

BIOMERICA INC  
Form DEF 14A  
September 28, 2016

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

☒ Filed by the Registrant

☐ Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

☐ Preliminary Proxy Statement

☐ Confidential, for use of the Commission only (as permitted by  
Rule 14a-6(e) (2))

☒ Definitive Proxy Statement

☐ Definitive Additional Materials

☐ Soliciting Material under Rule 14a-12

**BIOMERICA, 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.

☐ Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) 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:

☐ Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

☐ 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 filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

---

**BIOMERICA, INC.**

**17571 Von Karman Avenue**

**Irvine, CA 92614**

---

**NOTICE OF 2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 2016**

---

To Our Stockholders:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of the stockholders of BIOMERICA, INC., a Delaware corporation (herein called the "Company"), will be held at the offices of the Company, 17571 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, California 92614 on December 14, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

At the meeting, you will be asked to consider and vote upon the following matters:

1. The election of six directors, each to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor has been elected and qualified or until his or her earlier resignation, death or removal. The Proxy Statement which accompanies this Notice includes the names of the nominees to be presented by the Board of Directors for election; and
2. To approve on an advisory, non-binding basis named executive officer compensation as disclosed in this proxy statement;
3. To ratify the selection by the Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors of PKF, Certified Public Accountants, a Professional Corporation, as the Company's independent public accounting firm for the current fiscal year; and
4. Transaction of such other business which may properly come before the annual meeting and any adjournment thereof.

In accordance with the provisions of the Company's Bylaws, the Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on October 19, 2016, as the record date for the determination of the holders of the Company's common stock, \$0.08 par value, entitled to notice of and to vote at said Annual Meeting. To assure that your shares will be represented at the Annual Meeting, please complete, sign, date and promptly return the accompanying proxy card in the enclosed envelope. You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted.

By Order of the Board of Directors,  
/S/ Zackary S. Irani  
ZACKARY S. IRANI, Chairman of the Board and  
Chief Executive Officer

Irvine, California  
September 28, 2016

**BIOMERICA, INC.**

**17571 Von Karman Avenue**

**Irvine, CA 92614**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

---

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

This Proxy Statement is furnished by the Board of Directors of BIOMERICA, INC., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), in connection with the solicitation of proxies for use at the Company's Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on December 14, 2016, at the offices of the Company, 17571 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, California 92614 at 1:30 p.m., and at any and all adjournments thereof (the "Annual Meeting"). The Annual Meeting has been called for the purposes set forth in the accompanying Notice of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Notice"). This Proxy Statement, and the Annual Report of the Company for the year ended May 31, 2016, will be mailed on or about October 27, 2016, to each stockholder of record as of the close of business on October 19, 2016.

**RECORD DATE AND OUTSTANDING SHARES**

The close of business on October 19, 2016, has been set as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting (the "Record Date"). As of September 28, 2016, there was outstanding and entitled to vote an aggregate of 8,184,673 shares of the Company's common stock, \$0.08 par value per share (the "Common Stock"), held of record by approximately 840 stockholders. However, brokers and other institutions hold many shares on behalf of other beneficial owners of the Company's stock.

**VOTING RIGHTS, QUORUM & VOTES REQUIRED**

The holder of each share of Common Stock is entitled to one vote for each share held as of the Record Date on each matter to be considered at the Annual Meeting.

The presence at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Common Stock held of record on the Record Date is necessary to constitute a quorum for the purposes of electing directors and each other item of business. Shares represented by proxies pursuant to which votes contain one or more abstentions or broker "non-votes," are counted as present for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum for the Meeting.

Broker "non-votes" occur when a broker holding shares in "street name" votes on one proposal, but does not vote on another proposal because the broker does not have discretionary voting power and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner of such shares. Usually, this would occur when brokers holding stock in "street name" have not received any instructions from clients, in which case the brokers (as holders of record) are generally permitted by the rules of the New York Stock Exchange to vote only on "discretionary" matters. Under a 2009 amendment to such rules, the uncontested election of directors is no longer a "discretionary" matter, and therefore brokers will not be permitted to vote shares for which they have not received voting instructions in favor of the proposed election of directors. However, under such rules, the proposed ratification of the selection by the Audit Committee of PKF, Certified Public Accountants, a Professional Corporation as the Company's independent public accounting firm for the current fiscal year, is a "discretionary" matter, and the Company believes brokers will therefore generally be able to vote shares held in "street name" on such matter without receiving instructions from the beneficial holders of such shares.

Directors shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the meeting of stockholders. The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes properly cast is required to approve, on an advisory basis, the Named Executive Officers Compensation and to ratify the selection of PKF, Certified Public Accountants, a Professional Corporation as the Company's independent public accounting firm for the current fiscal year. Abstentions on such election and the other proposal, and any broker "non-votes," will be counted as present or represented for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum for the meeting, but will not be taken into account in the voting.

