CLEVELAND BIOLABS INC Form DEF 14A March 03, 2017

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

SCHEDULE 14A

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

Filed by the Registrant x Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o

Check the appropriate box:

- oPreliminary Proxy Statement
- o Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- x Definitive Proxy Statement
- oDefinitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Under Rule
- 14a-12

Cleveland BioLabs, 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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4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
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2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No:
3) Filing party:
4)Date Filed:
4)Date Piled.

#### **Table of Contents**

March 3, 2017

To Our Stockholders:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2017 annual meeting of stockholders of Cleveland BioLabs, Inc. to be held at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time on April 21, 2017 at the company's headquarters, 73 High Street, Buffalo, NY 14203. Details regarding the meeting, the business to be conducted at the meeting, and information about Cleveland BioLabs, Inc. that you should consider when you vote your shares are described in this proxy statement.

At the annual meeting, seven persons will be elected to our Board of Directors. In addition, we will ask stockholders to ratify the selection of Meaden & Moore, Ltd. as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, to approve on an advisory basis the compensation of our named executive officers, as disclosed in this proxy statement, approve an amendment to our certificate of incorporation to reduce the number of authorized shares of common stock and preferred stock, and to to approve the frequency with which we solicit an advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers. The Board of Directors recommends a vote for each of the seven nominees to our Board of Directors, ratification of Meaden & Moore, Ltd. as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, approval of the compensation of our named executive officers, approval of the amendment to our certificate of incorporation to reduce the number of authorized shares of common stock and preferred stock, and approval to solicit an advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers every three years. Such other business will be transacted as may properly come before the annual meeting.

We hope you will be able to attend the annual meeting. Whether you plan to attend the annual meeting or not, it is important that you cast your vote either in person or by proxy. Regardless of the number of shares you own, please vote your shares as soon as possible electronically over the Internet or by signing, dating and returning the proxy card included with a paper copy of the proxy statement as promptly as possible. Electronic voting is fast and easy. When you have finished reading the proxy statement, you are urged to vote in accordance with the instructions set forth in this proxy statement. We encourage you to vote by proxy so that your shares will be represented and voted at the meeting, whether or not you can attend.

Thank you for your continued support of Cleveland BioLabs, Inc. We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.

Sincerely,
YAKOV KOGAN Chief Executive Officer

#### **Table of Contents**

March 3, 2017

NOTICE OF 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TIME: 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time

DATE: April 21, 2017

PLACE: Cleveland BioLabs, Inc.

73 High Street

Buffalo, New York 14203

#### **PURPOSES:**

- 1. To elect seven directors to serve one-year terms expiring at the 2018 Annual Meeting;
- 2. To ratify the appointment of Meaden & Moore, Ltd. as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017;
- 3. To approve by an advisory vote the compensation of our named executive officers;
- To approve an amendment to the Company's certificate of incorporation to reduce the number of authorized shares of common stock and preferred stock;
- 5. To approve the frequency with which we solicit an advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers; and
- 6. To transact such other business that is properly presented at the annual meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

## WHO MAY VOTE:

Corporate Secretary Buffalo, New York

You may vote if you were the record owner of Cleveland BioLabs, Inc. common stock at the close of business on February 24, 2017, the record date. A list of stockholders of record will be available at the annual meeting and, during the 10 days prior to the annual meeting, at our principal executive offices located at 73 High Street, Buffalo, New York 14203.

All stockholders as of the record date are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting. Whether you plan to attend the annual meeting or not, we urge you to vote and submit your proxy by Internet or mail in order to ensure the presence of a quorum. You may change or revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted at the meeting.

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BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# Table of Contents

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	page
IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE	
<u>STOCKHOLDER</u>	
MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 21, 2017	<u>1</u>
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTING	<u>2</u>
SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT	8
MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE	<u>10</u>
EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND DIRECTOR COMPENSATION	<u>17</u>
EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION	<u>22</u>
REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE	<u>23</u>
SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE	<u>24</u>
CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS	<u>25</u>
ELECTION OF DIRECTORS	<u> 26</u>
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	<u>27</u>
ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AS DISCLOSED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT	<u>28</u>
APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT OF OUR RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO	20
DECREASE OUR TOTAL NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED SHARES OF COMMON STOCK AND	<u>30</u>
PREFERRED STOCK	
ADVISORY VOTE ON THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH WE SOLICIT AN ADVISORY VOTE ON THE	<u>30</u>
COMPENSATION OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	
OTHER MATTERS	<u>30</u>
PROPOSALS OF STOCKHOLDERS	<u>30</u>

#### **Table of Contents**

Cleveland BioLabs, Inc. 73 High Street Buffalo, New York 14203 (716) 849-6810

PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE CLEVELAND BIOLABS, INC.

