HARVARD BIOSCIENCE INC
Form DEF 14A
April 05, 2017

UNITED STATES			
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE CO	MMISSION		
Washington, D.C. 20549			
SCHEDULE 14A			
(Rule 14a-101)			
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PRO	OXY STATEMENT		
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION			
<b>Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section</b>	14(a) of the		
Securities Exchange Act of 1934			
(Amendment No. )			
Filed by the Registrant x	Filed by a Party other than the Registrant "		
Check the appropriate box:			
oPreliminary Proxy Statement	· 0.1 (		
o Confidential, For Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2)) x Definitive Proxy Statement			
o Definitive Additional Materials o Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14	la-12		

Harvard Bioscience, Inc.

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- (3) Filing Party:
- (4) Date Filed:

HARVARD BIOSCIENCE, INC.
84 October Hill Road
Holliston, Massachusetts 01746-1371
April 5, 2017
Dear Stockholder:
You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Harvard Bioscience, Inc. (the "Annual Meeting") to be held on Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. EDT at the offices of Burns & Levinson LLP, 125 Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. At the meeting, we will be voting on the matters described in this Proxy Statement.
We are using the Internet as our primary means of furnishing the proxy materials to our stockholders. This process expedites the delivery of proxy materials, ensures materials remain easily accessible to stockholders, and allows stockholders to receive clear instructions for receiving materials and voting.
We are mailing the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to stockholders on or about April 5, 2017. The Proxy Statement and 2016 Annual Report to Stockholders, which includes the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, are available at <i>www.proxyvote.com</i> .
The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials contains instructions for our stockholders' use of this process including how to access our Proxy Statement and 2016 Annual Report and how to vote, including online or mail. To the extent you receive a proxy card, such proxy card will also contain instructions on how you may also vote by telephone. In addition, the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials contains instructions on how you may (i) receive a paper copy of the Proxy Statement and 2016 Annual Report, if you received only a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials this year, or (ii) elect to receive your Proxy Statement and Annual Report only over the Internet, if you received them by mail this year.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, it is still important that your shares be represented and voted. Therefore, regardless of the number of shares you own, PLEASE VOTE THROUGH THE INTERNET, BY TELEPHONE OR BY MAIL. Any stockholder who attends the meeting may vote in person, even if he or she has voted through the

Internet, by telephone or by mail.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 23, 2017 as the record date for determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE ONLINE, BY TELEPHONE OR BY COMPLETING, DATING, SIGNING AND PROMPTLY RETURNING YOUR PROXY CARD OR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS CARD IN THE POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE (WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED TO THOSE STOCKHOLDERS WHO REQUEST TO RECEIVE PAPER COPIES OF THESE MATERIALS BY MAIL) BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING SO THAT YOUR SHARES ARE REPRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING. INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE METHODS OF VOTING ARE CONTAINED IN THE NOTICE OF INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Duchemin

President and Chief Executive Officer

HARVARD BIOSCIENCE, INC.
84 October Hill Road
Holliston, Massachusetts 01746-1371
(508) 893-8999
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held on Thursday, May 18, 2017

Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 for the following purposes:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Harvard Bioscience, Inc. (the "Company") will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. EDT at the offices of Burns & Levinson LLP, 125 Summer

- The election of one Class II Director, nominated by the Board of Directors, for a three-year term, such term to 1. continue until the annual meeting of stockholders in 2020 and until such Director's successor is duly elected and qualified or until his earlier resignation or removal;
- 2. The ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017;
- 3. Approval of an amendment to the Harvard Bioscience, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan to increase the number of authorized shares available for issuance by 300,000 shares of common stock;
- 4. Approval, by a non-binding advisory vote, of the compensation of our named executive officers;
- 5. Recommendation, by a non-binding advisory vote, of the frequency (one, two or three years) of the shareholder vote to approve the compensation of Harvard Bioscience's named executive officers; and
- 6. Such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 23, 2017 as the record date for determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

Only holders of Common Stock of record at the close of business on that date will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof. Each of the items of business listed above is more fully described in the proxy statement that accompanies this notice.

In the event there are not sufficient shares to be voted in favor of any of the foregoing proposals at the time of the Annual Meeting, the Annual Meeting may be adjourned in order to permit further solicitation of proxies.

The Board of Directors of Harvard Bioscience, Inc. recommends that you vote "FOR" the election of the nominee of the Board of Directors as Director of Harvard Bioscience, Inc., "FOR" the proposal to ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, "FOR" the proposal to approve, by a non-binding advisory vote, of the compensation of our named executive officers, and "FOR" the proposal to recommend, by a non-binding advisory vote, 1 year as frequency of the shareholder vote to approve the compensation of Harvard Bioscience's named executive officers.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting to be Held on Thursday, May 18, 2017: The Proxy Statement and 2016 Annual Report to Stockholders, which includes the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, are available at <a href="https://www.proxyvote.com">www.proxyvote.com</a>. The Annual Report, however, is not part of the proxy solicitation material.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Jeffrey A. Duchemin

President and Chief Executive Officer

Holliston, Massachusetts

April 5, 2017

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE ONLINE, BY TELEPHONE OR BY COMPLETING, DATING, SIGNING AND PROMPTLY RETURNING YOUR PROXY CARD OR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS CARD IN THE POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE (WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED TO THOSE STOCKHOLDERS WHO REQUEST TO RECEIVE PAPER COPIES OF THESE MATERIALS BY MAIL) BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING SO THAT YOUR SHARES ARE REPRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