All votes will be tabulated by the inspector of elections appointed for the meeting, who will separately tabulate, for the proposal, affirmative and negative votes, abstentions and broker non-votes.

## **APPRAISAL RIGHTS**

Under Delaware law, stockholders are not entitled to any appraisal rights with respect to the approval of any of the proposals described in this Proxy Statement.

## **PERSONS MAKING THE SOLICITATION**

The Proxy accompanying this Proxy Statement is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Company for use at the Annual Meeting. The solicitation of proxies is being made by use of the mails and the cost of preparing, assembling and mailing these proxy materials will be paid by the Company. Following the mailing of this Proxy Statement, directors, officers and employees of the Company may solicit proxies by mail, telephone, telegraph or personal interview. Such persons will receive no additional compensation for such services. Brokerage houses and other nominees, fiduciaries and custodians nominally holding shares of the Company's Common Stock, of record will be requested to forward proxy soliciting material to the beneficial owners of such shares. The Company will, upon request, reimburse such parties for their reasonable expenses in forwarding proxy materials to the beneficial owners.

## **TERMS OF THE PROXY**

The enclosed Proxy indicates the matters to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting and provides boxes to be marked to indicate the manner in which the stockholder's shares are to be voted with respect to such matters. By appropriately marking the boxes, a stockholder may specify whether the proxy shall vote for or against or shall be without authority to vote the shares represented by the Proxy. The Proxy also confers upon the proxy discretionary voting authority with respect to such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

If the Proxy is executed properly and is received by the Company prior to the Annual Meeting, the shares represented by the Proxy will be voted. Where a stockholder specifies a choice with respect to the matter to be acted upon, the shares will be voted in accordance with such specification. Any proxy which is executed in such a manner as not to withhold authority to vote for the election of the specified nominees as directors shall be deemed to confer such authority. A Proxy may be revoked at any time prior to its exercise (i) by giving written notice of the revocation thereof to Ms. Janet Moore, Secretary, Biomerica, Inc., 17571 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, California 92614, (ii) by attending the meeting and electing to vote in person, or (iii) by delivering a duly executed Proxy bearing a later date.

## **COMMON STOCK OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**



The following table sets forth, as of September 28, 2016 certain information as to shares of Common Stock owned by (i) each person known to beneficially own more than 5% of the outstanding Common Stock, (ii) each Director, including nominees for director, and each named executive officer of the Company, and (iii) all executive officers and directors of the Company as a group. Unless otherwise indicated, each person listed has sole voting and investment power over the shares beneficially owned by him or her. Unless otherwise indicated, the address of each named beneficial owner is the same as that of the Company's principal executive offices located at 17571 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, California 92614.

| <b>NAME OF BENEFICIAL OWNER (1)</b>                                  | <b>SHARES<br/>BENEFICIALLY<br/>OWNED</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE<br/>BENEFICIALLY<br/>OWNED (1)</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Janet Moore (2)                                                      | 800,977                                  | 9.7%                                             |
| Zackary Irani (3)                                                    | 880,850                                  | 10.6%                                            |
| Francis Capitanio (4)                                                | 132,000                                  | 1.6%                                             |
| Allen Barbieri (5)                                                   | 155,389                                  | 1.9%                                             |
| Francis R. Cano, Ph.D. (6)                                           | 160,336                                  | 1.9%                                             |
| Jane Emerson, M.D., Ph.D. (7)                                        | 77,500                                   | *%                                               |
| Mark Sirgo, Pharm. D.                                                | 12,000                                   | *%                                               |
| Alan Gelband, et al. (8)                                             | 566,950                                  | 6.9%                                             |
| All executive officers and directors as a group<br>(six persons) (9) | 2,219,052                                | 25.9%                                            |

\*Less than one percent.

(1) Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Any shares of Common Stock that each named person and group has the right to acquire within 60 days pursuant to options, warrants, conversion privileges or other rights, are deemed outstanding for purposes of computing shares beneficially owned by and the percentage ownership of each such person and group. However, such shares are not deemed outstanding for purposes of computing the shares beneficially owned by or percentage ownership of any other person or group. Percentage ownership for each named beneficial owner, and the ownership of the directors and executive officers as a group, is based on 8,184,673 shares outstanding as of the date of the Proxy Statement plus the shares the named person and group has a right to acquire within 60 days thereafter pursuant to options, warrants, conversion privileges or other rights and privileges.

(2) Includes 44,000 shares underlying options exercisable by Ms. Moore at or within 60 days after the date of the Proxy; 635,777 shares owned by The Janet Moore Trust of which Janet Moore is the sole trustee.

(3) Includes 101,250 shares underlying options exercisable by Mr. Irani at or within 60 days after the date of the Proxy.

(4) Includes 65,000 shares underlying options exercisable by Mr. Capitanio at or within 60 days after the date of the Proxy.

