



Court File No. CV-23-00693595-00CL

**ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
(COMMERCIAL LIST)**

THE HONOURABLE)
JUSTICE OSBORNE) THURSDAY, THE 26TH DAY
OF JANUARY, 2023

IN THE MATTER OF THE *COMPANIES' CREDITORS*
ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED

AND IN THE MATTER OF PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF ACERUS
PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION,
ACERUS BIOPHARMA INC., ACERUS LABS INC. AND ACERUS PHARMACEUTICALS USA,
LLC.

Applicants

INITIAL ORDER

THIS APPLICATION, made by Acerus Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Acerus Biopharma Inc., Acerus Labs Inc. and Acerus Pharmaceuticals USA, LLC (collectively, the "**Applicants**"), for an initial order pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended (the "**CCAA**") was heard this day by judicial videoconference via Zoom.

ON READING the affidavit of Naveed Manzoor sworn January 25, 2023 (the "**Manzoor Affidavit**") and the Exhibits thereto, the pre-filing report of Ernst & Young Inc. ("**EY**"), in its capacity as proposed monitor of the Applicants dated 25, 2023 (the "**Pre-Filing Report**"), the consent of EY to act as the Monitor (the "**Monitor**"), on being advised that the secured creditors who are likely to be affected by the charges created herein were given notice, and on hearing the submissions of counsel for the Applicants, counsel for EY, counsel for First Generation Capital Inc. ("**FGC**"), and counsel for the DIP Lender (as defined below),

SERVICE

1. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the time for service of the Notice of Application and the Application Record is hereby abridged and validated so that this Application is properly returnable today and hereby dispenses with further service thereof.

APPLICATION

2. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that the Applicants are companies to which the CCAA applies.

POSSESSION OF PROPERTY AND OPERATIONS

3. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants shall remain in possession and control of their current and future assets, undertakings and properties of every nature and kind whatsoever, and wherever situate including all proceeds thereof (the “**Property**”). Subject to further Order of this Court, the Applicants shall continue to carry on business in a manner consistent with the preservation of their business (the “**Business**”) and Property. The Applicants are authorized and empowered to continue to retain and employ their employees, consultants, agents, experts, accountants, counsel and such other persons (collectively “**Assistants**”) currently retained or employed by them, with liberty to retain such further Assistants as they deem reasonably necessary or desirable in the ordinary course of business or for the carrying out of the terms of this Order.

4. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants shall be entitled to continue to utilize their existing central cash management system currently in place or replace it with another substantially similar central cash management system (the “**Cash Management System**”) and that any present or future bank providing the Cash Management System shall not be under any obligation whatsoever to inquire into the propriety, validity or legality of any transfer, payment, collection or other action taken under the Cash Management System, or as to the use or application by the Applicants of funds transferred, paid, collected or otherwise dealt with in the Cash Management System, shall be entitled to provide the Cash Management System without any liability in respect thereof to any Person or Persons (as hereinafter defined) other than the Applicants, pursuant to the terms of the documentation applicable to the Cash Management System, and shall be, in its capacity as provider of the Cash Management System, an unaffected creditor under any plan of arrangement or compromise under the CCAA with regard to any claims or expenses it may suffer or incur in connection with the provision of the Cash Management System.

5. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants shall be entitled but not required to pay the following expenses whether incurred prior to or after this Order subject to compliance with the DIP Budget (as defined in the DIP Facility Agreement), as may be amended from time to time:

- (a) all outstanding and future wages, salaries, employee and pension benefits, vacation pay and expenses payable on or after the date of this Order, in each case incurred in the ordinary course of business and consistent with existing compensation policies and arrangements; and
- (b) the fees and disbursements of any Assistants retained or employed by the Applicants in respect of these proceedings, at their standard rates and charges.

6. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, except as otherwise provided to the contrary herein, the Applicants shall be entitled, subject to compliance with the DIP Budget, as may be amended from time to time, but not required to pay all reasonable expenses incurred by the Applicants in carrying on their Business in the ordinary course after this Order, and in carrying out the provisions of this Order, which expenses shall include, without limitation:

- (a) all expenses and capital expenditures reasonably necessary for the preservation of the Property or the Business including, without limitation, payments on account of insurance (including directors' and officers' insurance), maintenance and security services; and
- (b) payment for goods or services actually supplied to the Applicants following the date of this Order.

7. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants shall, in accordance with legal requirements, remit or pay:

- (a) any statutory deemed trust amounts in favour of the Crown in right of Canada or of any Province thereof or any other taxation authority which are required to be deducted from employees' wages, including, without limitation, amounts in respect of (i) employment insurance, (ii) Canada Pension Plan, (iii) Quebec Pension Plan, and (iv) income taxes;
- (b) all goods and services or other applicable sales taxes (collectively, "**Sales Taxes**") required to be remitted by the Applicants in connection with the sale of goods and services by the Applicants, but only where such Sales Taxes are accrued or collected after the date of this Order, or where such Sales Taxes were accrued or collected prior to the date of this Order but not required to be remitted until on or after the date of this Order; and

- (c) any amount payable to the Crown in right of Canada or of any Province thereof or any political subdivision thereof or any other taxation authority in respect of municipal realty, municipal business or other taxes, assessments or levies of any nature or kind which are entitled at law to be paid in priority to claims of secured creditors and which are attributable to or in respect of the carrying on of the Business by the Applicants.

8. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, from and after the date of this Order, the Applicants shall not make any payments pursuant to this Order other than those contemplated by the DIP Budget, as may be amended from time to time, and subject to permitted variances under the DIP Facility Agreement (as defined below), or upon further Order of this Court.

9. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, except as specifically permitted herein, the Applicants are hereby directed, until further Order of this Court: (a) to make no payments of principal, interest thereon or otherwise on account of amounts owing by the Applicants to any of their creditors as of this date; (b) to grant no security interests, trust, liens, mortgages, charges or encumbrances upon or in respect of any of the Property; and (c) to not grant credit or incur liabilities except in the ordinary course of the Business.

RESTRUCTURING

10. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants shall, subject to such requirements as are imposed by the CCAA, have the right to continue negotiations with stakeholders in an effort to pursue restructuring options for the Applicants including without limitation all avenues of refinancing of their Business or Property, in whole or in part, subject to prior approval of this Court being obtained before any material refinancing.

NO PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE APPLICANTS OR THE PROPERTY

11. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that until and including February 4, 2023, or such later date as this Court may order (the “**Stay Period**”), no proceeding or enforcement process in any court or tribunal (each, a “**Proceeding**”) shall be commenced or continued against or in respect of the Applicants or the Monitor, or affecting their Business or their Property, except with the written consent of the Applicants and the Monitor, or with leave of this Court, and any and all Proceedings currently under way against or in respect of the Applicants or affecting their Business or their Property are hereby stayed and suspended pending further Order of this Court.

NO EXERCISE OF RIGHTS OR REMEDIES

12. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that during the Stay Period, all rights and remedies of any individual, firm, corporation, governmental body or agency, or any other entities (all of the foregoing, collectively being “**Persons**” and each being a “**Person**”) against or in respect of the Applicants or the Monitor, or affecting their Business or their Property, are hereby stayed and suspended except with the written consent of the Applicants and the Monitor, or leave of this Court, provided that nothing in this Order shall (a) empower the Applicants to carry on any business which the Applicants are not lawfully entitled to carry on, (b) affect such investigations, actions, suits or proceedings by a regulatory body as are permitted by Section 11.1 of the CCAA, (c) prevent the filing of any registration to preserve or perfect a security interest, or (d) prevent the registration of a claim for lien.

NO INTERFERENCE WITH RIGHTS

13. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that during the Stay Period, no Person shall discontinue, fail to honour, alter, interfere with, repudiate, terminate or cease to perform any right, renewal right, contract, agreement, licence or permit in favour of or held by the Applicants, except with the written consent of the Applicants and the Monitor, or leave of this Court.

