 we received an Equity Prepaid Forward Transaction - Valuation Date Notice (“Notice”) from Vellar stating that, due to our alleged failure to timely register the shares held by Vellar, Vellar has the right to terminate the Backstop Agreement as to their portion of the shares and Vellar is claiming it is entitled to receive Maturity Consideration (as defined in the Backstop Agreement) equal to \$6.7 million, which at our discretion may be paid in cash or by offset to the shares currently held by Vellar. Management takes issue with multiple aspects of the Notice including, but not limited to, Vellar’s right to terminate their portion of the Backstop Agreement and their asserted Maturity Consideration calculation. As such, we are consulting with advisors and other parties and are considering the potential resources and remedies we may elect to pursue, and intend to assert our rights should this matter not be resolved. After a review of all applicable documents related to the Backstop Agreement, we believe our position with respect to the terms of the agreement and intent of the parties is supported by the Backstop Agreement and the facts and circumstances under which it was entered into. Further, given the early stage of this matter and the uncertainty inherent in litigation and investigations, the Company does not currently believe it is (i) probable to incur losses or (ii) possible to develop estimates of reasonably possible losses (or a range of possible losses) for this matter.

Refer to Note 3, *Business Combination and Backstop Agreement*, in our condensed consolidated financial Statements included elsewhere in this Report for further detail on the Backstop Agreement and Note 4, *Fair Value Measurements*, for further detail around the valuation of the Fixed Maturity Consideration and Backstop Put Option Liability.

Sponsor Promissory Notes and Ayrton Convertible Note Financing

Sponsor Promissory Notes

Upon consummation of the Business Consummation, we assumed two of AHAC’s loans, totaling \$2.1 million, one of which accrued interest at 8% per annum and the other accrues interest at 15% per annum. Both were due within five days of Closing. \$0.5 million was paid down at Closing, with the remaining paid down in May 2023 via the proceeds received from the initial Note under the Ayrton Convertible Note Financing, discussed below.

In connection with the assumption of AHAC’s loans and pursuant to the terms of the Business Combination Agreement described above, we issued 1,365,000 shares of our common stock to the Sponsor as consideration for providing the loans to us (the “Sponsor Extension Shares”). In addition, pursuant to the terms of an amendment entered into prior to the paydown of the loans, we issued a total of 200,000 shares of our common stock in exchange for extension of the maturity date of one of the loans.

We recognized a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$1.2 million in our consolidated statements of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 for the 200,000 shares issued in exchange for extensions of the maturity date, based on the grant date fair value of the shares issued. In addition, we recognized a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$13.6 million in our condensed consolidated statements of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 for the issuance of the Sponsor Extension Shares, based on the grant date fair value. Further, we recorded interest expense of \$0 and \$0.04 million in our condensed consolidated statements of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, respectively.

Ayrton Convertible Note Financing

In May 2023, we entered into a Securities Purchase Agreement (the “SPA”) with an accredited investor (the “Investor”) for the sale of up to three Senior Secured Convertible Notes (each, a “Note” and collectively, the “Notes”), which Notes are convertible into shares of our common stock, in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$27.0 million, in a private placement (the “Ayrton Convertible Note Financing”).

In May 2023, we consummated the closing for the sale of (i) the initial Note in the principal amount of \$7.6 million and (ii) a warrant to initially acquire up to 552,141 additional shares of our common stock with an initial exercise price of \$11.50 per share of common stock, subject to adjustment, exercisable immediately and expiring five years from the date of issuance (the “SPA Warrant”). Each Note will be sold at an original issue discount of 8%. Future issuances of Notes (“Additional Closings”) are subject to satisfaction of certain conditions. At the closing of the first Additional Closing, \$8.64 million in principal amount of Notes will be issued and \$10.8 million in principal amount of Notes will be issued at the closing of the second Additional Closing. So long as any Notes remain outstanding, we and each of our subsidiaries are prohibited from effecting or entering into an agreement to effect any subsequent placement involving a Variable Rate Transaction, as defined within the SPA, other than pursuant to the White Lion Common Stock Purchase Agreement.

We were required to obtain stockholder approval authorizing the issuance of our common stock under the Notes and Warrant in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Nasdaq (without regard to any limitations on conversion or exercise set forth in the Notes or Warrant, respectively), including, shares of our common stock to be issued in connection with any Additional Closing. We obtained stockholder approval of the transaction in August 2023 at a special meeting of stockholders. As a result, there is no limitation under the SPA that would prohibit us from issuing to the investor shares of common stock in excess of 19.99% of our outstanding shares of common stock as of the date of the SPA.

The interest rate applicable to each Note is, as of any date of determination, the lesser of (i) 8% per annum and (ii) the greater of (x) 5% per annum and (y) the sum of (a) the “secured overnight financing rate,” which from time to time is published in the “Money Rates” column of The Wall Street Journal (Eastern Edition, New York Metro), in effect as of such date of determination and (b) 2% per annum. Each Note will mature on the first anniversary of its issuance. Additionally, each Note is required to be senior to all of our other indebtedness, other than certain permitted indebtedness. The Notes will be secured by all of our existing and future assets (including those of our significant subsidiaries). Upon the occurrence of certain events, the Notes will be payable in monthly installments. A noteholder may, at its election, defer the payment of all or any portion of the installment amount due on any installment date to another installment payment date.

