BIOTIME INC Form DEF 14A April 29, 2016

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

SCHEDULE 14A (Rule 14a-101)

#### INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

#### **SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o

Check the appropriate box:

- o Preliminary Proxy Statement
- o Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

**Definitive Proxy Statement** 

- o Definitive Additional Materials
- o Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

#### BioTime, 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):

No fee required.

- o Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
  - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
  - (5) Total fee paid:
- o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- o Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the

form or schedule and the date of its f	filing
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- (1) Amount previously paid:
- (2) Form, schedule or registration statement no.:
- (3) Filing party:
- (4) Date filed:

1010 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 102 Alameda, CA 94501 T: 510-521-3390, F: 510-521-3389 www.biotimeinc.com

April 29, 2016

Dear Shareholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of BioTime, Inc. which will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at 1221 Avenue of the Americas, 24th Floor, New York, New York 10020.

The Notice and Proxy Statement on the following pages contain details concerning the business to come before the meeting. Management will report on current operations, and there will be an opportunity for discussion concerning BioTime and its activities. Please sign and return your proxy card in the enclosed envelope to ensure that your shares will be represented and voted at the meeting even if you cannot attend. You are urged to sign and return the enclosed proxy card even if you plan to attend the meeting.

I look forward to personally meeting all shareholders who are able to attend.

Judith Segall Vice President and Secretary

1010 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 102 Alameda, CA 94501 T: 510-521-3390, F: 510-521-3389 www.biotimeinc.com

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

#### To Be Held June 9, 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of BioTime, Inc. will be held at 1221 Avenue of the Americas, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York on Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. for the following purposes:

- 1. To elect nine (9) directors to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of Shareholders and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified. The nominees of the Board of Directors are: Deborah Andrews, Neal C. Bradsher, Stephen C. Farrell, Alfred D. Kingsley, Aditya Mohanty, Michael H. Mulroy, Angus C. Russell, David Schlachet, and Michael D. West;
- 2. To ratify the appointment of OUM & Co. LLP as BioTime s independent registered public accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016;
- 3. To approve an amendment to our Articles of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized common shares, no par value, that we may issue from 125,000,000 shares to 150,000,000 shares; and
- 4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments of the meeting.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on April 27, 2016 as the record date for determining shareholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the meeting or any postponement or adjournment of the meeting.

Whether or not you expect to attend the meeting in person, you are urged to sign and date the enclosed form of proxy and return it promptly so that your shares may be represented and voted at the meeting. If you should be present at the meeting, your proxy will be returned to you if you so request.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR PROXY PROMPTLY BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PROXY CARD.

<u>Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials</u> for the Shareholder Meeting to be Held June 9, 2016.

The Letter to Shareholders, Notice of Meeting and Proxy Statement, and Annual Report on Form 10-K, are available at: https://materials.proxyvote.com/09066L

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Judith Segall Vice President and Secretary Alameda, California April 29, 2016

#### PROXY STATEMENT

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held on Thursday, June 9, 2016

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROXY MATERIALS AND THE ANNUAL MEETING

#### Q: Why have I received this Proxy Statement?

We are holding our Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the Meeting ) for the purposes stated in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting, which include (1) electing directors, (2) ratifying the appointment of our independent registered public accountants, and (3) approving an amendment to our Articles of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized common shares, no par value, that we may issue from 125,000,000 shares to 150,000,000 shares (we refer to this proposal as the Articles Amendment Proposal ). At the Meeting, our management will also report on current operations, and there will be an opportunity for discussion concerning BioTime and its activities. This Proxy Statement contains information about those matters, relevant information about the Meeting, and other information that we are required to include in a Proxy Statement under the Securities and Exchange Commission s (SEC) regulations.

#### Q: Who is soliciting my proxy?

The accompanying proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors of BioTime, Inc., a California corporation having its principal offices at 1010 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 102, Alameda, California 94501, for use at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 1221 Avenue of the Americas, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York, 10020.

### Q: Who is entitled to vote at the Meeting?

Only shareholders of record at the close of business on April 27, 2016, which has been designated as the record date, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting. On that date, there were 94,961,719 BioTime common shares issued and outstanding, of which 90,489,133 common shares are entitled to vote, which constitute the only class of BioTime voting securities outstanding. The 4,472,586 BioTime common shares issued and outstanding as of April 27, 2016 but not entitled to vote at the Meeting are held by BioTime subsidiaries.