(5) Includes 57,500 shares underlying options exercisable by Mr. Barbieri at or within 60 days after the date of the Proxy.

(6) Includes 57,500 shares underlying options exercisable by Dr. Cano at or within 60 days after the date of the Proxy.

(7) Includes 57,500 shares underlying options exercisable by Dr. Emerson at or within 60 days after the date of the Proxy.

(8) The address of Alan Gelband is 750 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, New York, NY 10007.

(9) Includes all information set forth in footnotes (2) through (7), above.

**PROPOSAL NO. 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS****DIRECTORS**

The Company's Bylaws give the Board of Directors ("the Board") the power to set the number of directors at no less than three (3) or more than nine (9). The size of the Company's Board is currently set at six (6) directors and six (6) directors are to be elected at the Annual Meeting to be held on December 14, 2016. Each director of the Company is elected annually and holds office for the ensuing year and until his or her successor has been elected and qualified. In the event that any of them should become unavailable prior to the Annual Meeting, the Proxy will be voted for a substitute nominee or nominees designated by the Board or the number of directors may be reduced accordingly.

The following table sets forth the name and current age of each nominee for director, the year he or she was first elected a director and his or her position(s) with the Company. The Company does not pay a fee to any third party to identify potential nominees. The Board has not received recommended nominees from any stockholder.

| Name                      | Age | Director Since | Positions Held                                                                       |
|---------------------------|-----|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Zackary Irani             | 50  | 1997           | Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer                                    |
| Janet Moore               | 65  | 1997           | Secretary, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Director                           |
| Allen Barbieri            | 58  | 1999           | Director, Audit Committee Chairman, Member of Compensation and Nominating Committees |
| Francis R. Cano, Ph.D.    | 69  | 1999           | Director, Member of Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Nominating Committee |
| Jane Emerson, M.D., Ph.D. | 62  | 2007           | Director, Member of Audit Committee                                                  |
| Mark Sirgo, Pharm.D.      | 62  | 2016           | Director                                                                             |

Mr. Zackary Irani has been a Director of the Company, and has been serving as the Company's Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer since April 29, 1997. Prior to that time, Mr. Irani served as the Company's Vice President of Business Development. He has been an employee of the Company since 1986. During fiscal 2008 and 2009, Mr. Irani also served as Chairman of the Board of Lancer Orthodontics, Inc. and served as Lancer's Chief Executive Officer from April 1997 until April 2004.

Ms. Janet Moore has been a Director of the Company since April 29, 1997, and has been serving as the Company's Secretary and Treasurer since 1985. She has served as the Company's Chief Financial Officer since 1999 and has been an employee of the Company since 1976. From fiscal 1998 through 2008, Ms. Moore also served as a director and Secretary of Lancer Orthodontics, Inc.

Mr. Allen Barbieri has served as a Director of the Company since October 1999. Mr. Barbieri currently serves as the CEO of Biosynthetic Technologies, a privately held, renewable chemicals manufacturing company. Prior to that, from April 2004 to September 2009, Mr. Barbieri served as the Chief Executive Officer of Lancer Orthodontics, Inc., a medical products company with manufacturing operations in US and Mexico. From 1998 to 1999, he served as President and Chief Financial Officer of BUY.COM, a major internet retailer and from 1994 until 1998, Mr. Barbieri was President and Chief Executive Officer of Pacific National Bank. Mr. Barbieri also currently serves as a member of the board of directors of CareTrust REIT, Inc. (NASDAQ: CTRE), a publicly traded real estate investment trust.

Francis R. Cano, Ph.D., has served as a Director of the Company since June 1999. Dr. Cano is the managing director of Cano Biotechnology, a consulting business which is focused on vaccines and immunotherapeutics. He co-founded Aviron in 1993 and served as the President and Chief Operating Officer. The Company developed the intranasal flu vaccine, Flu-Mist, and was acquired by MedImmune in 2002 for \$1.2 billion. From 1972-1993 Dr. Cano held various scientific/management positions with American Cyanamid, the last of which was as Vice President-General Manager of the Lederle-Praxis Biological Division. From fiscal 2001 through 2008, Dr. Cano also served on the board of Lancer Orthodontics, Inc., and currently serves on the board of Arbor Vita Corporation and Dynavax.

