

Calithera Biosciences, Inc.
Form DEF 14A
April 29, 2016

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

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

CALITHERA BIOSCIENCES, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box)

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 - 6. Amount Previously Paid:

 - 7. Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

 - 8. Filing Party:

9. Date Filed:

CALITHERA BIOSCIENCES, INC.

343 Oyster Point Blvd., Suite 200

South San Francisco, California 94080

(650) 870-1000

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held On June 14, 2016

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Calithera Biosciences, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"). The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. local time at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 250 Gateway Blvd., Saratoga Conference Room, South San Francisco, CA 94080 for the following purposes:

1. To elect the Board's two nominees for director to serve until the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders or until their successors are selected.
2. To ratify the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Ernst & Young LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for its fiscal year ending December 31, 2016.
3. To conduct any other business properly brought before the meeting.

These items of business are more fully described in the Proxy Statement accompanying this Notice.

The record date for the Annual Meeting is April 22, 2016. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on that date may vote at the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ William D. Waddill

Secretary

South San Francisco, California

April 29, 2016

You are cordially invited to attend the meeting in person. Whether or not you expect to attend the meeting, please complete, date, sign and return the proxy mailed to you, or vote over the internet as instructed in these materials, as promptly as possible in order to ensure your representation at the meeting. Even if you have voted

by proxy, you may still vote in person if you attend the meeting. Please note, however, that if your shares are held of record by a broker, bank or other nominee and you wish to vote at the meeting, you must obtain a proxy issued in your name from that record holder.

CALITHERA BIOSCIENCES, INC.

343 Oyster Point Blvd., Suite 200

South San Francisco, California 94080

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PROXY STATEMENT

FOR THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

June 14, 2016

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THESE PROXY MATERIALS AND VOTING

Why did I receive a notice regarding the availability of proxy materials on the internet?

Pursuant to rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), we have elected to provide access to our proxy materials over the internet. Accordingly, we have sent you a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice") because the Board of Directors of Calithera Biosciences, Inc. (sometimes referred to as the "Company" or Calithera) is soliciting your proxy to vote at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting"), including at any adjournments or postponements of the meeting. All stockholders will have the ability to access the proxy materials on the website referred to in the Notice or request to receive a printed set of the proxy materials. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the internet or to request a printed copy may be found in the Notice.

We intend to mail the Notice on or about April 29, 2016 to all stockholders of record entitled to vote at the annual meeting.

Will I receive any other proxy materials by mail?

We may send you a proxy card, along with a second Notice, on or after May 9, 2016.

How do I attend the annual meeting?

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. local time at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 250 Gateway Blvd., Saratoga Conference Room, South San Francisco, CA 94080. Directions to the annual meeting may be found on the Investors section of our website at www.calithera.com. Information on how to vote in person at the annual meeting is discussed below.

Who can vote at the annual meeting?

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on April 22, 2016 will be entitled to vote at the annual meeting. On this record date, there were 18,955,302 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote.

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If on April 22, 2016 your shares were registered directly in your name with Calithera's transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, then you are a stockholder of record. As a stockholder of record, you may vote in

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person at the meeting or vote by proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to fill out and return the enclosed proxy card to ensure your vote is counted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker or Bank

If on April 22, 2016 your shares were held, not in your name, but rather in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in street name and the

Notice is being forwarded to you by that organization. The organization holding your account is considered to be the stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the annual meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker or other agent regarding how to vote the shares in your account. You are also invited to attend the annual meeting. However, since you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the meeting unless you request and obtain a valid proxy from your broker or other agent.

What am I voting on?

There are two matters scheduled for a vote:

Proposal No. 1 To elect two Class II directors to hold office until the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until their successors are selected; and

Proposal No. 2 To ratify the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Ernst & Young, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016.

What if another matter is properly brought before the meeting?

The Board of Directors knows of no other matters that will be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting. If any other matters are properly brought before the meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying proxy to vote on those matters in accordance with their best judgment.

How do I vote?

You may either vote For the nominees to the Board of Directors or you may Withhold your vote for any nominee you specify. For the proposal to ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP, you may vote For or Against or abstain from voting.

The procedures for voting are fairly simple:

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the annual meeting, vote by proxy or vote by proxy through the internet or vote by proxy using a proxy card that you may request or that we may elect to deliver at a later time. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to vote by proxy to ensure your vote is counted. You may still attend the meeting and vote in person even if you have already voted by proxy.

To vote in person, come to the annual meeting and we will give you a ballot when you arrive.

To vote using the proxy card, simply complete, sign and date the proxy card that may be delivered and return it promptly in the envelope provided. If you return your signed proxy card to us before the annual meeting, we will vote your shares as you direct.

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To vote through the internet, go to <http://www.voteproxy.com> to complete an electronic proxy card. You will be asked to provide the company number and control number from the Notice. Your internet vote must be received by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time on June 13, 2016 to be counted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of Broker or Bank

If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your broker, bank, or other agent, you should have received a Notice containing voting instructions from that organization rather than from Calithera. Simply follow the voting instructions in the Notice to ensure that your vote is counted. To vote in person at the annual meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from your broker, bank or other agent. Follow the instructions from your broker or bank included with these proxy materials, or contact your broker or bank to request a proxy form.