# Harvard Bioscience, Inc.

# Notice of 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders,

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HARVARD BIOSCIENCE, INC.
84 October Hill Road
Holliston, Massachusetts 01746-1371
(508) 893-8999
PROXY STATEMENT

# Annual Meeting of Stockholders to Be Held on Thursday, May 18, 2017

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Harvard Bioscience, Inc. (the "Company" or "we") for use at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company to be held on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. EDT at the offices of Burns & Levinson LLP, 125 Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, and any adjournments or postponements thereof. You may obtain directions to the Annual Meeting at www.proxyvote.com. At the Annual Meeting, the stockholders of the Company will be asked to consider and vote upon:

The election of one Class II Director, nominated by the Board of Directors (or the "Board"), for a three-year term, 1. such term to continue until the annual meeting of stockholders in 2020 and until such Director's successor is duly elected and qualified or until his earlier resignation or removal;

- 2. The ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017;
- 3. Approval of an amendment to the Harvard Bioscience, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan to increase the number of authorized shares available for issuance by 300,000 shares of common stock;
- 4. Approval, by a non-binding advisory vote, of the compensation of our named executive officers;
- 5. Recommendation, by a non-binding advisory vote, of the frequency (one, two or three years) of the shareholder vote to approve the compensation of Harvard Bioscience's named executive officers; and
- 6. Such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

Under rules and regulations that the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, instead of mailing a printed copy of our proxy materials to each stockholder of record or beneficial owner of our common stock, we are now furnishing proxy materials, which include our Proxy Statement and Annual Report, to our stockholders over the Internet and providing a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials by mail. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials is first being mailed to stockholders of the Company on or about April 5, 2017, in connection with the solicitation of proxies for the Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 23, 2017 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting (the "Record Date"). Only holders of Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share, of the Company (the "Common Stock") of record at the close of business on the Record Date will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting. As of the Record Date, there were 34,582,588 shares of Common Stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting and approximately 132 stockholders of record. Each holder of a share of Common Stock outstanding as of the close of business on the Record Date will be entitled to one vote for each share held of record with respect to each matter properly submitted at the Annual Meeting.

The presence, in person or by proxy, of holders of at least a majority of the total number of outstanding shares of Common Stock entitled to vote is necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting. Shares held of record by stockholders or their nominees who do not return a signed and dated proxy, properly deliver proxies via the Internet or telephone, or attend the Annual Meeting in person will not be considered present or represented at the Annual Meeting and will not be counted in determining the presence of a quorum. Consistent with applicable law, we intend to count abstentions and broker non-votes only for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the transaction of business. A broker "non-vote" refers to shares held by a broker or nominee that does not have the authority, either express or discretionary, to vote on a particular matter. Applicable rules no longer permit brokers to vote in the election of Directors if the broker has not received instructions from the beneficial owner. Accordingly, it is important that beneficial owners instruct their brokers how they wish to vote their shares.

With respect to the election of one Class II Director in Proposal No. 1, such Director is elected by a plurality of the votes cast if a quorum is present. Votes may be cast for or withheld from the Director. In a plurality election, votes may only be cast in favor of or withheld from each nominee; votes that are withheld will be excluded entirely from the vote and will have no effect. This means that the person receiving the highest number of "FOR" votes will be elected as Director.

Approval of Proposal Nos. 2, 3 and 4, regarding the ratification of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, amendment of our Employee Stock Purchase Plan and advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers respectively, requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting in person or by proxy. With respect to Proposal No. 5, the advisory vote on the frequency of future advisory votes on compensation for our named executive officers, the alternative (one year, two years or three years) receiving the highest number of votes cast in person or by proxy will be considered the frequency recommended by stockholders.

Any shares not voted (whether by abstention, broker non-vote or otherwise) will have no impact on the election of a Director, except to the extent that the failure to vote for an individual results in another individual receiving a larger percentage of votes, and no impact on the proposal for approval of each other matter expected to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

The corporate actions described in this Proxy Statement will not afford stockholders the opportunity to dissent from the actions described herein or to receive an agreed or judicially appraised value for their shares.

You will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials unless you request to receive these materials in hard copy by following the instructions provided in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. Instead, the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials will instruct you how you may access and review all of the important information contained in the proxy materials. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials also instructs you how you may submit your proxy via the Internet or mail. To the extent you receive a proxy card, such proxy card will also contain instructions on how you may also vote by telephone. If you received a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials by mail and would like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials, you should follow the instructions for requesting such materials included in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials.

We encourage you to vote either online, by telephone or by completing, signing, dating and returning a proxy card or if you hold your shares through a brokerage firm, bank or other financial institution, by completing and returning a voting instruction form. This ensures that your shares will be voted at the Annual Meeting and reduces the likelihood that we will be forced to incur additional expenses soliciting proxies for the Annual Meeting.