Dr. Emerson has served as a Director of the Company since April 2007. Since July 1, 2009, Dr. Emerson has served as Vice Chair for Clinical Programs and Chief of Clinical Pathology at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California. From 1994 to 2009, Dr. Emerson was on the faculty of the University of California, Irvine School of Medicines where she served as Chief of Clinical Pathology and from 2000 to 2009, also served as the Vice Chair for Clinical Programs, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Mark A. Sirgo, Pharm.D., age 62, has served as President of BioDelivery Sciences International, Inc. ( BDSI ) since January 2005 and Chief Executive Officer and Director since August 2005. He joined BDSI in August 2004 as Senior Vice President of Commercialization and Corporate Development upon the acquisition of Arius Pharmaceuticals, of which he was a co-founder and Chief Executive Officer. He also served as Executive Vice President, Corporate and Commercial Development and Chief Operating Officer of BDSI. Dr. Sirgo has over 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, including 16 years in clinical drug development, 7 years in marketing, sales, and business development and 12 years in executive management positions. Prior to his involvement with Arius Pharmaceuticals from 2003 to 2004, he spent 16 years in a variety of positions of increasing responsibility in both clinical development and marketing at Glaxo, Glaxo Wellcome, and GlaxoSmithKline, including Vice President of International OTC Development and Vice President of New Product Marketing. Dr. Sirgo was responsible for managing the development and FDA approval of Zantac 75 while at Glaxo Wellcome, among other accomplishments. From 1996 to 1999, Dr. Sirgo was Senior Vice President of Global Sales and Marketing at Pharmaceutical Product Development, Inc., a leading contract service provider to the pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Sirgo served on the Board of Directors and as Chairman of the Compensation Committee of Salix Pharmaceuticals, Ltd. (NASDAQ:SLXP), a specialty pharmaceutical company specializing in gastrointestinal products from 2008 until its sale in 2015.

**THE BOARD RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF EACH OF THE NOMINATED DIRECTORS.**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Mr. Francis Capitanio, age 72, has served as the President of Biomerica since July 10, 2000. Mr. Capitanio was President and Chief Executive Officer of Kalisto Biologicals, Inc. from 1997 until 2000. From 1980 until 1996, he

was President and Chief Executive Officer of Diatech Diagnostics.

The backgrounds of Zackary Irani, Chief Executive Officer, and Janet Moore, Secretary, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, are discussed above under the heading Directors .

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES**

The Board of Directors maintains an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Board of Directors held at least one in-person meeting during the year ended May 31, 2016 for each committee, acted by unanimous written consent four times, and held several review and update meetings with and without management and with and without Auditors. All directors attended 75% or more of the aggregate of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the committees, if any, upon which the directors served during the year ended May 31, 2016.

## **NOMINATING AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

The Company has a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter which may be viewed on the Company's website at [www.biomerica.com](http://www.biomerica.com).

The Company has a standing Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (the Committee). Dr. Francis Cano and Allen Barbieri serve on this Committee. They regularly assess the appropriate size of the Board of Directors and whether any vacancies on the Board of Directors are expected due to retirement or otherwise. In the event that vacancies are anticipated or otherwise arise, the Committee utilizes a variety of methods for identifying and evaluating director candidates. Candidates may come to the attention of the Committee through current directors, professional search firms, stockholders or other persons.

Once the Committee has identified a prospective nominee, the Committee will evaluate the prospective nominee in the context of the then current composition of the Board of Directors and will consider a variety of other factors, including the prospective nominee's business, technology and industry, finance and financial reporting experience, and other attributes that would be expected to contribute to an effective Board of Directors. The Board seeks to identify nominees who possess a diverse range of experience, skills, areas of expertise, industry knowledge and business judgment. Successful nominees should have a history of superior performance or accomplishments in their professional undertakings and should have the highest personal and professional ethics and values. The Board does not evaluate stockholder nominees differently than any other nominee.

Our Board will consider stockholder nominations for directors if we receive timely written notice, in proper form, of the intent to make a nomination at a meeting of stockholders. To be timely, the notice must be received within the time frame discussed below in this Proxy Statement under the heading "Date of Submission of Stockholder Proposals." To be in proper form, the notice must, among other matters, include each nominee's written consent to serve as a director for the next annual meeting if elected, a description of all arrangements or understandings between the nominating stockholder and each nominee and information about the nominating stockholder and each nominee.

## **COMPENSATION COMMITTEE**

The Compensation Committee is responsible for assisting the Board of Directors in discharging its responsibilities regarding the compensation of our employees and directors. The specific duties of the Compensation Committee include, among other matters: reviewing and approving executive compensation; evaluating our executive officers' performance; setting the compensation levels of our executive officers; setting our incentive compensation plans, including our equity-based incentive plans; and making recommendations to our Board of Directors regarding our overall compensation structure, policies and programs. During fiscal 2016, the Compensation Committee was



comprised of Mr. Allen Barbieri and Dr. Francis Cano. Several Compensation Committee meetings were held without management, and one Compensation Committee meeting was held with management during the fiscal year ended May 31, 2016.

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Company has an Audit Committee Charter which may be viewed on the Company's website at [www.biomerica.com](http://www.biomerica.com).