Internet proxy voting may be provided to allow you to vote your shares online, with procedures designed to ensure the authenticity and correctness of your proxy vote instructions. However, please be aware that you must bear any costs associated with your internet access, such as usage charges from internet access providers and telephone companies.

How many votes do I have?

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of common stock you own as of April 22, 2016.

What happens if I do not vote?

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If you are a stockholder of record and do not vote by completing your proxy card, through the internet or in person at the annual meeting, your shares will not be voted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of Broker or Bank

If you are a beneficial owner and do not instruct your broker, bank, or other agent how to vote your shares, the question of whether your broker or nominee will still be able to vote your shares depends on whether the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) deems the particular proposal to be a routine matter. Brokers and nominees can use their discretion to vote uninstructed shares with respect to matters that are considered to be routine, but not with respect to non-routine matters. Under the rules and interpretations of the NYSE, non-routine matters are matters that may substantially affect the rights or privileges of stockholders, such as mergers, stockholder proposals, elections of directors (even if not contested), executive compensation (including any advisory stockholder votes on executive compensation and on the frequency of stockholder votes on executive compensation), and certain corporate governance proposals, even if management-supported. Accordingly, your broker or nominee may not vote your shares on Proposal No. 1 without your instructions, but may vote your shares on Proposal No. 2 even in the absence of your instruction.

What if I return a proxy card or otherwise vote but do not make specific choices?

If you return a signed and dated proxy card or otherwise vote without marking voting selections, your shares will be voted, as applicable, For the election of the nominees for director and For the ratification of selection of Ernst & Young as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016. If any other matter is properly presented at the meeting, your proxyholder (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares using his or her best judgment.

Who is paying for this proxy solicitation?

We will pay for the entire cost of soliciting proxies. In addition to these proxy materials, our directors and employees may also solicit proxies in person, or by other means of communication. Directors and employees will not be paid any additional compensation for soliciting proxies. We may also reimburse brokerage firms, banks and other agents for the cost of forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners.

What does it mean if I receive more than one Notice?

If you receive more than one Notice, your shares may be registered in more than one name or in different accounts. Please follow the voting instructions on the Notices to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy?

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

Yes. You can revoke your proxy at any time before the final vote at the meeting. If you are the record holder of your shares, you may revoke your proxy in any one of the following ways:

You may submit another properly completed proxy card with a later date.

You may grant a subsequent proxy through the internet.

You may send a timely written notice that you are revoking your proxy to Calithera's Secretary at 343 Oyster Point Blvd., Suite 200, South San Francisco, CA 94080.

You may attend the annual meeting and vote in person. Simply attending the meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy.

Your most current proxy card or internet proxy is the one that is counted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of Broker or Bank

If your shares are held by your broker or bank as a nominee or agent, you should follow the instructions provided by your broker or bank.

When are stockholder proposals and director nominations due for next year's annual meeting?

To be considered for inclusion in next year's proxy materials, your proposal must be submitted in writing by December 30, 2016, to Calithera's Secretary at 343 Oyster Point Blvd., Suite 200, South San Francisco, CA 94080 *provided, however*, that if our 2017 annual meeting of stockholders is held before May 15, 2017, or after July 14, 2017, then the reasonable amount of time prior to the date we begin to print and mail our proxy statement for the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders. If you wish to submit a proposal (including a director nomination) at the meeting that is not to be included in next year's proxy materials, you must provide specified information in writing to our corporate Secretary at the address above no earlier than February 14, 2017, and no later than March 16, 2017, except that if our 2017 annual meeting of stockholders is held before May 15, 2017, or after July 14, 2017, notice by the stockholder to be timely may be received not later than the close of business on the tenth day following the day on which such public announcement of the date of such meeting is made. You are also advised to review our Bylaws, which contain a description of the information required to be submitted as well as additional requirements about advance notice of stockholder proposals and director nominations.

How are votes counted?

Votes will be counted by the inspector of election appointed for the meeting, who will separately count, (a) for the proposal to elect directors, votes For, Withhold and broker non-votes, and (b) with respect to other proposals, votes For and Against, abstentions and, if applicable, broker non-votes.

Abstentions will be counted towards the vote total for Proposal No. 2, and will have the same effect as **Against** votes. Broker non-votes have no effect and will not be counted towards the vote total for any proposal.

What are broker non-votes ?

As discussed above, when a beneficial owner of shares held in **street name** does not give instructions to the broker or nominee holding the shares as to how to vote on matters deemed by the NYSE to be **non-routine**, the broker or nominee cannot vote the shares. These unvoted shares are counted as **broker non-votes**.

How many votes are needed to approve each proposal?

Proposal No. 1 For the election of directors, the nominees receiving the most For votes from the holders of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the election of directors will be elected.

Proposal No. 2 To ratify the selection of Ernst & Young, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016, the proposal must receive For votes from the holders of a majority of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the matter. If you Abstain from voting, it will have the same effect as an Against vote. Broker non-votes will have no effect.

What is the quorum requirement?

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will be present if stockholders holding at least a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote are present at the meeting in person or represented by proxy. On the record date, there were 18,955,302 shares outstanding and entitled to vote. Thus, the holders of 9,477,652 shares must be present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting to have a quorum.