All or any portion of the principal amount of each Note, plus accrued and unpaid interest is convertible at any time, in whole or in part, at the noteholder’s option, into shares of our common stock at an initial fixed conversion price of \$10.34 per share, subject to certain adjustments and alternative conditions. A noteholder will not have the right to convert any portion of a Note, to the extent that, after giving effect to such conversion, the noteholder (together with certain of its affiliates and other related parties) would beneficially own in excess of 9.99% of the shares of our common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to such conversion. Upon a change of control, noteholders may require us to redeem all, or any portion, of the Notes at a price stipulated by certain conditions as discussed within the SPA.

The Notes provide for certain events of default, including, among other things, any breach of the covenants described in the SPA and any failure of Dr. Chirinjeev Kathuria to be the chairman of our Board of Directors. In connection with an event of default, the noteholders may require us to redeem all or any portion of the Notes, at a premium set forth in the SPA.

We are subject to certain customary affirmative and negative covenants regarding the rank of the Notes, the incurrence of indebtedness, the existence of liens, the repayment of indebtedness and the making of investments, the payment of cash in respect of dividends, distributions or redemptions, the transfer of assets, the maturity of other indebtedness, and transactions with affiliates, among other customary matters. We are also subject to financial covenants requiring that (i) the amount of our available cash equal or exceed \$3.0 million at the time of each Additional Closing; (ii) the ratio of (a) the outstanding principal amount of the Notes, accrued and unpaid interest thereon and accrued and unpaid late charges to (b) our average market capitalization over the prior ten trading days, not exceed 35%; and (iii) at any time any Notes remain outstanding, with respect to any given calendar month (each, a “Current Calendar Month”) (x) the available cash on the last calendar day in such Current Calendar Month shall be greater than or equal to the available cash on the last calendar day of the month prior to such Current Calendar Month less \$1.5 million.

Short-Term Loans

Refer to Note 6, *Short-Term Loans*, in Part I, Item 1. “Financial Statements” for additional detail about our short-term loans and the warrants issued in conjunction with these loans.

Equity Financing

Common Stock Purchase Agreement

Following the Business Combination, we are subject to the terms and conditions of (i) a common stock purchase agreement, dated September 7, 2022, and as amended on October 4, 2023, (the “Common Stock Purchase Agreement”) and (ii) a registration rights agreement, dated September 7, 2022 (the “White Lion Registration Rights Agreement”), that AHAC entered into with White Lion Capital LLC (“White Lion”). Pursuant to the Common Stock Purchase Agreement, we have the right from time to time at its option to sell to White Lion up to \$75.0 million in aggregate gross purchase price of newly issued shares (“Equity Line Shares”) of our common stock, subject to certain limitations and conditions set forth in the Common Stock Purchase Agreement. These limitations stipulate, among other things, that we may not sell, and White Lion may not purchase, shares of our common stock that would result in White Lion owning more than 9.99% of our outstanding common stock. The Common Stock Purchase Agreement expires after two years.

In consideration for the commitments of White Lion to purchase Equity Line Shares, the Common Stock Purchase Agreement included issuing initial commitment shares with a value of \$0.8 million based upon the closing sale price two days prior to the filing of the initial registration statement.

In April 2023, the Common Stock Purchase Agreement was amended to fix the number of initial commitment shares at 75,000 shares to White Lion, which had a fair value of \$0.5 million upon issuance. The \$0.5 million in commitment costs were recorded in other income/(expense) in our condensed consolidated statements of operations.

Any future proceeds earned from the sale of shares will be used to support funding of our ongoing operations and working capital.

Other Commitments

License Fees

Our contractual obligations are expected to have an effect on our liquidity and cash flows in future periods. Under our license agreements with our academic research institution partners, fixed license maintenance fees of \$0.3 million are due within 15 days of financing of at least \$10.0 million and \$0.1 million are due within 30 days of financing of at least \$10.0 million. In addition, under these license agreements, we are also required to make payments upon successful completion and achievement of certain milestones as well as royalty payments upon sales of products covered by such licenses. The payment obligations under the license fees are recorded in accounts payable. The payment obligations under the collaboration agreements are contingent upon future events such as our achievement of specified development, clinical, regulatory, and commercial milestones. As the timing of these future milestone payments are not known, we have not included these fees in our condensed consolidated balance sheets as of September 30, 2023. None of these were paid as of September 30, 2023.

Refer to Note 12, *License and Manufacturing Agreements*, in Part I, Item 1. “Financial Statements” for further detail around timing of license fees due.

Contingent Compensation and Other Contingent Payments

Under the management employment agreements, we have salaries and bonuses that are contingently payable upon financing, collectively called contingent compensation, that are contingently payable based only upon our first cumulative capital raise of at least \$50.0 million. As of September 30, 2023, we have contingent compensation and bonuses in the amount of \$12.4 million to certain members of senior management as well as \$2.1 million in contingent vendor payments and \$0.1 million of contingent related party expense. These amounts will not be paid if the contingencies do not occur. Since the payment of obligations under the employment agreements are contingent upon these future events, which are not considered probable as such future events are deemed outside of our control, we have not included these amounts in our condensed consolidated financial statements. None of these were paid as of September 30, 2023.