Voting over the Internet, by telephone or mailing a proxy card will not limit your right to vote in person or to attend the Annual Meeting. Any record holder as of the Record Date may attend the Annual Meeting in person and may

revoke a previously provided proxy at any time by: (i) executing and delivering a later-dated proxy to the corporate secretary at Harvard Bioscience, Inc., 84 October Hill Road, Holliston, Massachusetts 01746-1371; (ii) delivering a written revocation to the corporate secretary at the address above before the meeting; or (iii) voting in person at the Annual Meeting.

Beneficial holders who wish to change or revoke their voting instructions should contact their brokerage firm, bank or other financial institution for information on how to do so. Beneficial holders who wish to attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person should contact their brokerage firm, bank or other financial institution holding shares of Common Stock on their behalf in order to obtain a "legal proxy", which will allow them to vote in person at the meeting. Attendance at the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke a proxy.

Our Board of Directors recommends a vote "FOR" the nominee of the Board of Directors with respect to Proposal No. 1, an affirmative vote on proposal Nos. 2, 3 and 4, and with respect to Proposal No. 5, a vote "FOR" 1 year as frequency of the shareholder vote to approve the compensation of Harvard Bioscience's named executive officers. Proxies will be voted as specified. If your proxy is properly submitted, it will be voted in the manner you direct. If you do not specify instructions with respect to any particular matter to be acted upon at the meeting, proxies will be voted in favor of the Board of Directors' recommendations.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting to be Held on Thursday, May 18, 2017: The Proxy Statement and 2016 Annual Report to Stockholders, which includes the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, are available at <a href="https://www.proxyvote.com">www.proxyvote.com</a>. The Annual Report, however, is not part of the proxy solicitation material.

#### PROPOSAL 1

### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors of the Company currently consists of seven members and is divided into three classes of Directors, with two Directors in Class I, two Directors in Class II and three Directors in Class III. David Green will not stand for re-election at the Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors has approved a reduction in the size of the Board of Directors from seven members to six members, to become effective immediately prior to the Annual Meeting at the end of Mr. Green's current term. At such time, there will be two Directors in Class I, one Director in Class II and three Directors in Class III.

Directors serve for three-year terms with one class of Directors being elected by our stockholders at each annual meeting to succeed the Directors of the same class whose terms are then expiring. The nominee elected as a Director will continue in office until his or her successor has been elected and qualified, or until his or her death, resignation or retirement.

At the Annual Meeting, one Class II Director, nominated by the Board of Directors, will stand for re-election to serve until the 2020 annual meeting of stockholders and until his successor is duly elected and qualified or until his earlier resignation or removal. At the recommendation of the Governance Committee, the Board of Directors has nominated Mr. John F. Kennedy for election as the Class II Director of the Company. Unless otherwise specified in the proxy, it is the intention of the persons named in the proxy to vote the shares represented by each properly executed proxy "FOR" the election of Mr. John F. Kennedy. The nominee has agreed to stand for re-election and, if re-elected, to serve as Director. However, if any person nominated by the Board of Directors is unable to serve or will not serve, the proxies will be voted for the election of such other person or persons as the Governance Committee and the Board of Directors may recommend.

## **Vote Required**

The affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast by holders of shares of Common Stock present or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the matter at the Annual Meeting is required for the election of the nominee as a Class II Director of the Company.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE ELECTION OF THE FOLLOWING NOMINEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: JOHN F. KENNEDY. PROPERLY AUTHORIZED PROXIES SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE VOTED "FOR" THE NOMINEE UNLESS INSTRUCTIONS TO WITHHOLD OR TO THE CONTRARY ARE GIVEN.

### INFORMATION REGARDING DIRECTORS

Set forth below is certain information regarding the Directors of the Company, including the Class II Director who has been nominated for election at the Annual Meeting, based on information furnished to the Company by each Director. The biographical description below for each Director includes his age, all positions he holds with the Company, his principal occupation and business experience over at least the past five years, and the names of other publicly-held companies for which he currently serves as a Director or has served as a Director during at least the past five years. The biographical description below for each Director also includes the specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led to the conclusion by the Board of Directors that such person should serve as a Director of the Company. In addition to such specific information, we also believe that all of our Directors have a reputation for integrity, honesty and adherence to high ethical standards. Further, they have each demonstrated business acumen and an ability to exercise sound judgment as well as a commitment of service to the Company and our Board.

The Board of Directors has determined that the Director nominee and incumbent Directors listed below are "independent" as such term is currently defined by applicable NASDAQ rules, Our Director John F. Kennedy is also currently a Director of Biostage, Inc., formerly known as Harvard Apparatus Regenerative Technology, Inc., or Biostage, which was spun-off from the Company on November 1, 2013.

The following information is current as of April 1, 2017, based on information furnished to the Company by each Director:

#### Directors of Harvard Bioscience, Inc.

Name	1 P W 21 A C		Director
Name	Age	Position with the Company	Since
Class I Directors—Term expires 2019			
James W. Green (CC)(GC)	58	Director	2015
Bertrand Loy (AC)(GC)	51	Director	2014
Class II Directors—Term expires 2017;			
Nominated to Serve a Term Expiring 2020 John F. Kennedy (AC)(CC)*	68	Director	2000
Class II Directors—Term expires 2017  David Green	52	Director	1996
Class III Directors—Term expires 2018  Jeffrey A. Duchemin	51	Chief Executive Officer and Director	2013