Your shares will be counted towards the quorum only if you submit a valid proxy (or one is submitted on your behalf by your broker, bank or other nominee) or if you vote in person at the meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted towards the quorum requirement. If there is no quorum, the holders of a majority of shares present at the meeting in person or represented by proxy may adjourn the meeting to another date.

How can I find out the results of the voting at the annual meeting?

Preliminary voting results will be announced at the annual meeting. In addition, final voting results will be published in a current report on Form 8-K that we expect to file within four business days after the annual meeting. If final voting results are not available to us in time to file a Form 8-K within four business days after the meeting, we intend to file a Form 8-K to publish preliminary results and, within four business days after the final results are known to us, file an additional Form 8-K to publish the final results.

PROPOSAL NO. 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Calithera's Board of Directors is divided into three classes. Each class consists, as nearly as possible, of one-third of the total number of directors, and each class has a three-year term. Vacancies on the Board may be filled only by persons elected by a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected by the Board to fill a vacancy in a class, including vacancies created by an increase in the number of directors, shall serve for the remainder of the full term of that class and until the director's successor is duly elected and qualified.

The Board of Directors presently has six members. There are two directors in the class whose term of office expires in 2016. The nominees listed below are currently directors of the Company. If elected at the annual meeting, these nominees would serve until the 2019 annual meeting and until a successor has been duly elected and qualified, or, if sooner, until the director's death, resignation or removal. It is the Company's policy to encourage directors and nominees for director to attend the Annual Meeting. Four of the directors attended the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Dr. Pakianathan was appointed as a director by our Board pursuant to the terms of our voting agreement with our investors in effect at the time giving certain investors the right to designate persons to become directors, with Delphi Ventures VIII, L.P. designating Dr. Pakianathan as its designee for appointment to the Board. The voting agreement terminated upon the completion of our Initial Public Offering in October 2014 and none of our stockholders have any special rights regarding the election or designation of members of our Board of Directors.

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes of the holders of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the election of directors. Accordingly, the nominee receiving the highest number of affirmative votes will be elected. Shares represented by executed proxies will be voted, if authority to do so is not withheld, for the election of the nominee named below. If the nominee becomes unavailable for election as a result of an unexpected occurrence, shares that would have been voted for that nominee will instead will be voted for the election of a substitute nominee proposed by Calithera. Each person nominated for election has agreed to serve if elected. The Company's management has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable to serve.

The following is a brief biography of the nominees and the directors whose term will continue after the annual meeting.

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING AT THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Jonathan G. Drachman, M.D. Dr. Drachman, age 54, has served as a member of our board of directors since December 2013. Since November 2004, Dr. Drachman has served in a number of roles at Seattle Genetics, Inc., most recently Chief Medical Officer and Executive Vice President of Research and Development since October 2013 and its Senior Vice President, Research and Translational Medicine from May 2010 to October 2013. From 1998 to 2004, Dr. Drachman served as a faculty member in the Hematology Division, Department of Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle, and as a Senior Investigator in the Division of Research and Education at the Puget Sound Blood Center. Dr. Drachman received a B.A. in Biochemistry from Harvard University and an M.D. from Harvard Medical School. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Medical Oncology at the University of Washington.

We believe Dr. Drachman's experience in the biotechnology industry qualifies him to serve on our board of directors.

Deepa R. Pakianathan, Ph.D. Dr. Pakianathan, age 51, has served as a member of our board of directors since September 2012. Since 2001, Dr. Pakianathan has served as a Managing Member at Delphi Ventures, a venture capital firm. From 1998 to 2001, Dr. Pakianathan served as a Vice President in the healthcare group at JP Morgan Chase & Company. From 1993 to 1997, Dr. Pakianathan served as a postdoctoral scientist in the

Immunology Department at Genentech Corporation. Dr. Pakianathan currently serves on the board of directors of Alder Biopharmaceuticals, Inc., Alexza Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Oncomed Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Karyopharm Therapeutics, Inc. Dr. Pakianathan holds an M.S. and a Ph.D. from Wake Forest University, a B.Sc. from the University of Bombay, India and an M.Sc. from The Cancer Research Institute at the University of Bombay, India.

We believe Dr. Pakianathan's experience as a venture capital investor in and as a director for multiple biotechnology companies, as well as her experience as a biotechnology investment banker, qualify her to serve on our board of directors.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS

A VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE NAMED NOMINEES.

DIRECTORS CONTINUING IN OFFICE UNTIL THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Susan M. Molineaux, Ph.D. Dr. Molineaux, age 62, has served as our President, Chief Executive Officer and as a member of our board of directors since she co-founded Calithera in March 2010. Dr. Molineaux co-founded Proteolix, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company, where she served as Chief Scientific Officer from 2003 to 2005, Chief Executive Officer from January 2006 to January 2009 and again as Chief Scientific Officer from February 2009 until Proteolix's acquisition by Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in November 2009. From 2000 to 2003, Dr. Molineaux served as Vice President of Biology at Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a drug development company. From 1999 to 2000, she served as Vice President of Biology at Praelux, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company, and from 1994 through 1999, she served as Vice President of Drug Development at Praecis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company. From 1989 until 1994, she was a scientist in the Immunology group at Merck & Co. Dr. Molineaux currently serves as a member of the board of directors of Geron Corporation and Theravance Biopharma, Inc. She also currently serves as a member of the board of directors of We Teach Science, a San Francisco Bay Area mentoring program for students in math and science, and served as a member of the board of directors of the California Life Sciences Association until March 2016. Dr. Molineaux holds a B.S. in Biology from Smith College and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from Johns Hopkins University, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University.