We have entered and anticipate we will continue to enter into contracts in the normal course of business with external organizations such as CMOs, CROs and other third parties for the manufacture of our product candidates and to support clinical trials and preclinical research studies and testing. We expect that these contracts will be generally cancelable by us, and we anticipate that payments due upon cancellation will consist only of payments for services provided or expenses incurred, including noncancelable obligations of our service providers, up to the date of cancellation. We accrued CMO services in the amount of \$0.6 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023 and 2022 under the Development and Manufacturing Services Agreement with Lonza in developing the product OCX-253.

Cash Flows

To date, we have not generated any revenue. Cash flows to date have resulted from financing activities, including payments made on behalf of the Company by related parties and net proceeds from issuance of shares of common stock consisting of friends and family of our employees and short-term borrowings, including the initial Note from the Ayrton Convertible Note Financing. As of September 30, 2023, our unrestricted cash balance of approximately \$0.03 million is held in a standard checking account and our restricted cash balance of \$1.0 million is held in an escrow account. We do not have any cash equivalents. Cash used in operating activities was primarily used to pay legal and accounting fees. Our outstanding accounts payable and accrued expenses of \$16.1 million as of September 30, 2023 will be paid off utilizing future proceeds from current and future financings, including proceeds from the Common Stock Purchase Agreement and future debt and equity financings.

Critical Accounting Estimates

Our consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America, or GAAP. The preparation of our consolidated financial statements and related disclosures requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, costs and expenses. We base our estimates on historical experience, known trends and events, and various other factors that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. We evaluate our estimates and assumptions on an ongoing basis. Our actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. While our significant accounting policies are described in more detail in Note 2, *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies*, to our condensed consolidated financial statements appearing elsewhere in this Report, we believe that the following accounting policies are those most critical to the judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

Valuation Methodologies

Valuation of Backstop Put Option Liability and Fixed Maturity Consideration

We utilized a Monte-Carlo simulation to value the Backstop Put Option Liability and Fixed Maturity Consideration. The key inputs and assumptions used in the Monte-Carlo Simulation, including volatility, expected term, expected future stock price, and various simulated paths, were utilized to estimate the fair value of the associated derivative liabilities. The value of the Backstop Put Option Liability and Fixed Maturity were calculated as the average present value over 50,000 simulated paths. We measure the fair value at each reporting period, with subsequent fair values to be recorded within other income/(expense) in our condensed consolidated statements of operations.

Valuation of 2023 Convertible Note and SPA Warrant

We utilized a Monte-Carlo simulation at inception to value the 2023 Convertible Note and SPA Warrant. The Monte-Carlo simulation is calculated as the average present value over all simulated paths. The key inputs and assumptions used in the Monte-Carlo Simulation, including volatility, estimated market yield, the probability of various scenarios, including subsequent placement and change in control, and various simulated paths, were utilized to estimate the fair value of the associated liabilities. We will continue to measure the fair value at each reporting period, with subsequent fair values to be recorded within other income/(expense) in our condensed consolidated statements of operations.

Valuation of the Ayrton Note Purchase Option

We utilized the Black-Scholes Merton model to value the Ayrton Note Purchase Option. The key inputs and assumptions used in the Black-Scholes Merton model, including volatility and risk-free rate, were utilized to estimate the fair value of the associated liability. We will continue to measure the fair value at each reporting period, with subsequent fair values to be recorded within other income/(expense) in our condensed consolidated statements of operations.

Fair Values Accounting for Equity-Classified Warrants and Stock-Based Awards

We measure and record the expense related to warrants and stock-based awards based upon the fair value at the date of grant. We estimate the grant date fair value of each common stock option using the Black-Scholes Merton model, which requires the input of highly subjective assumptions and management's best estimates. These estimates involve inherent uncertainties and management's judgement. If factors change and different assumptions are used, our expense recognition could be materially different in the future.

Prior to September 2022, the value of the warrants issued was estimated considering, among other things, contemporaneous valuations for Legacy Ocean's common stock prepared by unrelated third-party valuation firms and prices set forth in our previous filings with the SEC for a proposed IPO of our common stock that was not pursued by us ("Legacy Ocean IPO filings"). We used the mid-range price per share based upon our Legacy Ocean IPO filings. Starting in September 2022, following the execution of the Business Combination Agreement with AHAC, the value of the warrants was based on the closing price of AHAC's Class A common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on the grant date.

Following the Closing of the Business Combination, the value of warrants and stock options issued by us was based on the closing price of our common stock as reported on the Nasdaq Capital Market on the grant date. As noted above, we estimate the fair value, based upon these values, using the Black-Scholes Merton model, which is affected principally by the life of the warrant, the volatility of the underlying shares, the risk-free interest rate, and expected dividends. Expected volatility is based on the historical share volatility of a set of comparable publicly traded companies over a period of time equal to the expected term of the warrants. The risk-free interest rate is determined by reference to the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of grant of the warrant for time periods approximately equal to the expected term of the warrant. Expected dividend yield is zero based on the fact that we have never paid cash dividends and do not expect to pay any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. We expense the amount for warrants and stock-based awards within other income/(expense) and stock-based compensation, respectively, in our condensed consolidated statements of operations.

Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements

In August 2020, the FASB issued Accounting Standard Update ("ASU") No. 2020-06, *Debt — Debt with Conversion and Other Options (Subtopic 470-20) and Derivatives and Hedging-Contracts in Entity's Own Equity (Subtopic 815-40) — Accounting for Convertible Instruments and Contracts in an Entity's Own Equity*, which simplifies the accounting for convertible instruments, amends the guidance on derivative scope exceptions for contracts in an entity's own equity, and modifies the guidance on diluted earnings per share calculations as a result of these changes. We early adopted ASU 2020-06 as of January 1, 2023, using a modified retrospective approach, noting our prior instruments would not be impacted by this adoption. We utilized the updated derivative guidance when accounting for the 2023 Convertible Note (as defined in Note 7, *Senior Secured Convertible Notes*).

Emerging Growth Company and Smaller Reporting Company Status

The Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012 permits an “emerging growth company” such as us to take advantage of an extended transition period to comply with new or revised accounting standards applicable to public companies until those standards would otherwise apply to private companies. We have elected to not “opt out” of this provision and, as a result, we will adopt new or revised accounting standards at the time private companies adopt the new or revised accounting standard and will do so until such time that we either (i) irrevocably elect to “opt out” of such extended transition period or (ii) no longer qualify as an emerging growth company.

We are also a “smaller reporting company” meaning that the market value of our stock held by non-affiliates is expected to be less than \$700 million and our annual revenue was less than \$100 million during the most recently completed fiscal year. We may continue to be a smaller reporting company if either (i) the market value of our stock held by non-affiliates is less than \$250 million or (ii) our annual revenue was less than \$100 million during the most recently completed fiscal year and the market value of our stock held by non-affiliates is less than \$700 million. If we are a smaller reporting company at the time that we cease to be an emerging growth company, we may continue to rely on exemptions from certain disclosure requirements that are available to smaller reporting companies. Specifically, as a smaller reporting company, we may choose to present only the two most recent fiscal years of audited financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and, similar to emerging growth companies, smaller reporting companies have reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

As a smaller reporting company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act), we are not required to provide disclosure under this Item 3.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer (our principal executive officer and principal accounting/financial officer), we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act, as of the end of the period covered by this Report. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC’s rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures. Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer concluded that as of September 30, 2023, the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures were not effective at a reasonable assurance level.

In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. In addition, the design of disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints and that management is required to apply judgment in evaluating the benefits of possible controls and procedures relative to their costs.

Notwithstanding the conclusion by our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer that our disclosure controls and procedures as of September 30, 2023 were not effective, and notwithstanding the identified material weakness, management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, believes the financial statements included in this Report fairly represent in all material respects our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows at and for the periods presented in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

Previously Identified Material Weakness

In connection with our preparation and the audits of our financial statements as of December 31, 2022, 2021, and 2020, we identified a material weakness as defined under the Exchange Act, and by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) in our internal control over financial reporting. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the company's financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Specifically, our material weakness is that our management does not have adequate staffing in its accounting department and has not yet designed and implemented the appropriate processes and internal controls to support accurate and timely financial reporting. Management is working to implement remediation steps to improve our disclosure controls and procedures and our internal control over financial reporting, including hiring of additional accounting personnel, such as Jolie Kahn as our Chief Financial Officer, and engaging consultants to assist management. Additionally, management plans to further develop and implement formal policies, processes and documentation procedures relating to financial reporting.

Management's Plan to Remediate the Material Weaknesses

We have begun taking measures, and plan to continue to take measures, to remediate the material weakness. These measures include hiring or engaging additional accounting personnel with familiarity with reporting under U.S. GAAP, including hiring of Jolie Kahn as our Chief Financial Officer, engaging consultants to assist management, and implementing and adopting additional controls and formal policies, processes and documentation procedures relating to financial reporting. We plan to undertake recruitment efforts to identify additional accounting personnel, including possible use of third-party service providers. Remediation costs consist primarily of additional personnel expenses. We may identify additional material weaknesses in the future or otherwise fail to maintain proper and effective internal controls, which may impair our ability to produce accurate financial statements on a timely basis.

However, the implementation of these measures may not be sufficient to remediate the control deficiencies that may lead to a material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting or to prevent or avoid potential future material weaknesses. Moreover, our current controls and any new controls that we develop may become inadequate in the future because of changes in conditions in our business. Furthermore, we may not have identified all material weaknesses and weaknesses in our disclosure controls and internal control over financial reporting may be discovered in the future. If we are unable to successfully remediate our existing or any future material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting, or if we identify any additional material weaknesses, the accuracy and timing of our financial reporting may be adversely affected, we may be unable to maintain compliance with securities law requirements regarding timely filing of periodic reports in addition to applicable stock exchange listing requirements, investors may lose confidence in our financial reporting, and our share price may decline as a result.