The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing our accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of our financial statements. In addition, the Audit Committee assists the Board of Directors in its oversight of our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. The specific duties of the Audit Committee include, among others: monitoring the integrity of our financial process and systems of internal controls regarding finance, accounting and legal compliance; selecting our independent auditor; monitoring the independence and performance of our independent auditor; and providing an avenue of communication among the independent auditor, our management and our Board of Directors. The Audit Committee has the authority to conduct any investigation appropriate to fulfilling its responsibilities, and it has direct access to all of our employees and to the independent auditor. The Audit Committee also has the ability to retain, at the Company's expense and without further approval of the Board of Directors, special legal, accounting or other consultants or experts that it deems necessary in the performance of its duties.

The Audit Committee met four times during fiscal 2016. The members of the Audit Committee are Mr. Barbieri, Dr. Cano and Dr. Emerson. The Board of Directors determined that Mr. Barbieri qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" and that each member of the Audit Committee is financially literate.

## **DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE**

The Board reviews the independence of each director when he/she is elected to the board and monitors such on a continual basis. The Board considers the transactions and relationships between each member and the Company in determining independence. The Board judges independence based on the definition of Director Independence as defined by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ( FINRA ) Rule 4200(a)(15). Based upon that review, the Board affirmatively determined that Allen Barbieri, Dr. Cano, Dr. Sirgo and Dr. Emerson are considered "independent" with respect to FINRA'S definition of such.

## **BOARD LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE**

The Board does not have a lead independent director and does not believe one is necessary. We believe our leadership structure is appropriate for the size and scope of operations of a company of our size. During the fiscal year ended May 31, 2016, no director served as chairman of any committee except the Audit Committee which was chaired by Allen Barbieri.

## **RISK OVERSIGHT**

The Board is responsible for oversight of risks facing the Company, while our management is responsible for the day-to-day management of risk. The Board, as a whole, oversees our strategic and business risk, including financial reporting related risk and works with the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer to assess and manage risks facing the Company.

## **REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The information in this Report of the Audit Committee is not deemed "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Audit Committee oversees the Company's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board of Directors. Management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process including the systems of internal controls. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviewed the audited consolidated financial statements in the Annual Report with management including a discussion of the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments, and the clarity of disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.

The Audit Committee reviewed with the independent auditors, who are responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of those audited consolidated financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, their judgments as to the quality, not just the acceptability, of the Company's accounting principles and such other matters as are required to be discussed with the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has discussed with the independent auditors the auditors' independence from management and the Company including the matters in the written disclosures required by the Independence Standards Board and considered the compatibility of non-audit services with the auditors' independence.

The Audit Committee discussed with the Company's independent auditors the overall scope and plans for their audit. The Audit Committee meets with the independent auditors, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, their understanding of the Company's internal controls, and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors (and the Board has approved) that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended May 31, 2016 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Audit Committee and the Board have also recommended the selection of the Company's independent auditors, PKF, Certified Public Accountants, a Professional Corporation.

/s/ Dr. Francis R. Cano

/s/ Allen Barbieri

/s/ Dr. Jane Emerson

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION OF NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

We carefully evaluate an executive's performance during the year against established goals, operational performance, business responsibilities, and career with the Company, current compensation arrangements and long-term potential to enhance stockholder value in order to determine compensation.

The following table sets forth the total compensation earned by the Company's Chief Executive Officer, President and Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary (the "Named Executive Officers") for the fiscal years ended May 31, 2016 and 2015.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

### SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

| Name and<br>Principal<br>Position | Year | Salary<br>(\$) | Bonus<br>(\$) | Stock<br>Awards<br>(\$) | Option<br>Awards<br>(\$)<br>(4) | Non Equity<br>Incentive Plan<br>Compensation<br>(\$) | Non-qualified<br>Deferred<br>Compensation<br>Earnings | All Other<br>Compensation<br>(\$) | Total (\$) |
|-----------------------------------|------|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
|-----------------------------------|------|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|

Edgar Filing: BIOMERICA INC - Form DEF 14A

|                                                            |      |         |     |     |        |     |     |     |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Zackary Irani                                              | 2016 | 97,231  | -0- | -0- | 60,900 | -0- | -0- | -0- | 158,131(1) |
| Chairman &<br>Chief<br>Executive<br>Officer                | 2015 | 130,981 | -0- | -0- | 86,096 | -0- | -0- | -0- | 217,077(1) |
| Francis<br>Capitanio                                       | 2016 | 136,555 | -0- | -0- | 30,450 | -0- | -0- | -0- | 167,005(2) |
| President                                                  | 2015 | 136,555 | -0- | -0- | 49,168 | -0- | -0- | -0- | 185,723(2) |
| Janet Moore                                                | 2016 | 102,449 | -0- | -0- | 18,270 | -0- | -0- | -0- | 120,719(3) |
| Chief<br>Financial<br>Officer,<br>Treasurer &<br>Secretary | 2015 | 101,809 | -0- | -0- | 32,798 | -0- | -0- | -0- | 134,607(3) |

(1) In fiscal 2016 and 2015, there were no Management Incentive Bonuses and the officers received no raises or stock. Mr. Irani received a 100,000 share stock option grant in fiscal 2016. The option was granted at the exercise price of \$1.20 per share and was valued at \$60,900 using the Black-Scholes options-pricing model (which uses assumptions for expected volatility, expected dividends, expected forfeiture rate, expected term and the risk-free interest rate). Mr. Irani received a 105,000 share stock option grant in fiscal 2015. The option was granted at the exercise price of \$0.82 per share and was valued at \$86,096, also using the Black-Scholes options-pricing model.