We believe Dr. Molineaux's experience on our board of directors and as our Chief Executive Officer, as well as her experience in our industry qualifies her to serve on our board of directors.

H. Ward Wolff. Mr. Wolff, age 67, has served as a member of our board of directors since December 2014. Mr. Wolff currently serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Sangamo BioSciences, Inc. since 2007. Prior to Sangamo, Mr. Wolff was with Nuvelo, Inc., where he served as Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer until its restructuring in August 2007. Prior to that, he was Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President, Finance, of Abgenix, Inc. until April 2006 when Abgenix merged with Amgen Inc. Prior to joining Abgenix, Mr. Wolff held financial management positions in both public and private emerging growth companies, including serving as Senior Vice President and CFO of DoubleTwist, Inc., a life sciences company integrating genomic information and bioinformatics analysis tools. He began his career with Price Waterhouse, where he held a number of positions as a certified public accountant, including Senior Audit Manager. Mr. Wolff is a member of the board of directors of Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc. From June 2006 until his appointment to Sangamo's management team he was a member of Sangamo's Board of Directors, serving as Chairman of the Audit Committee. Mr. Wolff received a B.A. degree in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley and an M.B.A. degree from Harvard Business School.

We believe Mr. Wolff's extensive financial experience and experience in the biotechnology industry qualifies him to serve on our board of directors.

DIRECTORS CONTINUING IN OFFICE UNTIL THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunil Agarwal, M.D. Dr. Agarwal, age 46, has served as a member of our board of directors since September 2015. Since August 2014, Dr. Agarwal has served as Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at Ultragenyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where he is responsible for leading the company's clinical development. Prior to Ultragenyx, Dr. Agarwal served in various leadership capacities at Genentech for 11 years. Most recently, he held the position of Senior Vice President and Global Head of Clinical Development for OMNI (Ophthalmology, Metabolism, Neurosciences, Immunology and Infectious Diseases) from January 2013 to June 2014. Prior to that, Dr. Agarwal held the positions of Senior VP for Immunology and Infectious Diseases, and VP for Rheumatology from July 2009 to December 2012. He also held the position of VP of Genentech Drug Safety from January 2009 to July 2009. From September 2003 to January 2009, Dr. Agarwal held positions of increasing responsibility in Genentech's Immunology clinical organization, and was involved in the development oversight of multiple molecules including Raptiva®, Rituxan®, and ocrelizumab. Dr. Agarwal currently serves as a member of the board of directors of MyoKardia, Inc.

Dr. Agarwal obtained a B.S. in Neuro-Biology from Cornell University and an M.D. from Tufts University School of Medicine.

We believe Dr. Agarwal's experience in the biotechnology industry qualifies him to serve on our board of directors.

Jean M. George. Ms. George, age 58, has served as a member of our board of directors since September 2012. Since February 2002, she has been a General Partner at Advanced Technology Ventures, a venture capital fund. From September 1998 to January 2002, Ms. George served as director of BancBoston Ventures, a venture capital fund. Ms. George currently serves as a member of the board of directors of Acceleron Pharma, Inc., Catabasis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Zeltiq Aesthetics, Inc. Ms. George holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Maine and an M.B.A. from Simmons College Graduate School of Management.

We believe Ms. George's extensive investment and financial experience and her experience with biotechnology companies, qualifies her to serve on our board of directors.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Christopher Molineaux, our Senior Vice President of Development, is the spouse of Susan Molineaux, a member of our board of directors and our President and Chief Executive Officer. There are no other family relationships among the directors and executive officers.

INDEPENDENCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As required under the NASDAQ Stock Market (NASDAQ) listing standards, a majority of the members of a listed company's Board of Directors must qualify as independent, as affirmatively determined by the Board of Directors. The Board consults with the Company's counsel to ensure that the Board's determinations are consistent with relevant securities and other laws and regulations regarding the definition of independent, including those set forth in pertinent listing standards of NASDAQ, as in effect from time to time.

Consistent with these considerations, after review of all relevant identified transactions or relationships between each director, or any of his or her family members, and Calithera, our senior management and our independent auditors, the Board has affirmatively determined that the following five directors are independent directors within the meaning of the applicable NASDAQ listing standards: Drs. Agarwal, Drachman and Pakianathan, Ms. George and Mr. Wolff. In making this determination, the Board found that none of these directors or nominees for director had a material or other disqualifying relationship with Calithera.