We also could become subject to investigations by Nasdaq, the SEC, or other regulatory authorities. Any failure to develop or maintain effective controls or any difficulties encountered in its implementation or improvement could negatively impact our operating results or cause us to fail to meet its reporting obligations and may result in a restatement of our financial statements for prior periods, which could cause the price of our common stock and warrants to decline.

For more information concerning the material weakness identified and remediation steps, see the section titled "*Risk Factors – We identified a material weakness in Legacy Ocean's internal control over financial reporting. If our remediation of this material weakness is not effective, or if we experience additional material weaknesses or otherwise fail to maintain an effective system of internal controls in the future, we may not be able to accurately report our financial condition or results of operations*" included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed on March 31, 2023.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II-OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

Heller v. Ocean Biomedical, Inc. et al., Case No. 1:23cv212. On May 23, 2023, Jonathan Heller (“Heller”) filed a civil action against the Company, Poseidon Bio LLC, Chirinjeev Kathuria and Elizabeth Ng (collectively, the “Defendants”) in the District Court of Rhode Island. Heller has asserted claims alleging that he is entitled to earned salary and various other payments following his resignation from the Company. On July 27, 2023, Defendants filed their Answer and Affirmative Defenses. Defendants intend to vigorously defend against Heller’s claims.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

In addition to those the risk factors set forth in Part I “Item 1A: Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December, 31, 2022, and other reports we filed with the SEC, below are certain risk factors related to the Company and its operations.

Our level of indebtedness and significant debt service obligations could adversely affect our financial condition or our ability to fulfill our obligations, including the note issued in May 2023, and make it more difficult for us to fund our operations.

As of September 30, 2023, we had \$12.1 million in principal of indebtedness outstanding, including \$7.56 million in principal amount of a convertible promissory note issued in May 2023. We have very limited cash resources from which to repay any obligations that a lender requires to be paid in cash. Our level of indebtedness could have important negative consequences to you and us, including:

- we may have difficulty satisfying our obligations with respect to our outstanding notes and debt obligations;
- we may have difficulty obtaining financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions or other purposes;
- we will need to use a substantial portion of our available cash flow to pay interest and principal on our debt (including our currently outstanding notes and the additional notes offered hereby), which will reduce the amount of money available to finance our operations and other business activities;
- our debt level increases our vulnerability to general economic downturns and adverse industry conditions;
- our debt level could limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and in our industry in general;
- certain of our debt obligations are secured by Company assets, and upon a default, of which there are several in existence as a result of the restatements discussed elsewhere in this Form 10-Q and failure to timely file this Form 10-Q, a lender may be able to seek to seize, control or otherwise monetize those assets to satisfy our debt obligations;
- our leverage could place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors that have less debt; and
- our failure to comply with the financial and other restrictive covenants in our debt instruments which, among other things, may require us to maintain specified financial ratios and will limit our ability to incur debt and sell assets, could result in an event of default that, if not cured or waived, could have a material adverse effect on our business or prospects.

Our ability to meet our payment obligations under our debt instruments depends on our ability to generate significant cash flows or obtain external financing in the future. And, in certain cases our debt obligations may be satisfied by way of a conversion into our common stock, and therefore, our ability to satisfy certain debt obligations is dependent, in part, on the performance of our common stock. In each case, to some extent this is subject to market, economic, financial, competitive, legislative, and regulatory factors as well as other factors that are beyond our control. There can be no assurance that our business will generate cash flow from operations, or that additional capital will be available to us, in amounts sufficient to enable us to meet our debt payment obligations and to fund other liquidity needs. Additionally, events and circumstances may occur which would cause us to not be able to satisfy applicable draw-down conditions and utilize additional funds under the securities purchase agreement entered into in May 2023. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flows, or the value of our common stock is insufficient to facilitate conversions of debt obligations as may be necessary to service our debt payment obligations, we may need to refinance or restructure our debt, sell assets, reduce or delay capital investments, or seek to raise additional capital. If we are unable to implement one or more of these alternatives, we may be unable to meet our debt payment obligations, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, or financial condition.

Despite our existing level of indebtedness, we may incur more indebtedness. This could further exacerbate the risks described above, including our ability to service our existing indebtedness.

We may be able to incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future. Although certain of our debt arrangements contain restrictions on the incurrence of additional indebtedness, such restrictions are subject to a number of qualifications and exceptions, and under certain circumstances indebtedness incurred in compliance with such restrictions could be substantial. To the extent new debt is added to our current debt levels, the risks described above would increase.

To service our indebtedness, we will require a significant amount of cash. Our ability to generate cash depends on many factors beyond our control.

Our ability to make payments on and to refinance our indebtedness, including our outstanding notes, and to fund intended research and development efforts will depend on our ability to generate cash in the future. This, to a certain extent, is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control. We cannot assure you that our business when or if our operations will ultimately generate sufficient cash flow from operations, that currently anticipated cost savings and operating improvements will be realized on schedule or that future borrowings or another source of liquidity will be available to us in an amount sufficient to enable us to pay our obligations, or to fund our other liquidity needs. If our cash flows and capital resources are insufficient to fund our debt service obligations, or we are unable to identify and execute on another source of outside liquidity, we may be forced to reduce or delay capital expenditures, sell material assets or operations, attempt to obtain additional equity capital or refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness, including the 2023 Convertible Note, on or before maturity. In the absence of such operating results and resources, we could face substantial cash flow problems and might be required to sell material assets or operations to meet our debt service and other obligations. We cannot assure you as to the timing of such asset sales or the proceeds which we could realize from such sales and we cannot assure you that we will be able to refinance any of our indebtedness, including amounts owed under the securities purchase agreement entered into in May 2023, on commercially reasonable terms or at all.

