

## ACER THERAPEUTICS INC.

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### AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER (effective August 14, 2018)

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#### I. Composition of the Committee

The Audit Committee (the “Committee”) of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Acer Therapeutics Inc., a Delaware corporation (the “Company”), shall be comprised of at least three directors each of whom (i) is “independent” under the listing standards, rules and regulations of The Nasdaq Stock Market (“Nasdaq”) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), (ii) does not accept any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the Company other than in his or her capacity as a member of the Board or any committee of the Board, (iii) is not an “affiliate” of the Company or any subsidiary of the Company, as such term is defined in Rule 10A-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, (iv) must not have participated in the preparation of the financial statements of the Company or any current subsidiary of the Company at any time during the past three years, and (v) must be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including a company’s balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement. At least one Committee member must also be an “audit committee financial expert” in accordance with the definition adopted by the SEC.

Committee members shall be appointed from time to time by the Board, having given consideration to the recommendations, if any, from the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and for such term or terms as the Board may determine. The Board or the Committee shall designate one member of the Committee as its chairperson. In the event of a tie vote on any issue, the chairperson’s vote shall decide the issue.

#### II. Purposes of the Committee

The purposes of the Committee are to assist the Board in its oversight of:

1. the integrity of the Company’s financial statements, financial reporting process, and systems of internal controls related to finance, accounting, legal and regulatory compliance; and
2. the independent auditors’ qualifications, independence and performance.

The function of the Committee is oversight. The management of the Company is responsible for the preparation, presentation, and integrity of the Company’s financial statements. Management is responsible for maintaining appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles and policies and internal controls and procedures that provide for compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. The independent auditors are responsible for planning and carrying out a proper audit of the Company’s annual

financial statements, reviews of the Company's quarterly financial statements prior to the filing of each quarterly report on Form 10-Q, and other procedures. In fulfilling their responsibilities hereunder, it is recognized that members of the Committee are not employees of the Company and are not, and do not represent themselves to be, performing the functions of auditors or accountants. As such, it is not the duty or responsibility of the Committee or its members to conduct "field work" or other types of auditing or accounting reviews or procedures or to set auditor independence standards.

The independent auditors for the Company are accountable to the Committee, as representatives of the stockholders. The Committee is directly responsible for the appointment, retention, compensation and oversight of the work of the independent auditors (including resolving disagreements between management and the independent auditors regarding financial reporting). The independent auditors shall report directly to the Committee.

The independent auditors shall submit to the Committee annually a formal written statement of the fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for each of the following categories of services rendered by the independent auditors: (i) the audit of the Company's annual financial statements and the reviews of the financial statements included in the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q or services that are normally provided by the independent auditors in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements; (ii) assurance and related services not included in clause (i) that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the Company's financial statements, in the aggregate and by each service; (iii) tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning services, in the aggregate and by each service; and (iv) all other products and services rendered by the independent auditors, in the aggregate and by each service.

### **III. Meetings of the Committee**

The Committee shall meet once every fiscal quarter, or more frequently if circumstances dictate, to discuss with management the annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements, as applicable. The Committee may meet separately on a periodic basis with management and the independent auditors to discuss any matters that the Committee or any of these persons or firms believes should be discussed privately. The Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company or the Company's outside counsel or independent auditors to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee. Members of the Committee may participate in a meeting of the Committee by means of conference call or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other.

### **IV. Duties and Powers of the Committee**

To carry out its purposes, the Committee shall have the following duties and powers:

1. with respect to the independent auditors,
  - (i) to directly appoint, retain, compensate, evaluate, and terminate the independent auditors, including having the sole authority to approve all audit engagement fees and terms, provided that the auditor appointment shall be subject to stockholder approval;

(ii) to pre-approve, or to adopt appropriate procedures to pre-approve, all audit and non-audit services to be provided by the independent auditors;

(iii) to review and discuss the annual written statement from the independent auditors delineating all of the independent auditors' relationships with the Company (as required by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent auditors' communications with an audit committee concerning independence) and, based on such review, assess the independence of the auditors;

(iv) to discuss with the independent auditors in connection with any audit all critical accounting policies and practices used, all alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles that have been discussed with management, ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the independent auditors, and any material written communications between the independent auditors and management, such as any "management letter" or schedule of unadjusted differences and management's responses thereto;

(v) to discuss with management and the independent auditors the timing and process for implementing the rotation of the lead audit partner, the concurring partner and any other active audit engagement team partner;

(vi) to instruct the independent auditors that the independent auditors are ultimately accountable to the Committee, as representatives of the stockholders; and