2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017

This proxy statement, along with the accompanying notice of the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, contains information about the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Cleveland BioLabs, Inc., including any adjournments or postponements of the annual meeting. We are holding the annual meeting at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, on April 21, 2017, at the company's headquarters, 73 High Street, Buffalo, New York 14203.

In this proxy statement, we refer to Cleveland BioLabs, Inc. as "Cleveland BioLabs," "CBLI," "the Company," "we," "us" and "our."

This proxy statement relates to the solicitation of proxies by our Board of Directors for use at the annual meeting.

We have elected to take advantage of Securities and Exchange Commission rules that allow us to provide access to our proxy materials on the Internet. We believe that these rules will allow us to provide our stockholders with the information they need at a lower cost to the Company and with a reduced environmental impact. Accordingly, on or about March 10, 2017, we will mail a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice") to our stockholders of record and beneficial owners at the close of business as of February 24, 2017. On the date of the mailing of the Notice, all stockholders will have the ability to access to all of the proxy materials on a website referred to in the Notice. These proxy materials will be available free of charge.

# IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE STOCKHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 21, 2017

This proxy statement and our 2016 annual report to stockholders are available for viewing, printing, and downloading at http://www.cstproxy.com/cbiolabs/2017. To view these materials, please follow the instructions on the website or the proxy card you received. On this website, you can also elect to receive future distributions of our proxy statements and annual reports to stockholders by electronic delivery.

Additionally, you can find a copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K, which includes our financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, on the website of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") at www.sec.gov, or in the "Investors" section of our website at http://irdirect.net/CBLI/corporate\_documents?group=2. You may also obtain a printed copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K, including our financial statements, free of charge, from us by sending a written request to:

Cleveland BioLabs, Inc.
73 High Street
Buffalo, New York 14203
Attention: Corporate Secretary

Exhibits will be provided upon written request and payment of an appropriate processing fee.

#### **Table of Contents**

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTING

Why is the Company soliciting my proxy?

The Board of Directors of Cleveland BioLabs, Inc. (the "Board") is soliciting your proxy to vote at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held at the Company's headquarters located at 73 High Street, Buffalo, New York 14203, on April 21, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time, and any adjournments or postponements of the meeting, which we refer to as the Annual Meeting. The proxy statement along with the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders summarizes the purposes of the meeting and the information you need to know to vote at the Annual Meeting.

We have made available to you this proxy statement, the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the proxy card, and a copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 because you owned shares of Cleveland BioLabs, Inc. common stock on February 24, 2017, the record date. The Company intends to commence distribution of the proxy materials to stockholders on or about March 10, 2017.

#### Who can vote?

Only stockholders who owned our common stock at the close of business on February 24, 2017 (the "record date") are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. On the record date, there were 10,987,166 shares of our common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. Our common stock is our only class of voting stock.

You do not need to attend the Annual Meeting to vote your shares. Shares represented by valid proxies, received in time for the Annual Meeting and not revoked prior to the Annual Meeting, will be voted at the Annual Meeting. For instructions on how to change or revoke your proxy, see "May I change or revoke my proxy?" below.

#### Who can attend the Annual Meeting?

All stockholders as of the record date, or their duly appointed proxies, may attend the Annual Meeting. Seating will be limited.

## What do I need to present for admission to the Annual Meeting?

You will need to present proof of your record or beneficial ownership of common stock, such as a bank or brokerage account statement, and a form of personal identification to be admitted to the Annual Meeting.

No cameras, recording equipment, electronic devices, large bags, briefcases or packages will be permitted in the Annual Meeting.

#### How many votes do I have?

Each share of our common stock that you own entitles you to one vote.

## How do I vote?

Whether you plan to attend the Annual Meeting or not, we urge you to vote by proxy. All shares represented by valid proxies that we receive through this solicitation, and that are not revoked, will be voted in accordance with your instructions on the proxy card or

as instructed via Internet. You may specify whether your shares should be voted for all, some, or none, or withheld from all, some, or none, of the nominees for director, whether your shares should be voted for, against or abstain with respect to each of proposals 2, 3, and 4, and which frequency interval the Company should hold its advisory votes on the compensation of its executive officer your shares should be voted for, or whether you should abstain from voting on such matter. If you properly submit a proxy without giving specific voting instructions, your shares will be voted in accordance with the Board's recommendations as noted below. Voting by proxy will not affect your right to attend the Annual Meeting. If your shares are registered directly in your name through our stock transfer agent, Continental

Stock Transfer & Trust Company, or you have stock certificates registered in your name, you may vote:

By Internet. Follow the instructions included in the Notice or the proxy card included with a paper copy of the proxy statement to vote by Internet.