# Q: What percentage of the vote is required to elect directors or to approve the other matters that are being presented for a vote by shareholders?

Directors will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the Meeting. Approval of the Articles Amendment Proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of our common shares issued, outstanding and entitled to vote on the record date. The other matters to be presented for a vote at the Meeting will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the common shares present and voting on the matter, provided that the affirmative vote cast constitutes a majority of a quorum. A quorum consists of a majority of the outstanding common shares entitled to vote.

#### Q: How many votes do my shares represent?

Each BioTime common share is entitled to one vote in all matters that may be acted upon at the Meeting, except that shareholders may elect to cumulate votes in the election of directors. Under cumulative voting, each shareholder may give one candidate, or may distribute among two or more candidates, a number of votes equal to the number of directors to be elected multiplied by the number of common shares owned. Shareholders may not cumulate votes

unless at least one shareholder gives notice of his or her intention to cumulate votes at the Meeting. The enclosed proxy confers discretionary authority to cumulate votes.

## Q: What are my choices when voting?

In the election of directors, you may vote for all nominees, or you may withhold your vote from one or more nominees. For each other proposal described in this Proxy Statement, you may vote for the proposal, vote against the proposal, or abstain from voting on the proposal. Properly executed proxies in the accompanying form that are received at or before the Meeting will be voted in accordance with the directions noted on the proxies.

#### Q: What if I abstain from voting on a matter?

If you check the abstain box in the proxy form, or if you attend the Meeting without submitting a proxy and you abstain from voting on a matter, or if your shares are subject to a broker non-vote on a matter, your shares will be deemed to have not voted on that matter in determining whether the matter has received an affirmative vote sufficient for approval. Please see What if I do not specify how I want my shares voted? below for additional information about broker non-votes.

#### Q: Can I change my vote after I submit my proxy form?

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted. If you are a shareholder of record and you wish to revoke your proxy you must do one of the following things:

- deliver to the Secretary of BioTime a written revocation; or
- deliver to the Secretary of BioTime a signed proxy bearing a date subsequent to the date of the proxy being revoked; or
- attend the Meeting and vote in person.

If you are a beneficial owner of shares held in street name you should follow the directions provided by your broker or other nominee regarding how to revoke your proxy.

#### Q: Can I still attend and vote at the Meeting if I submit a proxy?

You may attend the Meeting and vote in person whether or not you have previously submitted a proxy. If you previously gave a proxy, your attendance at the Meeting will not revoke your proxy unless you also vote in person at the Meeting.

If you are a shareholder of record, you may vote your shares at the Meeting by completing a ballot at the Meeting. However, if you are a street name holder, you may vote your shares in person only if you obtain a signed proxy from your broker or nominee giving you the right to vote your shares.

Even if you currently plan to attend the Meeting, we recommend that you also submit your proxy first so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the Meeting.

#### O: What are the Board of Directors recommendations?

The Board of Directors recommends that our shareholders vote **FOR** (1) each nominee for election as a director, (2) approval of the appointment of OUM & Co., LLP as our independent registered public accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016; and (3) approval of the Articles Amendment Proposal.

### Q: What if I do not specify how I want my shares voted?

Shareholders of Record. If you are a shareholder of record and you sign and return a proxy form that does not specify how you want your shares voted on a matter, your shares will be voted FOR (1) each nominee for election as a director, (2) approval of the appointment of OUM & Co., LLP as our independent registered public accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016; and (3) approval of the Articles Amendment Proposal.

*Beneficial Owners*. If you are a beneficial owner and you do not provide your broker or other nominee with voting instructions, the broker or other nominee will determine if it has the discretionary authority to vote on the particular matter. Under the rules of the various national and regional securities exchanges, brokers and other nominees holding your shares may vote on certain routine matters, including the approval of the appointment of our independent registered public accountants, but cannot vote in the election of directors, or with respect to the Articles Amendment

Proposal. If you hold your shares in street name and you do not instruct your broker or other nominee how to vote on those matters as to which brokers and nominees are not permitted to vote without your instructions, no votes will be cast on your behalf on those matters. This is generally referred to as a broker non-vote.

## Q: What is the difference between holding shares as a shareholder of record and as a beneficial owner?

*Shareholder of Record.* You are a shareholder of record if at the close of business on the record date your shares were registered directly in your name with American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, our transfer agent.