Earl R. Lewis (CC)(GC) 73 Chairman 2000 George Uveges (AC) 69 Director 2006

\_\_\_\_\_

(AC) Member of the Audit Committee

(CC) Member of the Compensation Committee

(GC) Member of the Governance Committee

Incumbent Class I Directors—Terms Expiring in 2019

James W. Green has served as a Director of the Company since April 2015 and is a member of the Compensation Committee and Governance Committee. Mr. James W. Green served as President, Chief Executive Officer and a Director of Analogic Corporation, a leading publicly held advanced medical and security imaging company from 2007 until October 2016. From 2005 to 2007, Mr. James W. Green worked as Regional Vice President of Unilab Corp., a California division of Quest Diagnostics Corporation, successfully integrating full Unilab operations into the national laboratory network of Quest Diagnostics. From 1983 to 2005, Mr. James W. Green worked in various other leadership positions at Koninklijke Philips Electronics NV, St. Jude Medical Inc., Beckman Instruments, McDonnell Douglas Corporation and Northrop Advanced Systems. Mr. James W. Green holds a B.S. from the University of Missouri at Columbia, an M.S. from the University of Southern California and is a graduate of the Stanford University Executive Program. We believe Mr. James W. Green's qualifications to sit on our Board of Directors include his executive leadership experience and global experience in the life science industry in a variety of executive positions.

<sup>\*</sup>Nominees for election.

Bertrand Loy has served as a Director of the Company since November 2014 and is a member of the Audit Committee and Governance Committee. Since November 2012, Mr. Loy has served as President, CEO and a Director of Entegris Inc., a provider of yield-enhancing materials and solutions used in advanced high-tech manufacturing environments. Prior to that, he served as Chief Operating Officer of Entegris from 2008 to 2012 and Chief Administrative Officer of Entegris from 2005 to 2008. He previously worked as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Mykrolis Corp. from 2001 until its merger with Entegris in 2005. From 1995 to 2000, Mr. Loy was with Millipore initially as the Director of Finance and Manufacturing for Millipore's Laboratory Water Division before moving to the position of Chief Information Officer. He began his career with Sandoz Pharmaceuticals (now Novartis) where he held various positions in strategic planning, finance and audit in Europe, Japan and Latin America from 1989 to 1995. Mr. Loy earned an M.B.A. at ESSEC Business School in France. We believe Mr. Loy's qualifications to sit on our Board of Directors include his extensive experience as an acting Chief Executive Officer, as well as his experience in operational management and his extensive international experience in Europe, Asia-Pacific and the Americas.

Nominee for Election as Class II Director—Nominated to Serve Term Expiring 2020

John F. Kennedy has served as a Director of the Company since October 2000. Mr. Kennedy currently serves as Chairman of the Compensation Committee and is a member of the Audit Committee. From June 2006 until his retirement in October 2008, Mr. Kennedy served as President and Chief Financial Officer of Nova Ventures Corporation, the management company providing executive management services to the operating companies of Nova Holdings LLC, Nova Analytics Corporation and Nova Technologies Corporation. From July 2002 to June 2006, Mr. Kennedy served as the President and Chief Financial Officer of Nova Analytics Corporation, a worldwide supplier and integrator of analytical instruments. From August 1999 to April 2002, Mr. Kennedy served as the Senior Vice President, Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of RSA Security Inc., an e-business security company. Prior to joining RSA Security, Mr. Kennedy was Chief Financial Officer of Decalog, NV, a developer of enterprise investment management software, from 1998 to 1999. From 1993 to 1998, Mr. Kennedy served as Vice President of Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Natural MicroSystems Corporation, a telecommunications company. Mr. Kennedy, a former CPA, also practiced as a public accountant at KPMG for 6 years. Mr. Kennedy serves on the Board of Directors of Datacom Systems, Inc. and Biostage. Mr. Kennedy holds an M.S.B.A. in accounting from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. We believe Mr. Kennedy's qualifications to sit on our Board of Directors include his executive leadership experience, his significant operating, accounting and financial management expertise and the knowledge and understanding of our Company that he has acquired over sixteen years of service on our Board.

Incumbent Class II Director – Term Expiring in 2017

David Green served as President and a member of the Board of Directors of the Company from March 1996 until the spin-off of Biostage on November 1, 2013, as interim CEO of the Company from May 2013 and August 2013, and has remained a Director of the Company since the spin-off. Mr. David Green served on the Board of Directors of Biostage until May 2016 and was a founder and a former Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Biostage. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. David Green was a strategy consultant with Monitor Company, a strategy consulting company, in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Johannesburg, South Africa from June 1991 until September 1995 and a brand manager for household products with Unilever PLC, a packaged consumer goods company, in London from

September 1985 to February 1989. Mr. David Green currently is on the advisory board of the Harvard Business School Healthcare Initiative. Mr. David Green graduated from Oxford University with a B.A. Honors degree in physics and holds a M.B.A. degree with distinction from Harvard Business School. We believe Mr. David Green's qualifications to sit on our Board of Directors include his years of experience providing strategic consulting services and his executive leadership experience and knowledge and understanding of our Company from serving as our President for seventeen years.