By mail (if you received a paper copy of the proxy materials by mail). Please sign, date and promptly mail the enclosed proxy card in the postage-paid envelope that has been provided to you.

## **Table of Contents**

In person at the meeting. If you attend the Annual Meeting, you may deliver a completed proxy card in person or you may vote by completing a ballot, which will be available at the meeting.

Internet voting facilities for stockholders of record will be available 24-hours a day and will close at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time on April 20, 2017.

If your shares are held in "street name" (held in the name of a bank, broker, or other holder of record), you will receive instructions from the holder of record. You must follow the instructions of the holder of record in order for your shares to be voted. Internet voting also may be offered to stockholders owning shares through certain banks and brokers. If your shares are not registered in your own name and you plan to vote your shares in person at the Annual Meeting, you should contact your broker or agent to obtain a legal proxy or broker's proxy card and bring it to the Annual Meeting in order to vote.

What is the difference between holding shares as a stockholder of record and as a beneficial owner? If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, you

are considered, with respect to those shares, a "stockholder of record" and the Notice has been sent directly to you by us.

If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank or other holder of record, you are considered the "beneficial owner" of shares held in "street name" and the Notice has been forwarded to you by your broker, bank, or other holder of record who is considered, with respect to those shares, the stockholder of record. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker, bank, or other holder of record on how to vote your shares by using the Notice or the voting instruction card included with a paper copy of the proxy statement or by following their instructions for voting on the Internet.

Have other candidates been nominated for election as directors at the Annual Meeting?

No.

How does the Board recommend that I vote on the proposals?

The Board recommends that you vote as follows:

- **•** FOR" the election of the nominees for director:
- "FOR" the ratification of the selection of Meaden & Moore, Ltd. as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2017;
- "FOR" the compensation of our named executive officers, as disclosed in this proxy statement (advisory vote);
- "FOR" the amendment to our certificate of incorporation reduce the number of our authorized shares of common stock and preferred stock; and
- "3 YEARS" for the frequency with which we solicit an advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers (advisory vote).

If any other matter is presented at the Annual Meeting, your proxy provides that your shares will be voted by the proxy holder listed in the proxy in accordance with his best judgment. At the time this proxy statement was first made available, we knew of no matters that needed to be acted on at the Annual Meeting, other than those discussed in this proxy statement.

May I change or revoke my proxy?

If you give us your proxy, you may change or revoke it at any time before the Annual Meeting. You may change or revoke your proxy in any one of the following ways:

by signing a new proxy card with a date later than your previously delivered proxy and submitting it as instructed above;

by re-voting by Internet as instructed above;

by notifying the Secretary of the Company in writing before the Annual Meeting that you have revoked your proxy; or

by attending the Annual Meeting in person and voting in person. Attending the Annual Meeting in person will not in and of itself revoke a previously submitted proxy. You must specifically request at the Annual Meeting that it be revoked.

Your most current vote, whether by Internet or proxy card is the one that will be counted.

#### **Table of Contents**

## What if I receive more than one proxy card?

You may receive more than one proxy card if you hold shares of our common stock in more than one account, which may be in registered form or held in street name. Please vote in the manner described above under "How do I vote?" for each account to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

## Will my shares be voted if I do not vote?

If your shares are registered in your name or if you have stock certificates, they will not be counted if you do not vote as described above under "How do I vote?" If your shares are held in street name and you do not provide voting instructions to the bank, broker, or other nominee that holds your shares as described above, the bank, broker, or other nominee that holds your shares has the authority to vote your non-voted shares only on the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm (Proposal 2 of this proxy statement) without receiving instructions from you. Therefore, we encourage you to provide voting instructions to your bank, broker, or other nominee. This ensures your shares will be voted at the Annual Meeting and in the manner you desire.

A "broker non-vote" will occur if your broker cannot vote your shares on a particular matter because it has not received instructions from you and does not have discretionary voting authority on that matter or because your broker chooses not to vote on a matter for which it does have discretionary voting authority.

#### **Table of Contents**

What vote is required to approve each proposal and how are votes counted?