*Beneficial Owner*. You are a beneficial owner if at the close of business on the record date your shares were held in the name of a brokerage firm or other nominee and not in your name. Being a beneficial owner means that, like

most of our shareholders, your shares are held in street name. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker or nominee how to vote your shares by following the voting instructions your broker or other nominee provides. If you do not provide your broker or nominee with instructions on how to vote your shares, your broker or nominee will be able to vote your shares with respect to some of the proposals, but not all. Please see What if I do not specify how I want my shares voted? above for additional information.

## Q: What if any matters not mentioned in the Notice of Annual Meeting or this Proxy Statement come up for vote at the Meeting?

The Board of Directors does not intend to present any business for a vote at the Meeting other than the matters set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders. As of the date of this Proxy Statement, no shareholder has notified us of any other business that may properly come before the Meeting. If other matters requiring the vote of the shareholders properly come before the Meeting, then it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying form of proxy to vote the proxy held by them in accordance with their judgment on such matters.

The enclosed proxy confers discretionary authority to vote with respect to any and all of the following matters that may come before the Meeting: (1) matters that the Board of Directors did not know, a reasonable time before the mailing of the notice of the Meeting, would be presented at the Meeting; and (2) matters incidental to the conduct of the Meeting.

## Q: Who will bear the cost of soliciting proxies for use at the Meeting?

BioTime will bear all of the costs of the solicitation of proxies for use at the Meeting. In addition to the use of the mails, proxies may be solicited by a personal interview, telephone, and telegram by our directors, officers, and employees, who will undertake such activities without additional compensation. Banks, brokerage houses, and other institutions, nominees, or fiduciaries will be requested to forward the proxy materials to the beneficial owners of the common shares held of record by such persons and entities and will be reimbursed for their reasonable expense incurred in connection with forwarding such material.

#### Q: How can I attend and vote at the Meeting?

If you plan on attending the Meeting in person, please read the How to Attend the Annual Meeting section of this Proxy Statement for information about the documents you will need to bring with you to gain admission to the Meeting and to vote your shares in person.

This Proxy Statement and the accompanying form of proxy are first being sent or given to our shareholders on or about May 2, 2016.

#### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

At the Meeting, nine (9) directors will be elected to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of Shareholders, and until their successors have been duly elected and qualified. All the nominees named below, Deborah Andrews, Neal C. Bradsher, Stephen C. Farrell, Alfred D. Kingsley, Aditya Mohanty, Michael H. Mulroy, Angus C. Russell, David Schlachet, and Michael D. West, are incumbent directors.

It is the intention of the persons named in the enclosed proxy, unless the proxy specifies otherwise, to vote the shares represented by such proxy **FOR** the election of the nominees listed below. In the unlikely event that any nominee should be unable to serve as a director, proxies may be voted in favor of a substitute nominee designated by the Board of Directors. If you are a beneficial owner of shares held in street name, your broker or other nominee will not be allowed to vote in the election of directors unless you instruct your broker or other nominee how to vote on the form that the broker or nominee provided to you.

#### **Directors**

The names and ages of our directors who are nominees for re-election are:

**Deborah Andrews**, 58, joined our Board of Directors during April 2014. Ms. Andrews has served as Vice President-Chief Accounting Officer of STAAR Surgical Company since 2013, and served as STAAR Surgical s Vice President-Chief Financial Officer from 2005 to 2013, as its Global Controller from 2001 to 2005, and as its Vice President-International Finance from 1999 to 2001. Ms. Andrews previously worked as a senior accountant for a major public accounting firm. Ms. Andrews holds a B.S. degree in Accounting from California State University at San Bernardino.

Ms. Andrews brings to our Board significant experience in finance, financial reporting, accounting and auditing, and in management as a senior financial and accounting executive of a public medical device company during a period of significant growth.

**Neal C. Bradsher, CFA**, 50, joined our Board of Directors during July 2009. Mr. Bradsher has been President of Broadwood Capital, Inc., a private investment firm, since 2002. Mr. Bradsher holds a B.A. degree in economics from Yale College and is a Chartered Financial Analyst. Mr. Bradsher was a director of Questcor Pharmaceuticals, Inc., from March 2004 until August 2014, when Questcor was acquired by Mallinckrodt plc. Questcor was a biopharmaceutical company focused on the treatment of patients with serious, difficult-to-treat autoimmune and inflammatory disorders.