Incumbent Class III Directors—Terms Expire 2018

Jeffrey A. Duchemin was appointed Chief Executive Officer on August 26, 2013. Mr. Duchemin assumed the additional roles of President on November 1, 2013 and Director on October 29, 2013. Prior to joining Harvard Bioscience, Mr. Duchemin spent 16 years with Becton Dickinson ("BD") in progressive sales, marketing and executive leadership positions across BD's three business segments; BD Medical Systems, BD Diagnostic Systems, and BD Biosciences. In October 2012, BD Biosciences Discovery Labware was acquired by Corning Life Sciences. Mr. Duchemin was a Global Business Director for Corning Life Sciences until his departure to Harvard Bioscience. Mr. Duchemin is a transformational leader with demonstrated business results. The depth of his experience spans across a broad range of life science research and medical device products resulting in growth on a global basis. Mr. Duchemin earned an M.B.A. from Southern New Hampshire University and a B.S. in accounting from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. We believe Mr. Duchemin's qualifications to sit on our Board of Directors include his executive leadership experience and global experience in the life science industry in a variety of executive positions.

Earl R. Lewis has served as a Director of the Company since October 2000, Lead Director from November 2008 to July 2013 and Chairman since July 2013. Mr. Lewis currently serves as Chairman of the Governance Committee and is a member of the Compensation Committee. Mr. Lewis served as the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of FLIR Systems, Inc., a designer, manufacturer and marketer of thermal imaging and infrared camera systems from November 2000 until his retirement as Chief Executive Officer and President in May 2013. Mr. Lewis continues to serve as the Company's Chairman. Mr. Lewis previously served in various capacities with Thermo Instrument Systems, Inc. (now merged into Thermo Fisher Corporation, a developer, manufacturer and marketer of measuring and controlling devices) beginning in 1986 and was named President in 1997 and Chief Executive Officer in 1998. Thermo Fisher Corporation develops, manufactures and markets measuring and controlling devices. Mr. Lewis formerly was Chairman of Thermo BioAnalysis Corporation, Thermo Vision Corporation, Thermo Optek Corporation, ThermoQuest Corporation, each of which is a developer of laboratory analytical instruments, and ONIX Systems, Inc., a developer of measuring and controlling devices. Mr. Lewis currently serves on the Board of Directors of NxStage Medical Inc., FLIR Systems, Inc. and Tecogen, Inc. Mr. Lewis also serves on the Board of Trustees of Clarkson University and New Hampton School. Mr. Lewis holds a B.S. from Clarkson College of Technology and has attended post-graduate programs at the University of Buffalo, Northeastern University and Harvard University. Mr. Lewis has a Professional Director Certification, earned through an extended series of director education programs sponsored by the Corporate Directors Group, an accredited organization of RiskMetrics ISS. We believe Mr. Lewis's qualifications to sit on our Board of Directors include his experience in the laboratory products and analytical instruments industry, his executive leadership experience from serving as Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of FLIR Systems, Inc. and his knowledge and understanding of our Company that he has acquired over sixteen years of service on our Board.

George Uveges has served as a Director of the Company since March 2006 and is Chairman of the Audit Committee. Mr. Uveges is the founder and principal of the Tallwood Group, an angel-investing firm that provides financial and management advisory services in addition to investment capital. From 2001 to 2004, Mr. Uveges served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of TranXenoGen, Inc., a development stage biotechnology company that was listed on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange during that period. He was also a Director of that company from 2001 to 2005. Mr. Uveges was, from 2000 to 2001, the Chief Operating Officer of BioSource International, Inc., a publicly held company engaged in developing a broad-based offering of life science tools. Mr. Uveges also practiced as a public accountant at Ernst & Young for thirteen years. Mr. Uveges served as a Director

from 2005 to 2011 and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Microfluidics International Corporation from 2010 to 2011. Mr. Uveges, a CPA, is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Financial Executives International and the National Association of Corporate Directors. Mr. Uveges holds a B.B.A. from Cleveland State University and an M.B.A. from Baldwin Wallace College. We believe Mr. Uveges' qualifications to sit on our Board of Directors include his operating, accounting and financial management expertise, approximately eighteen years of experience in the life science industry in a variety of senior executive positions and his knowledge and understanding of our Company that he has acquired over eleven years of service on our Board.

### INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ITS COMMITTEES

During the year ended December 31, 2016, our Board of Directors held seven meetings. Each of the Directors attended at least 85% of the total number of meetings of the Board of Directors held while he was a Director and of the committees of which he was a member. The Board of Directors encourages Directors to attend in person the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company, or Special Meeting in lieu thereof, or, if unable to attend in person, to participate by other means, if practicable. In recognition of this policy, the Board of Directors typically schedules a regular meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on the date of, and immediately following, the Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Other than Mr. Loy and Mr. David Green, all of the Directors in office at the time attended, in person or by telephone, the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on June 24, 2016. The non-employee Directors meet regularly in executive sessions outside the presence of management.

Mr. Lewis has been the Chairman of our Board since July 2013. Among other things, the Chairman provides feedback to the Chief Executive Officer on executive sessions and facilitates discussion among the independent directors outside of meetings of the Board of Directors. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the day-to-day management of our Company and the development and implementation of our Company's strategy. Our Board of Directors currently believes that separating the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman contributes to an efficient and effective board. Our Board of Directors does not have a current requirement that the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board be either combined or separated, because the Board currently believes it is in the best interests of our Company to make this determination based on the position and direction of our Company and the constitution of the Board and management team. From time to time, the Board will evaluate whether the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board should be combined or separated. The Board has determined that having separate roles of our Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chairman is in the best interest of our stockholders at this time.