(vii) to establish guidelines for the hiring of employees and former employees of the independent auditors;

2. with respect to financial reporting principles and policies and internal controls and procedures,

(i) to advise management and the independent auditors that they are expected to provide to the Committee a timely analysis of significant financial reporting issues and practices;

(ii) to consider any reports or communications (and management's responses thereto) submitted to the Committee by the independent auditors, including reports and communications related to:

- deficiencies noted in the audit in the design or operation of internal controls;
- consideration of fraud in a financial statement audit;
- detection of illegal acts;
- any restriction on audit scope;
- significant accounting policies;

- management judgments and accounting estimates;
- any accounting adjustments arising from the audit that were noted or proposed by the auditors but were passed (as immaterial or otherwise);
- disagreements with management;
- difficulties encountered with management in performing the audit;
- the independent auditors' judgments about the quality of the entity's accounting principles; and
- reviews of interim financial information conducted by the independent auditors;

(iii) to meet with management and the independent auditors:

- to review and discuss the annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements, including the Company's disclosures under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations";
- to discuss any significant matters arising from any audit, including any audit problems or difficulties, whether raised by management or the independent auditors, relating to the Company's financial statements;
- to discuss any difficulties the independent auditors encountered in the course of the audit, including any restrictions on their activities or access to requested information and any significant disagreements with management;
- to review the form of opinion the independent auditors propose to render to the Board and stockholders; and
- to discuss, as appropriate: (a) any major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentations, including any significant changes in the Company's selection or application of accounting principles, and major issues as to the adequacy of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting, and any special audit steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies; (b) analyses prepared by management and/or the independent auditors setting forth significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the financial statements, including analyses of the effects of alternative GAAP methods on the financial statements; and (c) the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives, as well as off-balance sheet structures, on the financial statements of the Company;

(iv) to discuss with management the Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including the Company's policies with respect to financial risk assessment and financial risk management;

(v) to inquire of and review any disclosures made to the Committee by the Company's chief executive officer and chief financial officer (or persons performing such functions) during their certification process for the Company's Form 10-K and Forms 10-Q as to the existence of any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal controls that could adversely affect the Company's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data, and any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls;

(vi) to discuss with the Company's general counsel (or person or entity performing such function) any significant legal, compliance or regulatory matters that may have a material effect on the financial statements or the Company's business, financial statements or compliance policies, including material notices to or inquiries received from governmental agencies;

(vii) to discuss and review the type and presentation of information to be included in earnings press releases;

(viii) to establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and for the confidential, anonymous submission by Company employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters; and

(ix) to review and approve where appropriate any proposed "related person transactions" which may be required to be disclosed by the Company (pursuant to Item 404 of Regulation S-K), based on all relevant facts and circumstances reasonably available to the Committee (including, but not limited to: the nature of the related person's interest in the transaction; the material terms of the transaction, including, without limitation, the amount and type of transaction; the importance of the transaction to the related person; the importance of the transaction to the Company; whether the transaction would impair the judgment of a director or executive officer to act in the best interest of the Company; and any other matters the Committee deems appropriate), where approval is given by the Committee only for those transactions it determines are fair to and in the best interests of the Company, taking into account all factors deemed relevant by the Committee;

3. with respect to reporting and recommendations,

(i) to recommend to the Board, based on its review and discussions with management and the independent auditors, whether the Company's audited financial statements should be included in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K;

(ii) to prepare any report or other disclosures, including any recommendation of the Committee, required by the rules of the SEC to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement;

(iii) to review and reassess the adequacy of this Charter at least annually and recommend any changes to the full Board;

(iv) to prepare and review with the Board an annual performance evaluation of the Committee, which evaluation shall compare the performance of the Committee with the requirements of this Charter;

(v) to report its activities to the full Board on a regular basis and to make such recommendations with respect to the above and other matters as the Committee may deem necessary or appropriate;

(vi) in the case of matters concerning accounting, internal controls or auditing, to monitor compliance with the Company's Code of Ethics and when appropriate, impose and enforce appropriate disciplinary measures for violations of the Code; and

(vii) to review any proposed waiver of the Code and make a recommendation to the Board with respect to the disposition of any proposed waiver.

## **V. Resources and Authority of the Committee**

The Committee shall have the resources (including any needed funding to be supplied by the Company) and authority appropriate to discharge its duties and responsibilities, including the authority to select, retain, terminate, and approve the fees and other retention terms of special or independent counsel, accountants or other experts and advisors, as it deems necessary or appropriate, without seeking approval of the Board or management.