BOARD LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

The Board does not have a Chairman. Additionally, the Board does not have a formal policy as to whether the same person may serve as both the principal executive officer of Calithera and Chairman and, in the event such person does serve in such a dual capacity, whether a lead independent director should be designated by the Board for Board leadership purposes. At the present time, the Board does not believe that such a policy is necessary because it believes that the current Board membership, together with our management, possess the requisite leadership and industry skills, expertise and experiences to effectively oversee the business and affairs of Calithera. Moreover, the Board prefers to retain the flexibility to select the appropriate leadership structure for Calithera based upon the existence of various conditions, including, but not limited to, business, financial or other market conditions, affecting us at any given time. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the independent directors of the Board regularly participate in executive sessions outside of the presence of any management directors or other members of our management.

ROLE OF THE BOARD IN RISK OVERSIGHT

The Board has an active role, as a whole and also at the committee level, in overseeing management of Company's risks. The Board regularly reviews information regarding our credit, liquidity and operations, as well as the risks associated with each. The Audit Committee's charter mandates the Audit Committee to review and discuss with management, and our independent registered public accounting firm, as appropriate, Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps taken by management to monitor and control these exposures. The Compensation Committee is responsible for overseeing the management of risks relating to Company's executive compensation plans and arrangements. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee manages risks associated with the independence of the Board and potential conflicts of interest. While each committee is responsible for evaluating certain risks and overseeing the management of such risks, the entire Board is regularly informed through committee reports about such risks.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met five times during the last fiscal year. Each Board member attended 75% or more of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board and of the committees on which he or she served, held during the portion of the last fiscal year for which he or she was a director or committee member.

INFORMATION REGARDING COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board has an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The following table provides membership and meeting information for 2015 for each of these Board committees:

Name	Audit	Compensation	Nominating and Corporate Governance
Susan M. Molineaux, Ph.D.			
Sunil Agarwal, M.D.	X(1)		
Ralph E. Christoffersen, Ph.D. (4)			
Jonathan G. Drachman, M.D.	X	X	
Jean M. George		X*	X*
Deepa R. Pakianathan, Ph.D.	X(2)	X(3)	X
H. Ward Wolff	X*		

* Committee Chairperson

- (1) Dr. Agarwal was appointed to the Audit Committee in September 2015.
- (2) Dr. Pakianathan served on the Audit Committee until her resignation in September 2015.
- (3) Dr. Pakianathan was appointed to the Compensation Committee in October 2015.
- (4) Dr. Christoffersen did not stand for re-election and as a result his term on our Board ended in June 2015.

Below is a description of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors.

Each of the committees has authority to engage legal counsel or other experts or consultants, as it deems appropriate to carry out its responsibilities.

Audit Committee

Our Audit Committee consists of Mr. Wolff and Drs. Agarwal and Drachman. The Audit Committee met four times during the fiscal year. The Board has adopted a written Audit Committee charter that is available to stockholders on the Investors section of our website at www.calithera.com.

The Board of Directors reviews the NASDAQ listing standards definition of independence for Audit Committee members on an annual basis and has determined that all members of the Audit Committee are independent (as independence is currently defined in Rule 5605(c)(2)(A)(i) and (ii) of the NASDAQ listing standards).

The Board of Directors has also determined that Mr. Wolff qualifies as an audit committee financial expert, as defined in applicable SEC rules. The Board made a qualitative assessment of Mr. Wolff's level of knowledge and experience based on a number of factors, including his formal education and experience as a chief financial officer for public reporting companies.

Report of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 with management. The Audit Committee has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 16, *Communications with Audit Committees*, as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). The Audit Committee has also received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding the independent accountants' communications with the audit committee concerning independence, and has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the accounting firm's independence. Based on the foregoing, the Audit Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015.

Mr. H. Ward Wolff (Chairman)

Dr. Sunil Agarwal

Dr. Jonathan G. Drachman

The material in this report is not soliciting material, is not deemed filed with the Commission and is not to be incorporated by reference in any filing of the Company under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in any such filing.

Compensation Committee

Our compensation committee consists of Ms. George and Drs. Drachman and Pakianathan. All members of the Company's Compensation Committee are independent (as independence is currently defined in Rule 5605(d)(2) of the NASDAQ listing standards). The Compensation Committee met five times during the 2015 fiscal year. The Board has adopted a written Compensation Committee charter that is available to stockholders on the Investors section of our website at www.calithera.com.

The primary purpose of the Compensation Committee is to discharge the responsibilities of the Board of Directors to oversee our compensation policies, plans and programs and to review and determine the compensation to be paid to our executive officers, directors and other senior management, as appropriate. Specific responsibilities of the Compensation Committee include:

reviewing and approving, or recommending that our board of directors approve, the compensation of our executive officers;

reviewing and recommending to our board of directors the compensation of our directors;

reviewing and approving, or recommending that our board of directors approve, the terms of compensatory arrangements with our executive officers;

administering our stock and equity incentive plans;

selecting independent compensation consultants and assessing whether there are any conflicts of interest with any of the committees compensation advisers;

reviewing and approving, or recommending that our board of directors approve, incentive compensation and equity plans, severance agreements, change-of-control protections and any other compensatory arrangements for our executive officers and other senior management, as appropriate; and

reviewing and establishing general policies relating to compensation and benefits of our employees and reviewing our overall compensation philosophy.