The Board of Directors has established an Audit Committee (the "Audit Committee"), a Compensation Committee (the "Compensation Committee") and a Governance Committee (the "Governance Committee").

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee currently consists of Messrs. Loy, Kennedy and Uveges. Mr. Uveges serves as the Chairman. The Audit Committee is comprised entirely of independent Directors and it operates under a Board approved charter that sets forth its duties and responsibilities. The Audit Committee met fifteen times during 2016.

The Audit Committee is governed by the Sixth Amended and Restated Audit Committee Charter which was approved by the Board of Directors on April 26, 2016. The Audit Committee Charter is available on the Corporate Governance page in the Investor Relations section of our website at <a href="https://www.harvardbioscience.com">www.harvardbioscience.com</a>. Please note that the information contained on the Company website is not incorporated by reference in, or considered to be a part of, this Proxy

Statement.

Under its charter, the Audit Committee is responsible for, among other things:

reviewing with the independent registered public accounting firm and management the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting and related matters;

reviewing and consulting with management and the independent registered public accounting firm on matters related to the annual audit, the annual and quarterly financial statements and related disclosures, earnings releases and the related accounting principles, policies, practices and judgments;

making a recommendation to the Board as to whether our audited financial statements should be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K;

appointing, retaining and terminating, and determining compensation of, the Company's independent auditors;

the oversight of the Company's independent auditors and the evaluation of the independent auditors' qualifications, performance and independence, including performance of the lead audit partner, and reporting of such evaluation to the Board:

assurance of the regular rotation of audit partners, including any lead and concurring partners, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations;

preparation of the Audit Committee report required to be included in our annual proxy statement;

reporting matters that arise relating to quality or integrity of our financial statements, legal compliance, performance of the independent auditors and other matters, to the Board and reviewing such matters with the Board.

The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing and discussing with management our policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management. The Board and the Audit Committee discuss matters relating to risks that arise or may arise.

The Audit Committee is also responsible for, and has established policies and procedures with respect to, the pre-approval of all services provided by the independent auditors. When assessing the independence of our auditors, the Audit Committee considers the independent registered public accounting firm's provision of non-audit services to the Company.

The Audit Committee has also established procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment, on a confidential basis, of complaints received by the Company. The Board of Directors, including the Audit Committee, adopted our Second Amended and Restated Code of Business Conduct and Ethics on April 26, 2016, a copy of which is available on the Corporate Governance page in the Investor Relations section of our website at <a href="https://www.harvardbioscience.com">www.harvardbioscience.com</a>. Please note that the information contained on the website is not incorporated by reference in, or considered to be a part of, this Proxy Statement.

With respect to the Company's the independent registered public accounting firm, currently KPMG, in accordance with SEC rules and KPMG policies, audit partners are subject to rotation requirements to limit the number of consecutive years an individual partner may provide service to our Company. For lead and concurring audit partners, the maximum number of consecutive years of service in that capacity is five years. Our Audit Committee is involved in the selection of the lead audit partner. The process for selection of our lead audit partner pursuant to this rotation policy involves a meeting between the Chairman of the Audit Committee and the candidate for the role, as well as discussion by the full Audit Committee and with management.

The Board of Directors has determined that Messrs. Loy, Kennedy and Uveges are "independent" as such term is currently defined by NASDAQ rules, meet the criteria for independence set forth under the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and are able to read and understand fundamental financial statements. The Board of Directors has also determined that each of Messrs. Loy, Kennedy and Uveges qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" under the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

### Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee currently consists of Messrs. James W. Green, Kennedy and Lewis. Mr. Kennedy serves as the Chairman. The Compensation Committee is comprised entirely of independent Directors and it operates under a Board approved charter that sets forth its duties and responsibilities. The Compensation Committee met eight times during 2016.

The Compensation Committee adopted the Fourth Amended and Restated Compensation Committee Charter on April 26, 2016. The Compensation Committee Charter is available on the Corporate Governance page in the Investor Relations section of our website at <a href="https://www.harvardbioscience.com">www.harvardbioscience.com</a>. Please note that the information contained on the website is not incorporated by reference in, or considered to be a part of, this Proxy Statement.

The Compensation Committee determines and oversees the execution of our compensation philosophy and oversees the administration of our executive compensation programs. Its responsibilities also include overseeing the Company's compensation and benefit plans and policies, retaining or terminating committee advisors, independence evaluation of compensation advisors, administering its stock plans (including reviewing and approving equity grants) and reviewing and approving annually all compensation decisions for the Company's executive officers, including the CEO and the other executive officers named in the 2016 Summary Compensation Table. See "Executive Compensation—Compensation Discussion and Analysis" later in this Proxy Statement for information concerning the Compensation Committee's role, processes and activities in overseeing executive compensation.

The Board of Directors has determined that Messrs. James W. Green, Kennedy and Lewis are "independent" as such term is currently defined by NASDAQ rules.

#### Governance Committee

The current members of the Governance Committee are Messrs. James W. Green, Lewis and Loy. Mr. Lewis is the Chairman. The Governance Committee is comprised entirely of independent Directors and it operates under a Board approved charter that sets forth its duties and responsibilities. The Governance Committee met twice during 2016.