The nominees for director who receive the most "FOR" votes (also known as a "plurality" of the votes

cast) will be elected. You may vote either FOR all of the nominees, WITHHOLD your vote from all of the nominees or WITHHOLD your vote from any one or more of the Proposal 1: Elect Directors nominees. Votes that are withheld will have no effect on the election of the directors. Brokerage firms do not have authority to vote customers' non-voted shares held by the firms in street name for the election of the directors. As a result, any shares not voted by a customer will be treated as a broker non-vote. Such broker non-votes will have no effect on the results of this vote.

Proposal 2: Ratify Selection of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares cast affirmatively or negatively for this proposal is required to ratify the selection of our independent registered public accounting firm. Abstentions will have no effect on the results of this vote. Brokerage firms have authority to vote customers' non-voted shares held by the firms in street name on this proposal. If a broker does not exercise this authority, such broker non-votes will have no effect on the results of this vote. We are not required to obtain the approval of our stockholders to select our independent registered public accounting firm. However, if our stockholders do not ratify the selection of Meaden & Moore, Ltd. as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2017, our Audit Committee of our Board will reconsider its selection.

Proposal 3: Approve an Advisory Vote on the Compensation of our

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares cast affirmatively or negatively for this proposal is required to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers, as described in this proxy statement. Abstentions will have no effect on the results of this vote. Brokerage firms do not have authority to vote customers' non-voted shares held by the firms in street name on this proposal. As a result, any shares not voted by a customer will be treated as a broker non-vote. Such broker non-votes will have no Named Executive Officers effect on the results of this vote. Although the advisory vote is non-binding, the Board will review the voting results and take them into consideration when making future decisions regarding executive compensation.

Proposal 4: Approve an amendment to our to reduce the number of authorized shares of common stock and preferred stock

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of our common stock outstanding as of the close of business on the record date is required to approve an amendment to the Restated Certificate of Incorporation to reduce the number of authorized shares of common stock certificate of incorporation and preferred stock. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote "AGAINST" the proposal. Brokerage firms do not have authority to vote customers' non-voted shares held by the firms in street name on this proposal. As a result, any shares not voted by a customer will be treated as a broker non-vote. Such broker non-votes will have the same effect as a vote "AGAINST" the proposal.

Proposal 5: Approve the frequency with which we the compensation of our named executive officers

The frequency for holding an advisory vote on the compensation of named executive officers receiving the most votes (also known as a "plurality" of the votes cast) from the solicit an advisory vote on holders of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the annual meeting will be considered the frequency approved by our stockholders. Abstentions will have no effect on the results of this vote. Brokerage firms do not have authority to vote customers' non-voted shares held by the firms in street name on this proposal. As a result, any shares not voted by a customer will be treated as a broker non-vote. Such broker non-votes will have no effect on the results of this vote. Although

the advisory vote is non-binding, the Board will review the voting results and take them into consideration when making future decisions regarding executive compensation.

Could stockholders introduce other proposals to be voted on at the Annual Meeting?

As of the date of this proxy statement, we did not know of any matters to be raised at the Annual Meeting other than those referred to in this proxy statement. If any other items or matters properly come before the Annual Meeting, the proxies received will be voted on those items or matters in accordance with the discretion of the proxy holders.

Could other matters be decided at the Annual Meeting?

## **Table of Contents**

As of the date of this proxy statement, we did not know of any matters to be raised at the Annual Meeting other than those referred to in this proxy statement, including those described in the foregoing paragraph. If any other items or matters properly come before the Annual Meeting, the proxies received will be voted on those items or matters in accordance with the discretion of the proxy holders.

What are the costs of soliciting these proxies?

We will pay all of the costs of soliciting these proxies. Our directors, officers, and employees may solicit proxies in person or by telephone, fax, or email. We will pay these employees, officers, and directors no additional compensation for these services. We will ask banks, brokers, and other institutions, nominees, and fiduciaries to forward these proxy materials to their customers and to obtain authority to execute proxies. We will then reimburse them for their expenses.

What constitutes a quorum for the Annual Meeting?

The presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the voting power of all outstanding shares of our common stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is necessary to constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting. Votes of stockholders of record who are present at the Annual Meeting in person or by proxy, abstentions, and broker non-votes are counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists.

Who are the persons selected by the Board to serve as proxies?

Yakov Kogan and John Szydlo, the persons named as proxies on the proxy card and voting instruction card accompanying the paper copy of this proxy statement, were selected by the Board to serve in such capacity. Yakov Kogan is the Chief Executive Officer of the Company and John Szydlo is the Finance Director of the Company.