Mr. Bradsher brings to the Board a wealth of experience in finance, management, and corporate governance attained through his successful investments in other companies, including companies in the pharmaceutical, medical device, health care services, and health care information systems sectors. He has worked with several health care companies to improve their management and governance, and served as a director of Questcor Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Entities that Mr. Bradsher controls have invested in most of BioTime's financing transactions over the last several years. Mr. Bradsher is the President of the general partner of Broadwood Partners, L.P., currently our largest shareholder.

Stephen C. Farrell, 51, joined our Board of Directors during March 2013. Mr. Farrell currently serves as Chief Executive Officer and Director of Convey Health Solutions (formerly known as NationsHealth, Inc.), a healthcare business process outsourcing company headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Convey Health Solutions utilizes both technology and staff to manage end-to-end insurance processes for business clients. Before joining Convey Health Solutions in 2011, he served as President of PolyMedica Corporation, a publicly traded provider of diabetes supplies and related services that was acquired in 2007 by Medco Health Solutions. During his eight year tenure at PolyMedica, Mr. Farrell served as its President, Chief Operating Officer, and as Chief Financial Officer, Chief Compliance Officer, and Treasurer. Mr. Farrell previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Stream Global Services, Inc., a business process outsourcing company. Earlier in his career, Mr. Farrell served as Senior Manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Mr. Farrell holds an A.B. from Harvard University, and an M.B.A. from the Darden School at the University of Virginia. Mr. Farrell served on the board and was chairman of the Audit Committee of Questcor Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company focused on the treatment of patients with serious, difficult-to-treat autoimmune and inflammatory disorders from November 2007 to until August 2014, when Questcor was acquired by Mallinckrodt plc. Mr. Farrell also currently serves as a director of STAAR Surgical Company.

Mr. Farrell brings to our Board significant experience in finance, financial reporting, accounting and auditing, and in management as a senior executive of a public healthcare company during a period of significant growth.

Alfred D. Kingsley, 73, joined our Board of Directors and became Chairman of the Board during July 2009. Mr. Kingsley has been general partner of Greenway Partners, L.P., a private investment firm, and President of Greenbelt Corp., a business consulting firm, since 1993. Greenbelt Corp. served as our financial advisor from 1998 until June 30, 2009. Mr. Kingsley was Senior Vice-President of Icahn and Company and its affiliated entities for more than 25 years. Mr. Kingsley is a director of our subsidiaries Asterias Biotherapeutics, Inc. and OncoCyte Corporation. Mr. Kingsley holds a BS degree in economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and a J.D. degree and LLM in taxation from New York University Law School.

Mr. Kingsley's long career in corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions includes substantial experience in helping companies to improve their management and corporate governance, and to restructure their operations in order to add value for shareholders. Mr. Kingsley developed an intimate knowledge of our business in his role as our financial advisor before he joined our Board. Mr. Kingsley has been instrumental in structuring our equity and debt financings, and in the transition of our business focus into the field of human embryonic stem cell technology, and the business acquisitions that have helped us expand the scope of our business. Mr. Kingsley, along with entities that he

controls, is currently one of our largest shareholders.

**Aditya Mohanty**, 49, has served as our Co-Chief Executive Officer since October 2105. Mr. Mohanty joined BioTime as its Chief Operating Officer during December 2014. Mr. Mohanty also serves as a director of our subsidiary OncoCyte Corporation. Mr. Mohanty previously served in a number of executive positions at Shire plc, including as President/Head Regenerative Medicine from 2013 to 2014, as Senior Vice President, Business and Technical Operations from 2012 to 2013, as Global Franchise Head MPS from 2010 to 2012, and as Vice President

of Operations/Product General Manager from 2005 to 2012. Shire plc is a biotechnology company focused on research, development and commercialization of novel biological products for rare diseases, Mr. Mohanty was VP of Manufacturing and Operations at Transkaryotic Therapies, Inc. from 2002 to 2005 when it was acquired by Shire. Before joining Transkaryotic Therapies, Mr. Mohanty held a number of management positions at Baxter Healthcare Corporation, Bioscience Division from 1990 to 2002. Mr. Mohanty received an MBA degree from Saint Mary's College, an MS in Chemical Engineering from Clarkson University, and a B. Tech in Chemical Engineering from REC Trichy, in India.