Because there are outstanding notes, obligations and warrants convertible into a significant number of shares of our common stock, holders of our common stock could be subject to significant dilution.

We have funded various of our operations through convertible debt obligations. From time to time we have also issued a number of shares and warrants to acquire services and assets from third parties. To the extent that our debt obligations are satisfied by way of conversions and we issue additional shares of our common stock to satisfy obligations or in consideration for assets or services these issuances would have a dilutive effect on our existing stockholders.

Because of alternate conversion price notices from our principal noteholder, there may be significant dilution.

Between March 4, 2024 and March 8, 2024, our principal noteholder sent Alternate Conversion Notices to the Company to convert the principal value and accrued and unpaid interest under its Note with the Company into shares of Company common stock pursuant to the Alternate Conversion Price mechanism in the Note. The Company is currently evaluating the situation and working with the noteholder to arrive at an equitable resolution. If not resolved, an issuance of shares could result in significant dilution.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities

Set forth below is information regarding equity securities issued by us during the period covered by this Report that were not registered under the Securities Act. No underwriters were involved in the sales and the certificates (or book entry notations) representing the securities sold and issued contain legends restricting transfer of the securities without registration under the Securities Act or an applicable exemption from registration.

Issuances of Capital Stock

In connection with the loan modification agreement, dated March 22, 2023, between the Company and NPIC Limited (the “Loan Modification Agreement”), in August, 2023, we issued to NPIC Limited 50,000 shares of our common stock in exchange for a previous extension of the maturity date of the loan made pursuant to the Loan and Transfer Agreement between AHAC, the Sponsor and NPIC Limited dated December 13, 2022. This transaction was effected without registration under the Securities Act in reliance on the exemption from registration provided under Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act.

In August, 2023, we issued to the Investor 11,032 shares of our common stock as an interest payment under the 2023 Convertible Note. This transaction was effected without registration under the Securities Act in reliance on the exemption from registration provided under Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act.

In September, 2023, we issued to the Investor 13,445 shares of our common stock as an interest payment under the 2023 Convertible Note. This transaction was effected without registration under the Securities Act in reliance on the exemption from registration provided under Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act.

The Company issued 24,477 shares of its common stock to the Investor during the third quarter of 2023 as interest payments.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

We did not purchase any shares of our common stock during the quarter ended September 30, 2023.

Item 6. Exhibits.

Exhibit Number	Description
2.1	<u>Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of August 31, 2022 by and between Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp. (n/k/a Ocean Biomedical, Inc.), AHAC Merger Sub Inc., Aesther Healthcare Sponsor, LLC, Dr. Chirinjeev Kathuria and Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (n/k/a Ocean Biomedical Holdings, Inc.) (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 2.1 to the Form 8-K filed by Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp. (n/k/a Ocean Biomedical, Inc.) (File No. 001-40793) on September 8, 2022).</u>
2.2	<u>Amendment to Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of December 5, 2022, by and between Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp. (n/k/a Ocean Biomedical, Inc.), AHAC Merger Sub Inc., Aesther Healthcare Sponsor, LLC, Dr. Chirinjeev Kathuria and Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (n/k/a Ocean Biomedical Holdings, Inc.) (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 2.2 to the Form 8-K filed by Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (File No. 001-40793) on February 15, 2023).</u>
3.1	<u>Third Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.1 to the Form 8-K filed by Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (File No. 001-40793) on February 15, 2023).</u>
3.2	<u>Amended and Restated Bylaws (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.2 to the Form 8-K filed by Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (File No. 001-40793) on February 15, 2023).</u>
10.1	<u>Seventh Amendment to Exclusive License Agreements (BROWN ID 2465, 2576, 2587, BROWN ID 3039, BROWN ID 2613, BROWN ID 2502) between Elkurt Inc. and Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (n/k/a Ocean Biomedical Holdings, Inc.) dated August 25, 2022.</u>
10.2	<u>Side Letter Agreement, dated October 2, 2023, by and between Ocean Biomedical, Inc. and Polar Multi-Strategy Master Fund.</u>
31.1*	<u>Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.</u>
31.2*	<u>Certification of Principal Accounting Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.</u>
32.1**	<u>Certification of Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.</u>
32.2**	<u>Certification of Principal Accounting Officer Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.</u>
101.INS	Inline XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as inline XBRL and contained in Exhibits 101)

* Filed herewith.

** Furnished herewith.

The certifications furnished in Exhibits 32.1 and 32.2 are deemed to accompany this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and are not deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, or otherwise subject to the liability of that section, nor shall they be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, irrespective of any general incorporation language contained in such filing.

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 thereunto duly authorized.

Ocean Biomedical, Inc.