Compensation Committee Processes and Procedures

Typically, the Compensation Committee will meet at least twice annually and with greater frequency if necessary. The agenda for each meeting is usually developed by the Chair of the Compensation Committee, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer. The Compensation Committee meets regularly in executive session. However, from time to time, various members of management and other employees as well as outside advisors or consultants may be invited by the Compensation Committee to make presentations, to provide financial or other background information or advice or to otherwise participate in Compensation Committee meetings. The Chief Executive Officer may not participate in, or be present during, any deliberations or determinations of the Compensation Committee regarding her compensation. The charter of the Compensation Committee grants the Compensation Committee full access to all books, records, facilities and personnel of the Company. In addition, under the charter, the Compensation Committee has the authority to obtain, at the expense of the Company, advice and assistance from compensation consultants and internal and external legal, accounting or other advisors and other external resources that the Compensation Committee considers necessary or appropriate in the performance of its duties. The Compensation Committee has direct responsibility for the oversight of the work of any consultants or advisers engaged for the purpose of advising the Committee. In particular, the Compensation Committee has the sole authority to retain, in its sole discretion, compensation consultants to assist in its evaluation of executive and director compensation, including the authority to approve the consultant's reasonable fees and other retention terms. Under the charter, the Compensation Committee may select, or receive advice from, a compensation consultant, legal counsel or other adviser to the compensation committee, other than in-house legal counsel and certain other types of advisers, only after taking into consideration six factors, prescribed by the SEC and NASDAQ, that bear upon the adviser's independence; however, there is no requirement that any adviser be independent.

During the past fiscal year, after taking into consideration the six factors prescribed by the SEC and NASDAQ described above, management engaged Radford Consulting as compensation consultants. Management requested that Radford Consulting:

evaluate the efficacy of the Company's existing compensation strategy and practices in supporting and reinforcing the Company's long-term strategic goals; and

assist in refining the Company's compensation strategy to execute that long-term strategy.

As part of its engagement, Radford Consulting was requested by management to develop a comparative group of companies and to perform analyses of competitive performance and compensation levels for that group. At the request of management, Radford Consulting also conducted individual interviews with members of the Compensation Committee and senior management to learn more about the Company's business operations and strategy, key performance metrics and strategic goals, as well as the labor markets in which the Company competes. Radford Consulting ultimately developed recommendations that were presented to the Compensation Committee for its consideration. Following an active dialogue with Radford Consulting, the Compensation Committee approved the recommendations.

Under its charter, the Compensation Committee may form, and delegate authority to, subcommittees as appropriate. In 2015, the Compensation Committee delegated authority to Dr. Susan Molineaux, to which it delegated authority to grant, without any further action required by the Compensation Committee, stock options

to employees who are not officers of the Company. The purpose of this delegation of authority is to enhance the flexibility of option administration within the Company and to facilitate the timely grant of options to non-management employees, particularly new employees, within specified limits approved by the Compensation Committee or Board of Directors. In particular, Dr. Molineaux may not grant options to acquire more than an aggregate of 50,000 shares per employee.

Following our initial public offering in October 2014, the Compensation Committee has made most of the significant adjustments to annual compensation, determined bonus and equity awards and established new performance objectives at one or more meetings held during the first quarter of the year. However, the Compensation Committee also considers matters related to individual compensation, such as compensation for new executive hires, as well as high-level strategic issues, such as the efficacy of the Company's compensation strategy, potential modifications to that strategy and new trends, plans or approaches to compensation, at various meetings throughout the year. Generally, the Compensation Committee's process comprises two related elements: the determination of compensation levels and the establishment of performance objectives for the current year. For executives other than the Chief Executive Officer, the Compensation Committee solicits and considers evaluations and recommendations submitted to the Committee by the Chief Executive Officer. In the case of the Chief Executive Officer, the evaluation of her performance is conducted by the Compensation Committee, which determines any adjustments to her compensation as well as awards to be granted. For all executives and directors as part of its deliberations, the Compensation Committee may review and consider, as appropriate, materials such as financial reports and projections, operational data, tax and accounting information, tally sheets that set forth the total compensation that may become payable to executives in various hypothetical scenarios, executive and director stock ownership information, company stock performance data, analyses of historical executive compensation levels and current Company-wide compensation levels and recommendations of the Compensation Committee's compensation consultant, including analyses of executive and director compensation paid at other companies identified by the consultant.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

None of the members of the Compensation Committee is currently, or has been at any time, one of our officers or employees. None of our executive officers currently serves, or has served during the last year, as a member of the Board of Directors or Compensation Committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving as a member of our Board of Directors or Compensation Committee.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee consists of Ms. George and Dr. Pakianathan. All members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are independent (as independence is currently defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) of the NASDAQ listing standards). The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met two times during 2015. The Board has adopted a written Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee charter that is available to stockholders on the Investors section of the Company's website at www.calithera.com.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for identifying, reviewing and evaluating candidates to serve as directors of the Company (consistent with criteria approved by the Board), reviewing and evaluating incumbent directors, recommending to the Board for selection candidates for election to the Board of Directors, making recommendations to the Board regarding the membership of the committees of the Board, assessing the performance of and the Board, and developing a set of corporate governance principles for the Company.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believes that candidates for director should have certain minimum qualifications, including the ability to read and understand basic financial statements, being over 21 years of age and having the highest personal integrity and ethics. The Nominating and Corporate Governance

Committee also intends to consider such factors as possessing relevant expertise upon which to be able to offer advice and guidance to management, having sufficient time to devote to the affairs of the Company, demonstrated excellence in his or her field, having the ability to exercise sound business judgment and having the commitment to rigorously represent the long-term interests of the Company's stockholders. However, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee retains the right to modify these qualifications from time to time. Candidates for director nominees are reviewed in the context of the current composition of the Board, the operating requirements of the Company and the long-term interests of stockholders. In conducting this assessment, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee typically considers diversity, age, skills and such other factors as it deems appropriate, given the current needs of the Board and the Company, to maintain a balance of knowledge, experience and capability.