Mr. Mohanty brings to our Board his years of experience as an executive in the pharmaceutical industry, with particular emphasis on product development and manufacturing.

Michael H. Mulroy, 50, joined our Board of Directors during October 2014. Mr. Mulroy is a business consultant and serves as the President of Mulroy Advisors, LLC. Mr. Mulroy served until September 2014 as Executive Vice President – Strategic Affairs and General Counsel of the Autoimmune and Rare Diseases Business Unit of Mallinckrodt plc following its acquisition of Questcor Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in August 2014. Mr. Mulroy was appointed Executive Vice President, Strategic Affairs and General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Questcor during February 2014, having previously served as Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary since January 2011. From 2003 to 2011, Mr. Mulroy was employed by the law firm of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, where he served as a partner from 2004, and represented Questcor and other publicly-traded companies. From 1997 to 2003, Mr. Mulroy was an investment banker at Citigroup and Merrill Lynch. From July 2011 to August 2014, Mr. Mulroy served as a member of the Board of Directors of Comarco, Inc., which developed and designed innovative technologies and intellectual property used in power adapters. Mr. Mulroy earned his J.D. degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and his B.A. (Economics) from the University of Chicago.

Mr. Mulroy brings to our Board his experience as a strategic planner and as legal counsel and member of a senior management team of a growing biopharmaceutical company. Mr. Mulroy also brings to our Board his experience in corporate finance and investor relations.

Angus C. Russell, 60, joined our Board of Directors during December 2014. Mr. Russell served as the Chief Executive Officer of Shire plc, a biopharmaceutical company, from June 2008 to April 2013. Mr. Russell served as the Chief Financial Officer of Shire from 1999 to 2008 and also served as its Principal Accounting Officer and Executive Vice President of Global Finance. Prior to joining Shire, Mr. Russell served at ICI, Zeneca and AstraZeneca for 19 years, most recently as Vice President of Corporate Finance at AstraZeneca plc. He is a Chartered Accountant, having qualified with Coopers & Lybrand (now PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP). Mr. Russell also serves as a director of Mallinckrodt plc and Therapeutics MD, Inc., and as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Revance Therapeutics, Inc. Mr. Russell previously served as a director of Shire plc, Questcor Pharmaceuticals, Inc. until it was acquired by Mallinckrodt plc in August 2014, and InterMune, Inc. prior to its acquisition by Roche Holdings, Inc. during September 2014.

Mr. Russell brings to our Board numerous years of experience as a Chief Executive Officer of an international publicly traded specialty biopharmaceutical company and his substantial experience as an officer and director in the specialty pharmaceutical industry.

**David Schlachet**, 70, joined our Board of Directors during April 2014. Mr. Schlachet serves as a director of several public and private Israeli companies. Mr. Schlachet served as chairman of Syneron Medical Ltd., an Israeli aesthetic medical device company, from April 2013 to February 2014 and prior to that, he served as Syneron Medical's Chief Executive Officer from November 2005 to May 2007, after serving as its Chief Financial Officer beginning in June 2004. From November 2008 to November 2012, Mr. Schlachet served as a director of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and Chairman of its Audit Committee. From 2000 to June 2004 Mr. Schlachet served as Managing Partner of Biocom, a venture capital fund specializing in the life sciences field. From 1995 to 2000, Mr. Schlachet served as a Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Strauss Elite Holdings, an Israeli packaged food group, and from 1997 to

2000 he also served as active Chairman of Elite Industries, an Israeli coffee, confectionary and salty snacks manufacturer. From 1988 till 1995 Mr. Schlachet served as Vice President of Finance and Administration of the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel's premier post-graduate scientific research institute, and as Chief Executive Officer of its technology transfer company Yeda Research and Development Company, Ltd. Mr. Schlachet serves as a director of Syneron Medical Ltd, Taya Investments Ltd (Chairman), Mazor Robotics Ltd

and BioCancell Ltd, and until February 2016 he served as a director of EzChip Semiconductor Ltd. Mr. Schlachet also serves as Chairman of the Board of our subsidiary Cell Cure Neurosciences Ltd. Mr. Schlachet holds a B.Sc. degree in chemical engineering and an M.B.A. from the Tel-Aviv University.