(2) In fiscal 2016 and 2015, there were no Management Incentive Bonuses and the officers received no raises or stock. Mr. Capitanio received a 50,000 share stock option grant in fiscal 2016. The option was granted at the exercise price of \$1.20 per share and was valued at \$30,450 using the Black-Scholes options-pricing model (which uses assumptions for expected volatility, expected dividends, expected forfeiture rate, expected term and the risk-free interest rate). Mr. Capitanio received a 60,000 share stock option grant in fiscal 2015. The option was granted at the exercise price of \$0.82 per share and was valued at \$49,168, also using the Black-Scholes options-pricing model.

(3) In fiscal 2016 and 2015, there were no Management Incentive Bonuses and the officers received no raises or stock. Ms. Moore received a 30,000 share stock option grant in fiscal 2016. The option was granted at the exercise price of \$1.20 per share and was valued at \$18,270 using the Black-Scholes options-pricing model (which uses assumptions for expected volatility, expected dividends, expected forfeiture rate, expected term and the risk-free interest rate). Ms. Moore received a 40,000 share stock option grant in fiscal 2015. The option was granted at the exercise price of \$0.82 per share and was valued at \$32,798, also using the Black-Scholes options-pricing model.

(4) For additional information as to the assumptions made in valuation, see Note 2 to the Company's audited financial statements filed with the SEC in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2016.

## OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END

| Name | Option Awards                                                       |                                                                       |                                                                                |                            |                        | Stock Awards                                                |                                                                    |                                                                          |                                                                                         |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unearned Options | Option Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other |

|           |        |         |     |      |         |     |     | That Have<br>Not<br>Vested<br>(#) | Rights<br>That Have<br>Not Vested<br>(\$) |
|-----------|--------|---------|-----|------|---------|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Zackary   | 75,000 | -0-     | -0- | 0.43 | 1-5-17  | -0- | -0- | -0-                               | -0-                                       |
| Irani     | 26,250 | 78,750  | -0- | 0.82 | 2-26-25 | -0- | -0- | -0-                               | -0-                                       |
|           | --     | 100,000 | -0- | 1.20 | 3-24-26 | -0- | -0- | -0-                               | -0-                                       |
| Francis   | 50,000 | -0-     | -0- | 0.43 | 1-5-17  | -0- | -0- | -0-                               | -0-                                       |
| Capitanio | 15,000 | 45,000  | -0- | 0.82 | 2-26-25 | -0- | -0- | -0-                               | -0-                                       |
|           | -0-    | 50,000  | -0- | 1.20 | 3-24-26 | -0- | -0- | -0-                               | -0-                                       |
| Janet     | 34,000 | -0-     | -0- | 0.43 | 1-5-17  | -0- | -0- | -0-                               | -0-                                       |
| Moore     | 10,000 | 30,000  | -0- | 0.82 | 2-26-25 | -0- | -0- | -0-                               | -0-                                       |
|           | --     | 30,000  | -0- | 1.20 | 3-24-26 | -0- | -0- | -0-                               | -0-                                       |

**COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS**

Although not prohibited by the Company's Bylaws, directors receive no cash compensation for their services as directors, but they have been, and may in the future be, granted options to purchase the Company's securities which serves as compensation for their services. The compensation of directors is subject to review and adjustment from time to time by the Board of Directors.

The following table presents the compensation of Non-Employee Directors for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2016.

**DIRECTOR COMPENSATION**

| Name                         | Fees<br>Earned or<br>Paid in<br>Cash | Stock<br>Awards | Option<br>Awards | Non-Equity<br>Incentive Plan<br>Compensation | Change in<br>Pension Value<br>and<br>Nonqualified<br>Deferred<br>Compensation | All Other<br>Compensation | Total  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|
|                              | (\$)                                 | (\$)            | (\$)             | (\$)                                         | Earnings                                                                      | (\$)                      | (\$)   |
| Allen Barbieri               | -0-                                  | -0-             | 21,315           | -0-                                          | -0-                                                                           | -0-(1)                    | 21,315 |
| Francis Cano, Ph.D           | -0-                                  | -0-             | 21,315           | -0-                                          | -0-                                                                           | -0-(2)                    | 21,315 |
| Jane Emerson, M.D.,<br>Ph.D. | -0-                                  | -0-             | 15,225           | -0-                                          | -0-                                                                           | 10,000(3)                 | 25,225 |

(1) Mr. Barbieri received a 35,000 share stock option grant in fiscal 2016. The option was granted at the exercise price of \$1.20 per share and was valued at \$21,315 using the Black-Scholes options-pricing model (which uses assumptions for expected volatility, expected dividends, expected forfeiture rate, expected term and the risk-free interest rate).