Date: April 15, 2024

By: /s/ Elizabeth Ng

Elizabeth Ng
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: April 15, 2024

By: /s/ Jolie Kahn

Jolie Kahn
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

SEVENTH AMENDMENT TO EXCLUSIVE LICENSE AGREEMENTS

This Seventh Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement (this “Amendment”) is entered into effective November 1, 2023 (the “Amendment Date”), by and between Elkurt, Inc., a Rhode Island corporation with an address at 297 President Ave, Providence RI 02906 (“Elkurt”) and Ocean Biomedical Inc., a Delaware corporation with an address at 19W060 Avenue LaTours, Oak Brook, IL 60523 (“Licensee”).

R E C I T A L S

A. Elkurt and Licensee entered into four license contracts as follows:

1. Exclusive License Agreement, subtitled, “BROWN ID 2465, 2576, 2587 (FRG) Antibody” effective as of July 31, 2020, as amended by the First Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement effective as of March 21, 2021, and the Second Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement effective as of August 31, 2021, and the Third Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement effective as of March 25, 2022, and the Fourth Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement, effective as of July 1, 2022, the Fifth Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement, effective as of July 2, 2022, and the Sixth Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement, effective as of August 25, 2022 (as so amended, “**License 1**”);

2. Exclusive License Agreement, subtitled, “BROWN ID 3039 - Bi Specific Antibody Anti-CTLA4” effective as of July 31, 2020, as amended by the First Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement effective as of March 21, 2021, and the Second Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement effective as of August 31, 2021, and the Third Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement effective as of March 25, 2022, and the Fourth Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement, effective as of July 1, 2022, the Fifth Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement, effective as of July 2, 2022, and the Sixth Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement, effective as of August 25, 2022 (as so amended, “**License 2**”);

3. Exclusive License Agreement, subtitled, “BROWN ID 2502 - (Chit1) Small Molecule Antifibrotic” effective as of July 31, 2020, as amended by the First Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement effective as of March 21, 2021, and the Second Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement effective as of August 31, 2021, and the Third Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement effective as of March 25, 2022, and the Fourth Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement, effective as of July 1, 2022, the Fifth Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement, effective as of July 2, 2022, and the Sixth Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement, effective as of August 25, 2022 (as so amended, the “**License 3**”); and

4. Exclusive License Agreement, subtitled, “BROWN ID 2613 Bispecific (FRG)xAnti-PD-1 (FRGxPD-1)” effective as of July 31, 2020, as amended by the First Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement effective as of March 21, 2021, and the Second Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement effective as of August 31, 2021, and the Third Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement effective as of March 25, 2022, and the Fourth Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement, effective as of July 1, 2022, the Fifth Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement, effective as of July 2, 2022, and the Sixth Amendment to Exclusive License Agreement, effective as of August 25, 2022 (as so amended, the “**License 4**”).

B. License 1, License 2, License 3, and License 4 are each referred to herein as an “**Elkurt License**” and collectively as the “**Four Elkurt Licenses**.”

NOW, THEREFORE, Elkurt and Licensee, in consideration of the foregoing premises and the mutual promises herein, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

1 That as to Exhibit B, the Development and Commercialization Plan of each Elkurt License, the dates shown thereon in each of the Four Elkurt Licenses are hereby extended such that, as amended by this Amendment, the dates in Exhibit B of each Elkurt License are hereby as set forth in Attachment 1 of this Amendment.

2 Brown has provided to Elkurt and Elkurt has provided to Licensee the invoices listed in Attachment 2 of this Amendment totaling \$ 34,639.88 (the “Invoiced Patent Expenses”). Licensee agrees to pay these Invoiced Patent Expenses as follows:

2.1 On or before November 3rd, 2023, Licensee shall pay directly to Brown the amount of \$10,000.

2.2 On or before November 15, Licensee shall pay directly to Brown the remainder, \$24,639.88, of said amount shown on Attachment 2, plus all interest accrued thereon in accordance with Section 5.3 of each Elkurt License as calculated from each original invoice due date (such interest amount due to Brown to be provided by Brown).

3 Section 4.1.2 of each Elkurt License is hereby amended by deleting the date “November 1, 2023” and inserting in place thereof the date, “May 1, 2024.”

4 Section 10.2.2.4 of each Elkurt License is hereby amended by deleting the date “November 1, 2023” and inserting in place thereof the date, “May 1, 2024.”

5 Within 30 days of Licensee raising at least ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in equity financing as set forth in Section 10.2.2.4, Licensee shall pay directly to Brown the amount of \$50,000, which amount will be applied toward the License Maintenance Fee stated in Section 4.2 of each Elkurt License, equally across each of the Four Elkurt Licenses; *provided*, however, that the foregoing does not limit or otherwise modify Licensee’s obligation to pay the License Maintenance Fee Payments in full in accordance with the terms of the Elkurt Licenses.

6 Licensee will provide Elkurt and Brown with documentary materials to evidence the amount of equity financing raised to date by Licensee towards the obligation that Licensee raise \$10,000,000 in equity financing.