Mr. Schlachet brings to our Board many years of experience in management, finance, and investment, including as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Syneron Medical Ltd, as an executive of the Weizmann Institute and its affiliate Yeda Research and Development, and as Chairman of our subsidiary Cell Cure Neurosciences Ltd. We believe that Mr. Schlachet s experience in finance and industry will be of great value in the management and financing the business of BioTime and our subsidiaries.

Michael D. West, Ph.D., 63, is our Co-Chief Executive Officer and has served on the Board of Directors since 2002. Dr. West was appointed Chief Executive Officer of BioTime during October 2007 and became Co-Chief Executive Officer during October 2015. Dr. West also served as interim President and Chief Executive Officer of our subsidiary Asterias Biotherapeutics, Inc. from April 2014 to June 2014, and as Vice President of Technology Integration of Asterias until December 2015. Dr. West serves as director of Asterias and of OncoCyte Corporation. Prior to becoming our Chief Executive Officer, Dr. West served as Chief Executive Officer, President, and Chief Scientific Officer of Ocata Therapeutics, Inc., a company engaged in developing human stem cell technology for use in regenerative medicine. Dr. West also founded Geron Corporation of Menlo Park, California, and from 1990 to 1998 he was a Director and Vice-President, where he initiated and managed programs in telomerase diagnostics, oligonucleotide-based telomerase inhibition as anti-tumor therapy, and the cloning and use of telomerase in telomerase-mediated therapy wherein telomerase is utilized to immortalize human cells. From 1995 to 1998 he organized and managed the research between Geron and its academic collaborators, James Thomson and John Gearhart that led to the first isolation of human embryonic stem and human embryonic germ cells. Dr. West received a B.S. Degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1976, an M.S. Degree in Biology from Andrews University in 1982, and a Ph.D. from Baylor College of Medicine in 1989 concentrating on the biology of cellular aging.

Dr. West is an internationally renowned pioneer and expert in stem cell research, and has extensive academic and business experience in age-related degenerative diseases, telomerase molecular biology, and human embryonic stem cell research and development. Dr. West brings to our Board the proven ability to conceive of and manage innovative research and development programs that have made scientifically significant discoveries in the field of human embryonic stem cells, and the ability to build companies focused on the great potential of regenerative medicine.

## **Director Independence**

Our Board of Directors has determined that Deborah Andrews, Neal C. Bradsher, Stephen C. Farrell, Michael H. Mulroy, Angus C. Russell, and David Schlachet qualify as independent in accordance with Section 803(A) of the NYSE MKT Company Guide. The members of our Audit Committee meet the additional independence standards under Section 803(B)(2) of the NYSE MKT Company Guide and Section 10A-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), and the members of our Compensation Committee meet the additional independence standards under Section 805(c)(1) of the NYSE MKT Company Guide. Our independent directors received no compensation or remuneration for serving as directors except as disclosed under CORPORATE GOVERNANCE—Compensation of Directors. None of these directors, nor any of the members of their families, have participated in any transaction with us that would disqualify them as independent directors under the standards described above.

Aditya Mohanty and Michael D. West do not qualify as independent because they are our full-time employees. Alfred D. Kingsley does not qualify as independent because during the past three years he received compensation for serving in an executive role as Chairman of certain of our subsidiaries.

#### CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

## **Directors Meetings**

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, our Board of Directors met twelve times. None of our current directors attended fewer than 75% of the meetings of the Board and the committees on which they served.

Directors are also encouraged to attend our annual meetings of shareholders, although they are not formally required to do so. All of our current directors who were then serving on the Board attended the last annual meeting, except David Schlachet, who was unable to attend.

#### **Meetings of Non-Management Directors**

Our non-management directors meet no less frequently than quarterly in executive session, without any directors who are BioTime officers or employees present. These meetings allow the non-management directors to engage in open and frank discussions about corporate governance and about our business, operations, finances, and management performance.

#### **Shareholder Communications with Directors**

If you wish to communicate with the Board of Directors or with individual directors, you may do so by following the procedure described on our website at <u>www.biotimeinc.com</u>.