CONTINUATION OF SERVICES

14. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that during the Stay Period, all Persons having oral or written agreements with the Applicants or statutory or regulatory mandates for the supply of goods and/or services, including without limitation all computer software, communication and other data services, centralized banking services, payroll services, insurance, transportation services, utility or other services to the Business or the Applicants, are hereby restrained until further Order of this Court from discontinuing, altering, interfering with or terminating the supply of such goods or services as may be required by the Applicants, and that the Applicants shall be entitled to the continued use of their current premises, telephone numbers, facsimile numbers, internet addresses, email addresses and domain names, provided in each case that the normal prices or charges for all such goods or services received after the date of this Order are paid by the Applicants in accordance with normal payment practices of the Applicants or such other practices as may be agreed upon by the supplier or service provider and each of the Applicants and the Monitor, or as may be ordered by this Court.

NON-DEROGATION OF RIGHTS

15. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, notwithstanding anything else in this Order, no Person shall be prohibited from requiring immediate payment for goods, services, use of lease or licensed property or other valuable consideration provided on or after the date of this Order, nor shall any Person be under any obligation on or after the date of this Order to advance or re-advance any monies or otherwise extend any credit to the Applicants. Nothing in this Order shall derogate from the rights conferred and obligations imposed by the CCAA.

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

16. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that during the Stay Period, and except as permitted by subsection 11.03(2) of the CCAA, no Proceeding may be commenced or continued against any of the former, current or future directors or officers of the Applicants with respect to any claim against the directors or officers that arose before the date hereof and that relates to any obligations of the Applicants whereby the directors or officers are alleged under any law to be liable in their capacity as directors or officers for the payment or performance of such obligations, until a compromise or arrangement in respect of the Applicants, if one is filed, is sanctioned by this Court or is refused by the creditors of the Applicants or this Court.

DIRECTORS' AND OFFICERS' INDEMNIFICATION AND CHARGE

17. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants shall indemnify their directors and officers against obligations and liabilities that they may incur as directors or officers of the Applicants after the commencement of the within proceedings, except to the extent that, with respect to any officer or director, the obligation or liability was incurred as a result of the director's or officer's gross negligence or wilful misconduct.

18. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the directors and officers of the Applicants shall be entitled to the benefit of and are hereby granted a charge (the "**Directors' Charge**") on the Property, which charge shall not exceed an aggregate amount of \$200,000, as security for the indemnity provided in paragraph 17 of this Order. The Directors' Charge shall have the priority as set out in paragraphs 46 and 48 herein.

19. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, notwithstanding any language in any applicable insurance policy to the contrary, (a) no insurer shall be entitled to be subrogated to or claim the benefit of the Directors' Charge, and (b) the Applicants' directors and officers shall only be entitled to the

benefit of the Directors' Charge to the extent that they do not have coverage under any directors' and officers' insurance policy, or to the extent that such coverage is insufficient to pay amounts indemnified in accordance with paragraph 17 of this Order.

APPROVAL AND SEALING OF THE CRO ENGAGEMENT LETTER

20. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the agreement dated as of January 23, 2023 pursuant to which the Applicants have engaged FAAN Advisors, ("**FAAN**"), to act as Chief Restructuring Officer (the "**CRO**") through the services of Naveed Manzoor ("**Manzoor**") and other employees or agents of FAAN (as applicable), an unredacted copy of which is attached as Confidential Exhibit "B" to the Pre-Filing Report as may be amended by the parties thereto with the consent of the Monitor (the "**CRO Engagement Letter**"), and the appointment of the CRO pursuant to the terms thereof, are hereby approved, including, without limitation, the payment of the fees and expenses contemplated thereby.

21. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, during the Stay Period, the CRO is authorized to exercise and perform the powers, responsibilities and duties as described in the CRO Engagement Letter and subject to the terms thereof, together with such other powers, responsibilities and duties as may be agreed upon by the CRO and the Applicants, in consultation with the DIP Lender (collectively, the "**CRO Powers**"). In exercising the CRO Powers, the CRO shall be deemed to be acting for and on behalf of the Applicants and not its personal or corporate capacity.

22. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the CRO, Manzoor, or such other employees or agents of FAAN, shall not be, or deemed to be a director, officer or employee of the Applicants.

23. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the CRO shall not, as a result of the performance of its obligations and duties in accordance with the terms of the CRO Engagement Letter and this Order, be deemed to be in Possession (as defined below) of any of the Property within the meaning of any Environmental Legislation (as defined below); provided, however, if the CRO is nevertheless later found to be in Possession of any Property, then the CRO, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be a Person who has been lawfully appointed to take, or has lawfully taken, possession or control of such Property for the purposes of section 14.06(1.1)(c) of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (Canada) (the "**BIA**") and shall be entitled to the benefits and protections in relation to Applicants and such Property as provided by section 14.06(2) of the BIA to a "trustee" in relation to an insolvent Person and its property.

24. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the CRO shall not have any liability with respect to any losses, claims, damages or liabilities, of any nature or kind, to any Person from and after the date of this Order except to the extent such losses, claims, damages or liabilities result from the gross negligence or wilful misconduct on the part of the CRO, provided further that in no event shall the liability of the CRO exceed the quantum of the fees paid to the CRO.

25. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that no action or other proceeding shall be commenced directly, or by way of counterclaim, third party claim or otherwise, against or in respect of the CRO, and all rights and remedies of any Person against or in respect of the CRO are hereby stayed and suspended, except with the written consent of the CRO and the Monitor, or with leave of this Court on notice to the Applicants, the Monitor, the DIP Lender and the CRO. Notice of any such motion seeking leave of this Court shall be served upon the Applicants, the Monitor, the DIP Lender and the CRO at least ten (10) days prior to the return date of any such motion for leave.

26. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the obligations of the Applicants to the CRO pursuant to the CRO Engagement Letter shall be treated as unaffected and may not be compromised in any Plan or proposal filed under the BIA in respect of the Applicants.

27. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that payment obligations of the Applicants to the CRO in respect of any fees and disbursements of the CRO shall be entitled to the benefit of and shall form part of the Administration Charge (as defined below) set out herein.

28. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the unredacted copy of the CRO Engagement Letter included as Confidential Exhibit "B" to the Pre-Filing Report shall be sealed and kept confidential pending further order of this Court.

APPOINTMENT OF MONITOR

29. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that Ernst & Young Inc. is hereby appointed pursuant to the CCAA as the Monitor, an officer of this Court, to monitor the business and financial affairs of the Applicants with the powers and obligations set out in the CCAA or set forth herein and that the Applicants and their shareholders, officers, directors, and Assistants shall advise the Monitor of all material steps taken by the Applicants pursuant to this Order, and shall co-operate fully with the Monitor in the exercise of its powers and discharge of its obligations and provide the Monitor with the assistance that is necessary to enable the Monitor to adequately carry out the Monitor's functions.

30. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor, in addition to its prescribed rights and obligations under the CCAA, is hereby directed and empowered to:

- (a) monitor the Applicants' receipts and disbursements and the Applicants' compliance with the DIP Budget;
- (b) report to this Court at such times and intervals as the Monitor may deem appropriate with respect to matters relating to the Property, the Business, and such other matters as may be relevant to the proceedings herein;
- (c) assist the Applicants, to the extent required by the Applicants or the CRO, in their dissemination of financial and other information to the DIP Lender and its counsel on a weekly basis of financial and other information as agreed to between the Applicants and the DIP Lender, or as may reasonably be requested by the DIP Lender;
- (d) advise the Applicants in their preparation of the Applicants' cash flow statements and reporting required by the DIP Lender, which information shall be reviewed with the Monitor and delivered to the DIP Lender and its counsel on a periodic basis, but not less than weekly, or as may reasonably be requested by the DIP Lender;
- (e) have full and complete access to the Property, including the premises, books, records, data, including data in electronic form, and other financial documents of the Applicants, to the extent that is necessary to adequately assess the Applicants' business and financial affairs or to perform its duties arising under this Order;
- (f) be at liberty to engage independent legal counsel or such other persons as the Monitor deems necessary or advisable respecting the exercise of its powers and performance of its obligations under this Order; and
- (g) perform such other duties as are required by this Order or by this Court from time to time.

31. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor shall not take possession of the Property and shall take no part whatsoever in the management or supervision of the management of the Business and shall not, by fulfilling its obligations hereunder, be deemed to have taken or maintained possession or control of the Business or Property, or any part thereof.

32. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that nothing herein contained shall require the Monitor to occupy or to take control, care, charge, possession or management (separately and/or collectively, “**Possession**”) of any of the Property that might be environmentally contaminated, might be a pollutant or a contaminant, or might cause or contribute to a spill, discharge, release or deposit of a substance contrary to any federal, provincial or other law respecting the protection, conservation, enhancement, remediation or rehabilitation of the environment or relating to the disposal of waste or other contamination including, without limitation, the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, the *Ontario Environmental Protection Act*, the *Ontario Water Resources Act*, the *Ontario Mining Act*, or the *Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations thereunder (the “**Environmental Legislation**”), provided however that nothing herein shall exempt the Monitor from any duty to report or make disclosure imposed by applicable Environmental Legislation. The Monitor shall not, as a result of this Order, or anything done in pursuance of the Monitor’s duties and powers under this Order, be deemed to be in Possession of any of the Property within the meaning of any Environmental Legislation, unless it is actually in possession.

33. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that that the Monitor shall provide any creditor of the Applicants and the DIP Lender with information provided by the Applicants in response to reasonable requests for information made in writing by such creditor addressed to the Monitor. The Monitor shall not have any responsibility or liability with respect to the information disseminated by it pursuant to this paragraph. In the case of information that the Monitor has been advised by the Applicants is confidential, the Monitor shall not provide such information to creditors unless otherwise directed by this Court or on such terms as the Monitor and the Applicants may agree.

34. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, in addition to the rights and protections afforded the Monitor under the CCAA or as an officer of this Court, the Monitor shall incur no liability or obligation as a result of its appointment or the carrying out of the provisions of this Order, save and except for any gross negligence or wilful misconduct on its part. Nothing in this Order shall derogate from the protections afforded the Monitor by the CCAA or any applicable legislation.

35. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor, counsel to the Monitor and counsel to the Applicants shall be paid their reasonable fees and disbursements, in each case at their standard rates and charges, by the Applicants as part of the costs of these proceedings. The Applicants are hereby authorized and directed to pay the accounts of the Monitor, counsel for the Monitor and counsel for the Applicants on a weekly basis. In addition, the Applicants are hereby authorized

to pay to the Monitor and counsel to the Monitor, retainers in the amounts of \$150,000 and \$50,000, respectively, to be held by them as security for payment of their respective fees and disbursements outstanding from time to time.

36. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor and its legal counsel shall pass their accounts from time to time, and for this purpose the accounts of the Monitor and its legal counsel are hereby referred to a judge of the Commercial List of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

37. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants' counsel, the Monitor and its counsel and the CRO shall be entitled to the benefit of and are hereby granted a charge (the "**Administration Charge**") on the Property, which charge shall not exceed an aggregate amount of \$150,000, as security for their professional fees and disbursements incurred at the standard rates and charges of the Monitor and such counsel, both before and after the making of this Order in respect of these proceedings. The Administration Charge shall have the priority as set out in paragraphs 46 and 48 hereof.

DIP FINANCING

38. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants are hereby authorized and empowered to obtain and borrow under a credit facility from FGC, in its capacity as the debtor-in-possession lender (the "**DIP Lender**") in order to finance the Applicants working capital requirements, and other general corporate purposes and capital expenditures.

39. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that such credit facility shall be on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the DIP Facility Loan Agreement between the Applicants and the DIP Lender dated as of January 25, 2023, appended as Exhibit "S" to the Manzoor Affidavit (the "**DIP Facility Agreement**").

40. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants are hereby authorized and empowered to borrow, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the DIP Facility Agreement, interim financing of up to US\$500,000 during the Stay Period.

41. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants are hereby authorized and empowered to execute and deliver such agreements, instruments, mortgages, charges, hypothecs and security documents, guarantees and other definitive documents (collectively with the DIP Facility Agreement, the "**Definitive Documents**"), as may be contemplated by the DIP Facility Agreement or as may be reasonably required by the DIP Lender pursuant to the terms thereof, and the

Applicants are hereby authorized and directed to pay and perform all of its indebtedness, interest, fees, liabilities and obligations to the DIP Lender under and pursuant to the Definitive Documents (collectively, the “**DIP Obligations**”) as and when the same become due and are to be performed, notwithstanding any other provision of this Order.

42. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the DIP Lender shall be entitled to the benefit of and is hereby granted a charge (the “**DIP Lender’s Charge**”) on the Property as security for the DIP Obligations, which DIP Lender’s Charge shall be in the aggregate amount of the DIP Obligations outstanding at any given time under the Definitive Documents. The DIP Lender’s Charge shall not secure an obligation that exists before this Order is made. The DIP Lender’s Charge shall have the priority as set out in paragraphs 46 and 48 hereof.

43. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, in addition to the rights and protections afforded to the DIP Lender under this Order or at law, the DIP Lender shall not incur any liability or obligation as a result of the carrying out of the provisions of this Order, save and except for any gross negligence or willful misconduct on its part.

44. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, notwithstanding any other provision of this Order:

- (a) the DIP Lender may take such steps from time to time as it may deem necessary or appropriate to file, register, record or perfect the DIP Lender’s Charge or any of the Definitive Documents;
- (b) upon the occurrence of an event of default under the Definitive Documents or the DIP Lender’s Charge, the DIP Lender, upon three business days’ notice to the Applicants, the CRO and the Monitor, may exercise any and all of its rights and remedies against the Applicants or the Property under or pursuant to the Definitive Documents and the DIP Lender’s Charge, including without limitation, to cease making advances to the Applicants and set off and/or consolidate any amounts owing by the DIP Lender to the Applicants against the obligations of the Applicants to the DIP Lender under the Definitive Documents or the DIP Lender’s Charge, to make demand, accelerate payment and give other notices, or to apply to this Court for the appointment of a receiver, receiver and manager or interim receiver, or for a bankruptcy order against the Applicants and for the appointment of a trustee in bankruptcy of the Applicants; and

- (c) the foregoing rights and remedies of the DIP Lender shall be enforceable against any trustee in bankruptcy, interim receiver, receiver or receiver and manager of the Applicants or the Property.

45. **THIS COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES** that FGC and the DIP Lender shall be treated as unaffected in any plan of arrangement or compromise under the CCAA, or any proposal filed under the BIA, with respect to any advances made by FGC, as secured lender to the Applicants, and under the Definitive Documents.

VALIDITY AND PRIORITY OF CHARGES CREATED BY THIS ORDER

46. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the priorities of the Administration Charge, the DIP Lender's Charge, and the Directors' Charge (collectively, the "**Charges**"), as among them, shall be as follows:

First - Administration Charge (to the maximum amount of \$150,000);

Second – DIP Lender's Charge; and

Third - Directors' Charge (to the maximum amount of \$200,000).

47. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the filing, registration or perfection of the Charges shall not be required, and that the Charges shall be effective as against the Property and shall be valid and enforceable for all purposes, including as against any right, title or interest filed, registered, recorded or perfected subsequent to the Charges coming into existence, notwithstanding any such failure to file, register, record or perfect.

48. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Charges shall constitute a charge on the Property and shall rank in priority to all other security interests, trusts, liens, charges and encumbrances, claims of secured creditors, statutory or otherwise (collectively, "**Encumbrances**") in favour of any Person.

49. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that except as otherwise expressly provided for herein, or the proposed amended and restated initial order included in the Applicants' Application Record if granted by the Court, the Applicants shall not grant any Encumbrances over any Property that rank in priority to, or *pari passu* with, any of the Charges, unless the Applicants also obtain the

prior written consent of the CRO, the Monitor, the DIP Lender and the beneficiaries of the Directors' Charge and the Administration Charge, or further Order of this Court.

50. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Directors' Charge, the Administration Charge, the Definitive Documents and the DIP Lender's Charge shall not be rendered invalid or unenforceable and the rights and remedies of the chargees entitled to the benefit of the Charges (collectively, the "**Chargees**") and/or the DIP Lender thereunder shall not otherwise be limited or impaired in any way by (a) the pendency of these proceedings and the declarations of insolvency made herein; (b) any application(s) for bankruptcy order(s) issued pursuant to BIA, or any bankruptcy order made pursuant to such applications; (c) the filing of any assignments for the general benefit of creditors made pursuant to the BIA; (d) the provisions of any federal, provincial or other statutes; or (e) any negative covenants, prohibitions or other similar provisions with respect to borrowings, incurring debt or the creation of Encumbrances, contained in any existing loan documents, lease, sublease, offer to lease or other agreement (collectively, an "**Agreement**") which binds the Applicants, and notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in any Agreement:

- (a) neither the creation of the Charges nor the execution, delivery, perfection, registration or performance of the Definitive Documents shall create or be deemed to constitute a breach by the Applicants of any Agreement to which they are a party;
- (b) none of the Chargees shall have any liability to any Person whatsoever as a result of any breach of any Agreement caused by or resulting from the Applicants entering into the DIP Facility Agreement, the creation of the Charges, or the execution, delivery or performance of the Definitive Documents; and
- (c) the payments made by the Applicants pursuant to this Order, the Definitive Documents, and the granting of the Charges, do not and will not constitute preferences, fraudulent conveyances, transfers at undervalue, oppressive conduct, or other challengeable or voidable transactions under any applicable law.

51. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that any Charge created by this Order over leases of real property in Canada shall only be a Charge in the Applicants' interest in such real property leases.

SERVICE AND NOTICE

52. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor shall (a) without delay, publish in The Globe and Mail (National Edition) a notice containing the information prescribed under the CCAA, (b) within five days after the date of this Order, (i) make this Order publicly available in the manner prescribed under the CCAA, (ii) send, in the prescribed manner, a notice to every known creditor who has a claim against the Applicants of more than \$1000, and (iii) prepare a list showing the names and addresses of those creditors and the estimated amounts of those claims, and make it publicly available in the prescribed manner, all in accordance with Section 23(1)(a) of the CCAA and the regulations made thereunder, provided that the Monitor shall not make the claims, names and addresses of any individual persons who are creditors available.

53. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the E-Service Protocol of the Commercial List (the “**Protocol**”) is approved and adopted by reference herein and, in this proceeding, the service of documents made in accordance with the Protocol (which can be found on the Commercial List website at <http://www.ontariocourts.ca/scj/practice/practice-directions/toronto/e-service-protocol/>) shall be valid and effective service. Subject to Rule 17.05, this Order shall constitute an order for substituted service pursuant to Rule 16.04 of the *Rules of Civil Procedure*. Subject to Rule 3.01(d) of the *Rules of Civil Procedure* and paragraph 21 of the Protocol, service of documents in accordance with the Protocol will be effective on transmission. This Court further orders that a Case Website shall be established in accordance with the Protocol with the following URL: www.ey.com/ca/acerus

54. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants, the Monitor and their respective counsel are at liberty to serve or distribute this Order, and other materials and orders as may be reasonably required in these proceedings, including any notices, or other correspondence, by forwarding true copies thereof by electronic message to the Applicants’ creditors or other interested parties and their advisors. For greater certainty, any such distribution or service shall be deemed to be in satisfaction of a legal or judicial obligation and notice requirements within the meaning of clause 3(c) of the *Electronic Commerce Protection Regulations*, Reg. 81000-2-175 (SOR/DORS).

55. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that if the service or distribution of documents in accordance with the Protocol is not practicable, the Applicants and the Monitor are at liberty to serve or distribute this Order, any other materials and orders in these proceedings, any notices or other correspondence, by forwarding true copies thereof by prepaid ordinary mail, courier, personal

delivery or facsimile transmission to the Applicants' creditors or other interested parties at their respective addresses as last shown on the records of the Applicants and that any such service or distribution by courier, personal delivery or facsimile transmission shall be deemed to be received on the next business day following the date of forwarding thereof, or if sent by ordinary mail, on the third business day after mailing.

COMEBACK MOTION

56. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the comeback motion shall be heard at a date and time to be fixed by a Commercial List Judge, but in no event later than February 3, 2023.

FOREIGN PROCEEDINGS

57. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicant, Acerus Pharmaceuticals Corporation is hereby authorized and empowered, but not required, to act as the foreign representative (in such capacity, the "**Foreign Representative**") in respect of the within proceedings for the purpose of having these proceedings recognized and approved in a jurisdiction outside of Canada.

58. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Foreign Representative is hereby authorized to apply for foreign recognition and approval of these proceedings, as necessary, in any jurisdiction outside of Canada, including in the United States pursuant to chapter 15 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-1532.

GENERAL

59. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants, the DIP Lender, or the Monitor may from time to time apply to this Court to amend, vary or supplement this Order or for advice and directions in the discharge of their powers and duties hereunder.

60. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that nothing in this Order shall prevent the Monitor from acting as an interim receiver, a receiver, a receiver and manager, or a trustee in bankruptcy of the Applicants, the Business or the Property.

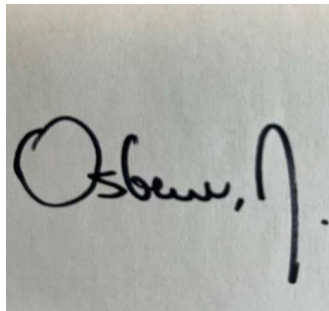
61. **THIS COURT HEREBY REQUESTS** the aid and recognition of any court, tribunal, regulatory or administrative body having jurisdiction in Canada or in the United States, to give effect to this Order and to assist the Applicants, the Monitor and their respective agents in carrying out the terms of this Order. All courts, tribunals, regulatory and administrative bodies are hereby

respectfully requested to make such orders and to provide such assistance to the Applicants and to the Monitor, as an officer of this Court, as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this Order, to grant representative status to the Monitor in any foreign proceeding, or to assist the Applicants and the Monitor and their respective agents in carrying out the terms of this Order.

62. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that each of the Applicants and the Monitor shall be at liberty and are hereby authorized and empowered to apply to any court, tribunal, regulatory or administrative body, wherever located, for the recognition of this Order and for assistance in carrying out the terms of this Order, and that the Monitor is authorized and empowered to act as a representative in respect of the within proceedings for the purpose of having these proceedings recognized in a jurisdiction outside Canada.

63. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that any interested party (including the Applicants and the Monitor) may apply to this Court to vary or amend this Order on not less than seven (7) days notice to any other party or parties likely to be affected by the order sought or upon such other notice, if any, as this Court may order.

64. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that this Order and all of its provisions are effective as of 12:01 a.m. Eastern Standard/Daylight Time on the date of this Order.



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Court File No. CV-23-00693595-00CL

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS
ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED

AND IN THE MATTER OF PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF ACERUS PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION,
ACERUS BIOPHARMA INC., ACERUS LABS INC. AND ACERUS PHARMACEUTICALS USA, LLC.

Applicants

	ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE (COMMERCIAL LIST) PROCEEDING COMMENCED AT TORONTO
	INITIAL ORDER
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