In the case of incumbent directors whose terms of office are set to expire, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee reviews these directors' overall service to the Company during their terms, including the number of meetings attended, level of participation, quality of performance and any other relationships and transactions that might impair the directors' independence. The Committee also takes into account the results of the Board's self-evaluation, conducted annually on a group and individual basis. In the case of new director candidates, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also determines whether the nominee is independent for NASDAQ purposes, which determination is based upon applicable NASDAQ listing standards, applicable SEC rules and regulations and the advice of counsel, if necessary. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee then uses its network of contacts to compile a list of potential candidates, but may also engage, if it deems appropriate, a professional search firm. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee conducts any appropriate and necessary inquiries into the backgrounds and qualifications of possible candidates after considering the function and needs of the Board. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee meets to discuss and consider the candidates' qualifications and then selects a nominee for recommendation to the Board by majority vote. In 2015, we paid a fee to Russell Reynolds Associates to assist in the process of identifying and evaluating director candidates.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider director candidates recommended by stockholders. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not intend to alter the manner in which it evaluates candidates, including the minimum criteria set forth above, based on whether or not the candidate was recommended by a stockholder. Stockholders who wish to recommend individuals for consideration by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee to become nominees for election to the Board may do so by delivering a written recommendation to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee at the following address: 343 Oyster Point Blvd., Suite 200, South San Francisco, CA 94080. Submissions must include the full name of the proposed nominee, a description of the proposed nominee's business experience for at least the previous five years, complete biographical information, a description of the proposed nominee's qualifications as a director and a representation that the nominating stockholder is a beneficial or record holder of the Company's stock and has been a holder for at least one year. Any such submission must be accompanied by the written consent of the proposed nominee to be named as a nominee and to serve as a director if elected.

STOCKHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Historically, we have not provided a formal process related to stockholder communications with the Board. Nevertheless, every effort has been made to ensure that the views of stockholders are heard by the Board or individual directors, as applicable, and that appropriate responses are provided to stockholders in a timely manner. We believe our responsiveness to stockholder communications to the Board has been excellent.

CODE OF ETHICS

We have adopted the Calithera Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to all officers, directors and employees. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available on the Investors section of our website at

www.calithera.com. If we make any substantive amendments to the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics or grants any waiver from a provision of the Code to any executive officer or director, we will promptly disclose the nature of the amendment or waiver on its website.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES

The Board of Directors has documented our governance practices by adopting Corporate Governance Guidelines to assure that the Board will have the necessary authority and practices in place to review and evaluate our business operations as needed and to make decisions that are independent of our management. The guidelines are also intended to align the interests of directors and management with those of our stockholders. The Corporate Governance Guidelines set forth the practices the Board intends to follow with respect to board composition and selection, board meetings and involvement of senior management, Chief Executive Officer performance evaluation and succession planning, and board committees and compensation. The Corporate Governance Guidelines, as well as the charters for each committee of the Board, may be viewed on the Investors section of our website at www.calithera.com.

PROPOSAL NO. 2**RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has selected Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2016 and has further directed that management submit the selection of its independent registered public accounting firm for ratification by the stockholders at the annual meeting. Ernst & Young LLP has audited our financial statements since 2010. Representatives of Ernst & Young LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting. They will have an opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Neither our Bylaws nor other governing documents or law require stockholder ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. However, the Audit Committee of the Board is submitting the selection of Ernst & Young LLP to the stockholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. If the stockholders fail to ratify the selection, the Audit Committee of the Board will reconsider whether or not to retain that firm. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee of the Board in its discretion may direct the appointment of different independent auditors at any time during the year if they determine that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the matter at the annual meeting will be required to ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The following table represents aggregate fees billed to Calithera for the years ended December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, by Ernst & Young LLP, our independent registered accounting firm.

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
	(in thousands)	
Audit Fees (1)	\$ 586	\$ 1,500
Tax Fees (2)		10
Total Fees	\$ 586	\$ 1,510

- (1) Audit Fees consisted of fees for professional services rendered for the audits of our financial statements which were billed during the respective year, including the audits of our annual financial statements and reviews of our interim quarterly reports. Related to the year ended December 31, 2014, fees of \$965,000 were billed in connection with filing of our Registration Statement on Form S-1 in connection with the initial public offering of our common stock.
- (2) Tax Fees consisted of fees for professional services rendered for tax compliance. No tax fees were incurred in 2015.

All fees incurred were pre-approved by our Audit Committee.