Who will count the vote?

At the Annual Meeting, the results of stockholder voting will be tabulated by the inspector of elections appointed by us for the meeting.

Am I entitled to appraisal rights?

No. Holders of the Company's common stock will not be entitled to exercise appraisal or dissenters' rights under Delaware law with respect to any matter to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting.

Is there a list of stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting?

Yes. A list of stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, arranged in alphabetical order, showing the address of and number of shares registered in the name of each stockholder, will be open to the examination of any stockholder, for any purpose germane to the Annual Meeting, during ordinary business hours, commencing April 4, 2017, and continuing through the date of the Annual Meeting, at our principal offices located at 73 High Street, Buffalo, New York 14203.

Can I access the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders, Proxy Statement, and Annual Report to Stockholders on the Internet?

Our Annual Report to Stockholders for the year ended December 31, 2016, containing financial and other information pertaining to us, is being furnished to stockholders with this proxy statement. The notice of annual meeting of stockholders, proxy statement, proxy card, Form 10-K, and Annual Report to Stockholders are available on the Internet at http://www.cstproxy.com/cbiolabs/2017 and are also available on our website at www.cbiolabs.com under the link "Investors."

#### **Table of Contents**

## Attending the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time, on April 21, 2017 at the Company's headquarters located at 73 High Street, Buffalo, New York 14203. When you arrive at the Company's headquarters, signs will direct you to the appropriate meeting rooms. You need not attend the Annual Meeting in order to vote.

#### Householding of annual disclosure documents

SEC rules concerning the delivery of annual disclosure documents allow us or your broker to send a single set of our proxy materials to any household at which two or more of our stockholders reside, if we or your broker believe that the stockholders are members of the same family. This practice, referred to as "householding," benefits both you and us. It reduces the volume of duplicate information received at your household and helps to reduce our expenses. The rule applies to our annual reports, proxy statements, information statements, and Notices of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. Once you receive notice from your broker or from us that communications to your address will be "householded," the practice will continue until you are otherwise notified or until you revoke your consent to the practice. Stockholders who participate in householding will continue to have access to and utilize separate proxy voting instructions.

If your household received a single set of proxy materials this year, but you would prefer to receive your own copy, please contact our transfer agent, Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, by calling their toll free number, 1-866-894-0537 and we will promptly deliver a separate copy to you.

If you do not wish to participate in "householding" and would like to receive your own set of proxy materials in future years, follow the instructions described below. Conversely, if you share an address with another stockholder of CBLI and together both of you would like to receive only a single set of proxy materials, follow these instructions: If your shares are registered in your own name, please contact our transfer agent, Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, and inform them of your request by calling them at 1-866-894-0537 or writing them at 17 Battery Place, 8th Floor, New York, New York 10004, Attn: Proxy Department.

If a broker or other nominee holds your shares, please contact the broker or other nominee directly and inform them of your request. Be sure to include your name, the name of your brokerage firm, and your account number.

#### Electronic Delivery of Company Stockholder Communications

Most stockholders can elect to view or receive copies of future proxy materials over the Internet instead of receiving paper copies in the mail.

You can choose this option and save the Company the cost of producing and mailing these documents by Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company:

following the instructions provided on your proxy card;

following the instructions provided when you vote over the Internet; or

going to http://www.cstproxy.com/cbiolabs/2017 and following the instructions provided.

#### **Table of Contents**

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

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of February 21, 2017 for (a) the executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table in the section titled "Executive Officer and Director Compensation," (b) each of our directors and director nominees, (c) all of our current directors and named executive officers as a group and (d) stockholders that beneficially owned more than 5% of our common stock. Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the Securities Exchange Commission and includes voting or investment power with respect to the securities. We deem shares of common stock that may be acquired by a person or group within 60 days of February 21, 2017 pursuant to the exercise of options or warrants to be outstanding and beneficially owned by such person or group for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of such individual or group, but are not deemed to be outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person shown in the table. Except as indicated in footnotes to this table, we believe that the stockholders named in this table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of common stock shown to be beneficially owned by them based on information provided to us by these stockholders. Percentage of ownership is based on 10,987,166 shares of common stock outstanding on February 21, 2017.

Name	Outstanding Shares Beneficially Owned	Acquire	Total Shares Beneficially Owned	Percent
5% or greater shareholders				
David Davidovich (1)	6,459,948		6,459,948	58.8 %
Sabby Management, LLC (2)		858,600	858,600	7.52 %
Alpha Capital Anstalt (3)	449	703,014	703,463	