Under the terms of its charter, the Governance Committee is responsible for identifying individuals qualified to become Board members, consistent with criteria recommended by the Governance Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, and recommending that the Board of Directors select the Director candidates for election at each annual meeting of stockholders. Its responsibilities also include recommending to the Board of Directors the criteria for membership on Board Committees. The Governance Committee is also responsible for assisting the Board of Directors with such corporate governance matters as the Board of Directors may request.

In identifying and evaluating nominees for the Board of Directors, the Governance Committee may solicit recommendations from any or all of the following sources: non-management Directors, the Chief Executive Officer, other executive officers, third-party search firms or any other source it deems appropriate. In addition, the Governance Committee has established a policy that it will review and consider any Director candidates who have been recommended by securityholders in compliance with certain procedures established by the Governance Committee. The procedures to be followed by securityholders in submitting such recommendations are described in the section entitled "Submission of Securityholder Recommendations for Director Candidates" included in this Proxy Statement. The Governance Committee will review and evaluate the qualifications of any such proposed Director candidate and conduct inquiries it deems appropriate.

The Governance Committee will evaluate all such proposed Director candidates, including those recommended by securityholders in compliance with the procedures established by the Governance Committee, in the same manner, with no regard to the source of the initial recommendation of such proposed Director candidate. When considering a

potential candidate for membership on the Board of Directors, the Governance Committee may consider, in addition to the minimum qualifications and other criteria for Board membership approved by the Board of Directors, all facts and circumstances that the Governance Committee deems appropriate or advisable, including, among other things, the skills of the proposed Director candidate, his or her availability, depth and breadth of business experience or other background characteristics, his or her independence and the needs of the Board of Directors. At a minimum, each candidate must have high personal and professional integrity, have demonstrated ability and judgment, and be effective, in conjunction with the other Directors and candidates, in collectively serving the long-term interests of the stockholders. In addition, the Governance Committee will recommend that the Board select candidates for nomination to help ensure that a majority of the Board shall be "independent" in accordance with NASDAQ rules and each of its Audit, Compensation and Governance Committees shall be comprised entirely of independent Directors; provided, however, in accordance with NASDAQ rules, under exceptional and limited circumstances, if a committee has at least three members, the Board may appoint one individual to such committee who does not satisfy the independence standards. Although there is no specific policy regarding the consideration of diversity in identifying Director candidates, the Governance Committee may consider whether the candidate, if elected, assists in achieving a mix of Board members that represents a diversity of background and experience. The Governance Committee also may consider whether the candidate has direct experience in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and/or life science research industries or in the markets in which the Company operates.

The Board of Directors has determined that Messrs. James W. Green, Lewis and Loy are "independent" as such term is currently defined by NASDAQ rules.

The Governance Committee Charter is available on the Corporate Governance page in the Investor Relations section of our website at <u>www.harvardbioscience.com</u>. Please note that the information contained on the website is not incorporated by reference in, or considered to be a part of, this Proxy Statement.

The Board's Role in Risk Oversight

Risks to the Company are discussed by the Board of Directors during the year. Management is responsible for the day-to-day management of risks we face, while the Board, as a whole and through its Committees, oversees risk management. The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing and discussing with management our policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management. The Board of Directors and the Audit Committee review and discuss, including with management, risks that arise or may arise. For example, the Audit Committee discusses financial risk, including with respect to financial reporting and internal controls, with management and our independent registered public accounting firm and the steps management has taken to minimize those risks. Our Board of Directors also administers its risk oversight function through the required approval by the Board (or a Committee of the Board) of significant transactions and other material decisions.

Risk Considerations in our Compensation Programs

The Compensation Committee believes that risks arising from our policies and practices for compensating employees are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

Non-Employee Director Ownership Guidelines

Our Board has implemented equity ownership guidelines with respect to our non-employee directors. Such ownership guidelines require each non-employee member of the Board of Directors, within five years from April 29, 2014, as to existing directors at such time, and five years from their initial election to the Board, as to directors initially elected after such date, to own shares of our Common Stock having a value of at least three times the annual retainer of the non-employee directors. With respect to satisfying such guidelines, unvested deferred stock awards of restricted stock units are included in the calculation while stock options are excluded.

#### CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT AND ETHICS

The Board of Directors adopted a Second Amended and Restated Code of Business Conduct and Ethics on April 26, 2016, which applies to all Directors, officers and employees of the Company and its subsidiaries including the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, principal accounting officer, controller and any person performing similar functions. The Second Amended and Restated Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available on the Corporate Governance page in the Investor Relations section of our website at <a href="https://www.harvardbioscience.com">www.harvardbioscience.com</a>. We intend to post any amendments to or waivers from this Second Amended and Restated Code of Business Conduct and Ethics at this location on our website. Please note, however, that the information contained on the website is not incorporated by reference in, or considered a part of, this Proxy Statement.

#### REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in any of the Company's previous or future filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, that might incorporate this Proxy Statement or any future filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, in whole or in part, the following report shall not be deemed incorporated by reference into any such filing.

The undersigned members of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company submit this report in connection with the committee's review of the financial reports of the Company for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 as follows:

- 1. The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the audited financial statements of the Company for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.
- 2. The Audit Committee has discussed with representatives of KPMG LLP the matters required to be discussed with them by applicable requirements of Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Auditing Standard No. 16.