PRE-APPROVAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

The Audit Committee has adopted a policy and procedures for the pre-approval of audit and non-audit services rendered by the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, Ernst & Young LLP. The policy generally pre-approves specified services in the defined categories of audit services, audit-related services and tax services up to specified amounts. Pre-approval may also be given as part of the Audit Committee's approval of the scope of the engagement of the independent auditor or on an individual, explicit, case-by-case basis before

the independent auditor is engaged to provide each service. The pre-approval of services may be delegated to one or more of the Audit Committee's members, but the decision must be reported to the full Audit Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

The Audit Committee has determined that the rendering of services other than audit services by Ernst & Young LLP is compatible with maintaining the principal accountant's independence.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS

A VOTE IN FAVOR OF PROPOSAL NO. 2.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to our executive officers and directors as of March 31, 2016.

Name	Age	Position
Executive Officers		
Susan M. Molineaux, Ph.D.	62	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
William D. Waddill	58	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary
Mark K. Bennett, Ph.D.	57	Senior Vice President, Research
Christopher J. Molineaux, Ph.D.	62	Senior Vice President, Development
Eric B. Sjogren, Ph.D.	59	Senior Vice President, Drug Discovery
Curtis C. Hecht	45	Vice President, Business and Corporate Development
<i>Dr. Susan M. Molineaux's</i> biography is included above under the section titled Proposal No. 1 Election of Directors.		

William D. Waddill. Mr. Waddill has served as our Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary since April 2014. From October 2007 to March 2014, Mr. Waddill served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at OncoMed Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company. From October 2006 to September 2007, Mr. Waddill served as the Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer of Ilypsa, Inc., a biotechnology company that was acquired in 2007 by Amgen, Inc. From February 2000 to September 2006, Mr. Waddill served as a Principal at Square One Finance, a financial consulting business. From December 1996 to February 2000, Mr. Waddill served as Senior Director of Finance and Administration at Exelixis, Inc., a biotechnology company. Mr. Waddill received a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Illinois, Chicago, and a certification as a public accountant, which is currently inactive, after working at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and Deloitte LLP.

Mark K. Bennett, Ph.D. Dr. Bennett has served as our Senior Vice President of Research since June 2010. Dr. Bennett served as Vice President of Research at Proteolix, Inc. from January 2006 to December 2009 and as Director of Biological Research from 2003 to 2005. From 1999 to 2003, Dr. Bennett was Director of Cell Biology at Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc. From 1993 to 1999, Dr. Bennett was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Bennett received a B.S. in Biochemistry and Biophysics from Oregon State University, a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the California Institute of Technology, and completed postdoctoral fellowships at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory and Stanford University.

Christopher J. Molineaux, Ph.D. Dr. Molineaux has served as our Senior Vice President of Development since April 2013. From March 2010 to March 2013, Dr. Molineaux served as the President of INDStrat LLC, a consulting firm. From July 2004 to November 2009, Dr. Molineaux served as Vice President of Development at Proteolix, Inc. From 2000 to 2004, Dr. Molineaux served as Senior Director of Drug Development at FibroGen, Inc., a biotechnology company. From 1999 to 2000, he served as Research Manager of Toxicology at Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development. From 1994 to 1999, Dr. Molineaux served as Senior Director of Pharmacology at Praecis. From 1991 to 1994, he served in staff scientist positions at Enzon Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Merck & Co. From 1985 to 1991, Dr. Molineaux served as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacology of Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. He received a B.S. in Zoology from University of Maryland, College Park, a Ph.D. in Immunology and Infectious Diseases from Johns Hopkins University and completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Eric B. Sjogren, Ph.D. Dr. Sjogren has served as our Senior Vice President of Drug Discovery since June 2010. From 2003 to 2009, Dr. Sjogren was Vice President and Head of Medicinal Chemistry at Roche Palo Alto, LLC,

where he directed a small molecule drug discovery team in the areas of inflammation, virology and central nervous system disorders. Dr. Sjogren received a B.A. in Chemistry from the University of California, San Diego and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Harvard University.

Curtis C. Hecht. Mr. Hecht has served as our Vice President of Business and Corporate Development since April 2014. From September 2013 to April 2014, Mr. Hecht served as Vice President of Business Development at inVentiv Health, a global healthcare commercialization and consulting services company. Since March 2011, he has also served as a Partner at DNA Ink, a life sciences business development and licensing firm. From June 2002 to February 2011, Mr. Hecht served in a number of roles at Hoffman La-Roche Inc., including as Global Alliance Director from 2008 to 2011 and Director of Global Business Development from 2006 to 2008. Mr. Hecht received a B.S. in Chemistry from California State University, Sacramento and an M.B.A. from Carnegie Mellon University.

**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF
CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the ownership of the Company's common stock as of March 31, 2016 by:

each director or nominee for director;

each named executive officer;

all current executive officers and directors of the Company as a group; and

all those known by the Company to be beneficial owners of more than five percent of its outstanding common stock.

Beneficial Owner	Beneficial Ownership (17)	
	Number of Shares	Percent of Total
5% and Greater Stockholders		
Entities Affiliated with Delphi Ventures VIII, L.P. (1)	2,426,702	12.8%
FMR LLC (2)	2,691,958	14.2%
Morgenthaler Venture Partners IX, L.P. (3)		