#### **Code of Ethics**

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics ( Code of Ethics ) that applies to our principal executive officers, our principal financial officer and accounting officer, our other executive officers, and our directors. The purpose of the Code of Ethics is to promote (i) honest and ethical conduct, including the ethical handling of actual or apparent conflicts of interest between personal and professional relationships; (ii) full, fair, accurate, timely, and understandable disclosure in reports and documents that we file with or submit to the SEC and in our other public communications; (iii) compliance with applicable governmental rules and regulations; (iv) prompt internal reporting of violations of the Code of Ethics to an appropriate person or persons identified in the Code of Ethics; and (v) accountability for adherence to the Code of Ethics. A copy of our Code of Ethics has been posted on our internet website and can be found at <a href="https://www.biotimeinc.com">www.biotimeinc.com</a>. We intend to disclose any future amendments to certain provisions of our Code of Ethics, and any waivers of those provisions granted to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller or persons performing similar functions, by posting the information on our website within four business days following the date of the amendment or waiver.

#### **Board Leadership Structure**

Our leadership structure bifurcates the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board. In other words, although Aditya Mohanty and Michael D. West are our Co-Chief Executive Officers and are members of our Board, Alfred D. Kingsley currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Although Mr. Kingsley is not an executive officer of BioTime, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board he plays an active role in the structuring and oversight of our financings and the growth of our business. This structure allows our Co-Chief Executive Officers to focus on innovation in our research and product development programs, building our intellectual property portfolio, and fostering relationships within the bioscience industry. The Chairman of the Board serves as an active liaison between the Board and our Co-Chief Executive Officers and our other senior management. The Chairman of the Board also interfaces with our other non-management directors with respect to matters such as the members and chairs of Board committees, other corporate governance matters, financing, strategic planning, and business acquisitions.

#### The Board s Role in Risk Management

The Board has an active role, as a whole, in overseeing management of the risks of our business. The Board regularly reviews information regarding our credit, liquidity, and operations, as well as the risks associated with our research and development activities and our plans to expand our business. The Audit Committee provides oversight of our financial reporting processes and the annual audit of our financial statements. In addition, the Audit Committee also reviews and must approve any business transactions between BioTime and its executive officers, directors, and shareholders who beneficially own 5% or more of our common shares.

#### **Committees of the Board**

The Board of Directors has an Audit Committee, a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, and a Compensation Committee. The members of each of these committees are independent in accordance with Section 803(A) of the NYSE MKT Company Guides and Section 10A-3 under the Exchange Act. The members of the Audit Committee and Compensation Committee must also meet the independence tests applicable to members of those committees under the NYSE MKT Company Guide. The Board of Directors also has a Corporate Development Committee and a Management Development Committee, the members of which do not need to be independent directors.

#### Audit Committee

The members of the Audit Committee are Stephen C. Farrell (Chairman), Deborah Andrews, and David Schlachet. The Audit Committee held seven meetings during 2015. The purpose of the Audit Committee is to

recommend the engagement of our independent registered public accountants, to review their performance and the plan, scope, and results of the audit, and to review and approve the fees we pay to our independent registered public accountants. The Audit Committee also will review our accounting and financial reporting procedures and controls, and all transactions between us and our executive officers, directors, and shareholders who beneficially own 5% or more of our common shares. The Audit Committee has a written charter that requires the members of the Audit Committee to be directors who are independent in accordance with Section 803(A) and Section 803(B) of the NYSE MKT Company Guide and Section 10A-3 under the Exchange Act. A copy of the Audit Committee Charter has been posted on our internet website and can be found at <a href="https://www.biotimeinc.com">www.biotimeinc.com</a>.

Our Board of Directors has determined that each of the members of our Audit Committee meets the criteria of an audit committee financial expert within the meaning of the SEC s regulations. Mr. Farrell s expertise is based on his experience as an accountant working for a major accounting firm and as the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, President and Chief Financial Officer of a number of companies, both public and private, where he supervised financial and accounting personnel. Ms. Andrews expertise is based on her experience as Vice President-Chief Accounting Officer of STAAR Surgical Company and as STAAR Surgical s Vice President-Chief Financial Officer, and as a senior accountant at a major accounting firm. Mr. Schlachet s expertise is based on his experience as a Chief Financial Officer of Syneron Medical Ltd. and of Strauss Elite Holdings, and as Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Nominating Policies and Procedures