7 As amended by this Amendment, all provisions of each Elkurt License remain in full force and effect and are hereby ratified and confirmed. All references to each Elkurt License, wherever, whenever or however made or contained, are and shall be deemed to be references to such Elkurt License as amended by this Amendment. Section 12.6 of an Elkurt License (regarding Governing Law and Jurisdiction) is incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof and shall govern this Amendment in all respects. This Amendment may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same instrument. The signatories may execute this Amendment by electronic means and signatures, copies of which shall each be deemed to be originals. This Amendment constitutes the entire understanding between the parties hereto with respect to the matters contained herein and this Amendment shall not be modified except in writing executed by all parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto execute this Amendment:

Ocean Biomedical, Inc.

Elkurt, Inc.

By: /s/ Chirinjeev Kathuria

By: /s/ Jonathan Kurtis

Name: Chirinjeev Kathuria

Name: Jonathan Kurtis

Title: Executive Chairman.

Title: President

SIDE LETTER**Dated October 2, 2023**

This Side Letter Agreement (the "*Side Letter*") to the Assignment and Novation Agreement dated February 13, 2023 (the "Novation Agreement"), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, by and among (i) **Ocean Biomedical Inc.**, a Delaware corporation formerly known as Aesther Healthcare Acquisition Corp (the "*Counterparty*"), (ii) **Ocean Biomedical Holdings, Inc.**, a Delaware corporation formerly known as Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (the "*Target*" and together as the successor of Counterparty, the "*Company*"), (iii) **Vellar Opportunity Fund SPV – Series 3**, a Delaware limited liability company, ("**Vellar**"), and (iv) Polar Multi-Strategy Master Fund (the "*Purchaser*" or "*Assignee*"). The Counterparty, the Target, the Company, Vellar, and the Purchaser are sometimes referred to herein individually as a "*Party*" and, collectively, as the "*Parties*". The terms not defined herein shall have the meaning assigned to them in the Novation Agreement and the Forward Purchase Agreement, which is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Novation Agreement, the Assignee assumed the rights and obligations of Vellar with respect to 2,666,667 Shares under the Forward Purchase Agreement.

WHEREAS, the Company and the Assignee wish to amend certain terms of the portion of the Forward Purchase Agreement that was assigned to the Assignee as provided herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants contained in this Agreement, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt, sufficiency and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the Company and the Assignee agree as follows:

1. That the definition of "Seller VWAP Trigger Event" on page 2 of the Forward Purchase Agreement shall be amended and replaced in its entirety as follows:

Seller VWAP Trigger Event: An event that occurs if the VWAP Price is below \$2.50 per Share for any 20 trading days during a 30 consecutive trading day-period thereafter.

2. That the definition of "Reset Price" on page 2 of the Forward Purchase Agreement shall be amended and replaced in its entirety as follows:

Reset Price: \$8.00, provided that the Reset Price may be reduced pursuant to a Dilutive Offering Reset.

3. Except as explicitly modified hereby, all other terms and provisions of the Novation Agreement and Forward Purchase Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
4. This Agreement may be executed and delivered (including by facsimile or other electronic transmission) in one or more counterparts, and by the different Parties in separate counterparts, each of which when executed shall be deemed to be an original but all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same agreement.

[signatures on the following page]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this Assignment and Novation Agreement to be signed and delivered as of the date first written above.

THE COMPANY:

OCEAN BIOMEDICAL, INC.

By: 
Name: Dr. Chiranjeev Kathuria
Title: Executive Chairman

ASSIGNEE/PURCHASER:

POLAR MULTI-STRATEGY MASTER FUND,
By its investment advisor,
Polar Asset Management Partners Inc.

By: 
Name: Andrew Ma
Title: Chief Compliance Officer

By: 
Name: Kirstie Moore
Title: Legal Counsel

[Signature Page to Side Letter of Novation Agreement]

Certification of Chief Executive Officer

I, Elizabeth Ng, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (the “registrant”);
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant’s other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant’s disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant’s most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant’s fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant’s other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant’s auditors and the audit committee of the registrant’s Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant’s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting.

Date: April 15, 2024

/s/ Elizabeth Ng

Elizabeth Ng

Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

Certification of Chief Financial Officer

I, Jolie Kahn, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (the “registrant”);
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant’s other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant’s disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant’s most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant’s fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant’s other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant’s auditors and the audit committee of the registrant’s Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant’s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant’s internal control over financial reporting.

Date: April 15, 2024

/s/ Jolie Kahn

Jolie Kahn

Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)

Certification of Chief Executive Officer
Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, As Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

I, Elizabeth Ng, Chief Executive Officer of Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (the “Company”), certify, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that:

- (i) The Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Ocean Biomedical, Inc. for the period ended September 30, 2023 (the “Report”) fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or Section 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and
- (ii) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company at the dates and for the periods indicated.

Dated: April 15, 2024

/s/ Elizabeth Ng

Elizabeth Ng
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Certification of Chief Financial Officer
Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, As Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

I, Jolie Kahn, Chief Financial Officer of Ocean Biomedical, Inc. (the "Company"), certify, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that:

- (i) The Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Ocean Biomedical, Inc. for the period ended September 30, 2023 (the "Report") fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or Section 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and
- (ii) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company at the dates and for the periods indicated.

Dated: April 15, 2024

/s/ Jolie Kahn

Jolie Kahn
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)