  The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent accountant required by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board reposition with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Reposition of the public Company A
- 3. by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with the independent accountant the independent accountant's independence.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee 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 fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Submitted by the Audit Committee:

George Uveges, Chairman

John F. Kennedy

Bertrand Loy

#### **DIRECTOR COMPENSATION**

We use a mix of cash and/or stock-based incentive compensation to attract and retain qualified candidates to serve on our Board. As described below, our Director Compensation program currently utilizes only stock-based incentive compensation. In setting director compensation, the Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee consider the significant amount of time that Directors expend in fulfilling their duties to the Company as well as the skill-level required by the Company of members of the Board.

Directors who are also employees of the Company receive no additional compensation for service as a Director. Non-employee Directors receive the compensation described below.

Each non-employee director will be entitled to receive a non-qualified stock option having an aggregate Black-Scholes cash value of \$120,000, rounded to the nearest 100 shares, provided that in no case shall such stock option be less than 25,000 shares (so long as 25,000 shares are required to be granted under the equity incentive plan of the Company). Such option shall be for the purchase of Common Stock and shall vest annually over three years and be granted on the fifth business day following his or her initial election to the Board.

The annual retainers described herein shall each be satisfied by the issuance of deferred stock awards of restricted stock units (each a "Retainer Award"). Each non-employee director will be entitled to receive an annual retainer valued at \$31,500. The Chairman will also be entitled to receive an additional annual retainer valued at \$31,500. Each non-employee director member of the Audit Committee will be entitled to receive an additional annual retainer valued at \$8,100. Each non-employee director member of the Compensation Committee will be entitled to receive an additional annual retainer valued at \$5,400. Each non-employee member of the Governance Committee will be entitled to receive an additional annual retainer valued at \$4,500. The Committee Chairman of the Audit Committee will be entitled to receive an additional annual retainer valued at \$16,200. The Committee Chairman of the Compensation Committee will be entitled to receive an additional annual retainer valued at \$10,800. The Committee Chairman of the Governance Committee will be entitled to receive an additional annual retainer valued at \$4,500. The retainer awards for individuals that are non-employee directors of the Company as of the first trading day of January of the corresponding year, are granted on the first trading day of January (the "Grant Date") and vest quarterly over the calendar year (on each March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31, provided that in the event a director's service (including as a Board member, or their role as Chairman, Committee Chairman, Committee member) ends during a particular quarter, the vesting date for such quarter in relation to the portion of the award attributable to such roles that are ending, shall be the last day of the director's term in the respective role such that the full quarterly amount attributable to such roles shall vest on that earlier vesting date and subject to continued service as a non-employee director on the applicable vesting dates. The number of shares of Common Stock subject to a retainer award is equal to the amount of cash that would have been received had the retainers all been paid in cash, divided by the average daily closing market price of the Common Stock for the month of November immediately preceding the Grant Date, rounded to the nearest 100 shares.

In the event that a non-employee director is named Chairman or joins any committees of the Board of Directors during a fiscal year after the Grant Date, such director shall be granted an additional retainer award, in relation to such additional roles and respective retainer amounts pro-rated for the remainder of such year, on the first trading day of the month after the individual is appointed to such roles. The additional retainer award shall vest in equal amounts spread over the remaining quarterly vesting dates of the retainer awards for such calendar year subject to continued service as a non-employee director on the applicable vesting dates, provided that in the event a director's service (including as a Board member, or their role as Chairman, Committee Chairman, Committee member) ends during a particular quarter, the vesting date for such quarter in relation to the portion of the award attributable to such roles that are ending, shall be the last day of the director's term in the respective role such that the full quarterly amount attributable to such roles shall vest on that earlier vesting date (i.e. if the additional retainer award is granted on September 1, one half would vest on September 30 and the remaining half would vest on December 31). The number of shares of Common Stock subject to an additional retainer award is equal to the amount of cash that would have been received had the retainers all been paid in cash, divided by the average daily closing market price of the Common Stock for the calendar month that is two months prior to the month the director was appointed to the additional roles, rounded to the nearest 100 shares (i.e., the month of June if the director was appointed to the additional roles on August 15).

Each non-employee director will also be entitled to receive an equity award having an aggregate cash value of \$72,000, rounded to the nearest 100 shares, vesting fully on the earlier to occur of (i) the date of the Company's next Annual Meeting of Stockholders after the grant date, immediately prior to the commencement of such meeting, and (ii) one year from the date of grant and granted on the fifth business day following the Company's Annual Meeting of Stockholders, with such award to be evidenced by a grant of deferred stock awards of restricted stock units. In addition, non-employee directors shall be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in connection with attending Board and Committee meetings.

Non-employee Directors continue to be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in connection with attending Board and committee meetings.

#### **Director Compensation Table**

The following table presents the compensation provided by us to the non-employee Directors who served during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

	Fees			
	Earned or			
	Paid as Part of	Option	Restricted Stock	
Name (1)	Retainer Award	Awards (2), (3)	Awards (4)	Total
D :10	Ф 21 500		ф. <b>70</b> 105	102 (05
David Green	\$ 31,500	-	\$ 72,105	103,605
James Green	39,242	-	72,105	111,347
Neal J Harte	22,050	-	-	