The members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are Neal C. Bradsher (Chairman), Stephen C. Farrell, and Michael H. Mulroy. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee held one formal meeting in 2015 and several informal meetings during the year. The purpose of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is to recommend to the Board of Directors individuals qualified to serve as directors and on committees of the Board, and to make recommendations to the Board on issues and proposals regarding corporate governance matters. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will also consider nominees proposed by shareholders, provided that they notify the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the nomination in writing at least 120 days before the date of the next annual meeting and they and the nominee provide the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee with all information that the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may reasonably request regarding the nominee, no later than 90 days prior to the annual meeting. A copy of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter has been posted on our internet website and can be found at <a href="https://www.biotimeinc.com">www.biotimeinc.com</a>.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has not set any specific minimum qualifications that a prospective nominee would need in order to be recommended by the Committee to serve on the Board of Directors. Rather, in evaluating any new nominee or incumbent director, the Committee will consider whether the particular person has the knowledge, skills, experience, and expertise needed to manage our affairs in light of the skills, experience, and expertise of the other members of the Board as a whole. The Committee will also consider whether a nominee or incumbent director has any conflicts of interest with BioTime that might conflict with our Code of Ethics or that might otherwise interfere with their ability to perform their duties in a manner that is in the best interest of BioTime and its shareholders. The Committee will also consider whether including a prospective director on the Board will result in a Board composition that complies with (a) applicable state corporate laws, (b) applicable federal and state securities laws, and (c) the rules of the SEC and each stock exchange on which our shares are listed.

The Board of Directors and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee have not adopted specific policies with respect to a particular mix or diversity of skills, experience, expertise, perspectives, and background that nominees should have. However, the present Board was assembled with a focus on attaining a Board comprised of people with substantial experience in bioscience, the pharmaceutical industry, corporate management, finance, and law. The Board believes that this interdisciplinary approach will best suit our needs, as we expand our initiatives in the field of regenerative medicine. The Board is also cognizant of the value of experience in international markets and

operations given the growing globalization of the pharmaceutical industry and world-wide focus on stem cell research.

Some of the factors considered by the Committee and the Board in selecting the Board s nominees for election at the Meeting are discussed in this Proxy Statement under ELECTION OF DIRECTORS—Directors.

#### Compensation Committee

The members of the Compensation Committee are Deborah Andrews (Chairwoman), Stephen C. Farrell and David Schlachet. Mr. Farrell was appointed to the Compensation Committee in March 2016. The Compensation Committee met seven times during 2015 during which time Stephen L. Cartt served as a member of the Compensation Committee. All of the members of the Compensation Committee qualify as independent in accordance with Section 803(A) and Section 805(c)(1) of the NYSE MKT Company Guide. The Compensation Committee oversees our compensation and employee benefit plans and practices, including executive compensation arrangements and incentive plans and awards of stock options and other equity-based awards under our Equity Incentive Plan. The Compensation Committee recommends to the Board of Directors the terms and amount of executive compensation and grants of equity-based awards to executives, key employees, consultants, and independent contractors. A copy of the Compensation Committee Charter has been posted on our internet website and can be found at www.biotimeinc.com.

## Report of the Audit Committee on the Audit of Our Financial Statements

The following is the report of the Audit Committee with respect to BioTime s audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015.

The information contained in this report shall not be deemed soliciting material or otherwise considered filed with the SEC, and such information shall not be incorporated by reference into any future filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act ), or the Exchange Act, except to the extent that BioTime specifically incorporates such information by reference in such filing.

The members of the Audit Committee held discussions with our management and representatives of OUM & Co., LLP, our independent registered public accountants, concerning the audit of our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015. The independent public accountants are responsible for performing an independent audit of our consolidated financial statements and issuing an opinion on the conformity of those audited financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles. Our auditors also audit our internal control over financial reporting. The Audit Committee does not itself prepare financial statements or perform audits, and its members are not auditors or certifiers of BioTime s financial statements.

The Audit Committee members reviewed and discussed with management and representatives of the auditors the audited financial statements contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015. Our auditors also discussed with the Audit Committee the adequacy of BioTime s internal control over financial reporting.

The Audit Committee members discussed with the auditors the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (Communications with Audit Committees). Our auditors submitted to the Audit Committee the written disclosures and the letter mandated by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant s communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence. Based on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee unanimously approved the inclusion of the audited financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Audit Committee also met on a quarterly basis with the auditors during 2015 to review and discuss our financial statements for the quarter and the adequacy of internal control over financial reporting.