(2) Dr. Cano received a 35,000 share stock option grant in fiscal 2016. The option was granted at the exercise price of \$1.20 per share and was valued at \$21,315 using the Black-Scholes options-pricing model (which uses assumptions for expected volatility, expected dividends, expected forfeiture rate, expected term and the risk-free interest rate).



(3) Dr. Emerson received a 25,000 share stock option grant in fiscal 2016. The option was granted at the exercise price of \$1.20 per share and was valued at \$15,225 using the Black-Scholes options-pricing model (which uses assumptions for expected volatility, expected dividends, expected forfeiture rate, expected term and the risk-free interest rate). Dr. Emerson also received a fee for consulting services performed for the Company outside of her role as a director.

(4) The increased number of options issued to Mr. Barbieri and Dr. Cano, as compared to Dr. Emerson was due to the increased time required by Mr. Barbieri and Dr. Cano for their increased services on the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, Nominating Committee, and extraordinary work with the Company's CEO on corporate strategy during fiscal year 2016.

#### **SECTION 16(a) - BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires the Company's executive officers, directors and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of the Company's stock, to file initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Executive officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners are required by applicable regulations to furnish the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

Based solely upon a review of the copies of such forms furnished to the Company and information involving securities transactions of which the Company is aware, the Company believes that during the fiscal year ended May 31, 2016, all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to its executive officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial stockholders were complied with.

## **CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

The Board of Directors reviews, approves and/or ratifies all transactions involving related persons. The purpose of the review is to determine that such transactions are conducted on terms not materially less favorable to the Company than what would be usual and customary in transactions between unrelated persons and, in the case of transactions involving Directors, to determine whether such transactions affect the independence of a Director in accordance with the relevant rules and standards issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

For the fiscal year ended May 31, 2016, there were no reportable related transactions or relationships.

## **PROPOSAL NO. 2 ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION**

In accordance with Section 14a of the Exchange Act, the Company is providing stockholders with an advisory (non-binding) vote on compensation programs, that is commonly referred to as "say on pay", for our executive officers as described in this proxy statement. Because your vote is advisory, it will not be binding on our Compensation Committee or our Board of Directors.

Accordingly, in accordance with the rules adopted by the SEC, the following resolution, commonly known as a "say-on-pay" vote, is being submitted for a stockholder vote at the Annual Meeting:

**RESOLVED**, that the compensation paid to the Named Executive Officers of Biomerica, Inc., as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, including the compensation tables and narrative discussion is hereby **APPROVED**.

This vote is non-binding. The Board intends to consider the outcome of the vote when making future executive compensation decisions and, in particular, to consider any significant negative voting results to the extent they can determine the cause or causes for such votes. The Board has determined that, until the next vote on the frequency of stockholder votes on executive compensation, the Company will hold future advisory votes on executive compensation every 3 years.

Stockholders are encouraged to read the accompanying compensation tables and the related narrative disclosure for more information about the Company's executive compensation program.

## **Vote Required**

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of the Company's common stock present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at the Meeting will be required for the approval, on an advisory basis, of the Named Executive Officers' compensation.

## **RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS COMPENSATION AS DISCLOSED IN THE ACCOMPANYING COMPENSATION TABLES AND THE RELATED NARRATIVE DISCLOSURE.**

## **PROPOSAL NO. 3 RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Under applicable law and the procedures adopted by the Company's Board of Directors, the Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors selects the Company's independent public accounting firm for each fiscal year. The Audit Committee has selected PKF, Certified Public Accountants, a Professional Corporation ("PKF") to serve as the Company's independent public accounting firm for the year ending May 31, 2017. PKF has previously served as the Company's independent public accounting firm commencing with the year ended May 31, 2004.

Although shareholder ratification of the Audit Committee's selection of the independent registered public accounting firm is not required by law or the procedures adopted by the Company's Board of Directors, the Audit Committee's selection of PKF as the Company's independent public accounting firm for fiscal year 2017 is being submitted for ratification by the shareholders at the Annual Meeting because the Company's Board of Directors has determined that such ratification is a matter of good corporate governance practice. If this proposal is not approved at the Annual Meeting, the Audit Committee may reconsider its selection of PKF. Even if the selection of PKF is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may select a different registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

It is expected that a representative of the independent registered public accounting firm of PKF, Certified Public Accountants, a Professional Corporation, the Company's independent public accounting firm for the fiscal years ended May 31, 2016 and 2015, and for the current fiscal year, will be present at the Annual Meeting.

## AUDIT FEES

The aggregate fees billed for professional services by PKF in 2016 and 2015 were as follows:

|                    | 2016      | 2015      |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Audit fees         | \$ 59,551 | \$ 58,873 |
| Audit related fees | --        | --        |
| Tax fees           | 8,686     | 11,570    |
| All other fees     | --        | --        |
| Total              | \$ 68,237 | \$ 70,443 |

Audit Fees consist of the aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered for the audit of our annual consolidated financial statements, the reviews of the consolidated financial statements included in our Forms 10-Q and for any other services that are normally provided by PKF in connection with our statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.

Audit Related Fees consist of the aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered for assurance and related services that were reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our consolidated financial statements that were not otherwise included in Audit Fees.

Tax Fees consist of the aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning. Included in such Tax Fees were fees for preparation of our tax returns and consultancy and advice on

other tax planning matters.

All Other Fees consist of the aggregate fees billed for products and services provided by PKF and not otherwise included in Audit Fees, Audit Related fees or Tax Fees.

The Audit Committee has considered that the provision of the above services has not impaired the principal accountant's ability to maintain independence.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE PROPOSAL TO RATIFY PKF AS THE COMPANY'S CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Management is not aware of any matters to come before the Annual Meeting other than those stated in this Proxy Statement. However, inasmuch as matters of which management is not now aware may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof, the Proxy confers discretionary authority with respect to acting thereon, and the persons named in such Proxy intend to vote, act, and consent in accordance with their best judgment with respect thereto.

## **DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE AT ANNUAL MEETINGS**

Our Board of Directors has adopted a policy that encourages our directors to attend our annual stockholder meetings. The annual meeting of stockholders held on December 16, 2015 was attended by three of our incumbent directors. It is expected that a majority of the directors will be in attendance at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

The Annual Report to Stockholders and Form 10-K covering the Company's fiscal year ended May 31, 2016 are being mailed to stockholders with this Proxy Statement. The Annual Report does not form any part of the material for the solicitation of the Proxy.

## **COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Our stockholders may communicate with our Board of Directors, a committee of our Board of Directors or a director by sending a letter addressed to the Board, a committee or a director c/o Corporate Secretary, Biomerica Inc., 17571 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, California 92614. All communications will be compiled by our corporate Secretary and forwarded to the Board of Directors, the committee or the director accordingly.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The Company's Corporate Governance Policy and its Policy on Business Conduct and Ethics ( Ethics Policy ) for all directors, officers and employees of the Company, including executive officers, are available on the Company's web site at [www.biomerica.com](http://www.biomerica.com). Stockholders may also obtain free of charge printed copies of this policy by writing to the Secretary of the Company at the Company's headquarters.

#### **DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR NEXT ANNUAL MEETING**

Any eligible stockholder who desires to have a proposal considered for inclusion in our 2017 proxy solicitation materials, including director nominations, must cause their proposals to be received in writing by our Secretary at 17571 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, California 92614 no later than May 30, 2017. The Board of Directors will review new proposals from eligible stockholders if they are received in writing by May 30, 2017. Proposals must be submitted in accordance with our bylaws and must comply with Securities and Exchange Commission regulations promulgated under Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Any notice to the Secretary must include as to each matter the stockholder proposes to bring before the meeting: (a) a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the meeting and the reason for conducting the business at the Annual Meeting, (b) the stockholder's name and address, as they appear on our records, (c) the class and number of shares which the stockholder beneficially owns, (d) any material interest of the stockholder in the business requested to be brought before the meeting and (e) any other information that is required to be provided by the stockholder pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in his or her capacity as a proponent of the stockholder proposal.

A stockholder's notice to the Secretary regarding a nomination for the election of directors must set forth: (a) as to each person whom the stockholder proposes to nominate for election or re-election as a director, (i) the person's name, age, business address and residence address, (ii) the person's principal occupation or employment, (iii) the class and number of shares of capital stock beneficially owned by the person, and (iv) any other information relating to the person that is required to be disclosed in solicitations for proxies for election of directors pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and (b) as to the stockholder giving the notice (i) the name and address of the stockholder, as they appear on our records, and (ii) the class and number of shares of stock that are beneficially owned by the stockholder on the date of the stockholder notice. If the Board of Directors so requests, any person nominated for election to the Board shall furnish to our Secretary the information required to be set forth in the notice of nomination pertaining to the nominee.

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to require us to include in our proxy solicitation materials relating to any annual meeting any stockholder proposal or nomination that does not meet all of the requirements for inclusion established by the Securities and Exchange Commission.