

CORNERSTONE THERAPEUTICS INC

Form S-3

May 12, 2010

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 12, 2010

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
Form S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933
CORNERSTONE THERAPEUTICS INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

Delaware

*(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)*

04-3523569

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**1255 Crescent Green Drive, Suite 250
Cary, North Carolina 27518
(919) 678-6611**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

**Craig A. Collard
President and Chief Executive Officer
Cornerstone Therapeutics Inc.
1255 Crescent Green Drive, Suite 250
Cary, North Carolina 27518
(919) 678-6611**

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

**David B. Clement
Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett,
Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P.
2500 Wachovia Capitol Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
(919) 821-1220**

**Andrew K. W. Powell
Executive Vice President,
General Counsel and Secretary
Cornerstone Therapeutics Inc.
1255 Crescent Green Drive, Suite 250
Cary, North Carolina 27518
(919) 678-6524**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of the Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

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If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company
 (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit (2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (2)(3)	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock,\$0.001 par value per share	15,000,000	\$6.33	\$94,950,000	\$6,769.93

- (1) In accordance with Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement shall be deemed to cover any additional securities that may from time to time be offered or issued to prevent dilution resulting from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- (2) Estimated in accordance with Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, solely for the purpose of determining the applicable registration fee. The maximum offering price per share information is based on the average of the high and the low sale price of our common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Capital Market on May 7, 2010.
- (3) At no time will the aggregate market value of securities sold in any given 12-month period exceed the amount allowed for in General Instruction I.B.6. of Form S-3.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED MAY 12, 2010

PROSPECTUS

15,000,000 Shares of Common Stock

From time to time, we may offer and sell up to 15,000,000 shares of common stock at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to an offering of our common stock. The specific terms and any other information relating to a specific offering will be set forth in a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or in a supplement to this prospectus, or may be set forth in one or more documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We may also authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you in connection with a specific offering. You should read carefully this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectuses that we have authorized for use in connection with a specific offering, as well as any documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, before you invest.

This prospectus may not be used to offer and sell securities without a prospectus supplement.

We may offer and sell shares of common stock to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. If any agents or underwriters are involved in the sale of any of the common stock offered by this prospectus, their names, and any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement with, between or among them, will be set forth, or will be calculable from the information set forth, in the applicable prospectus supplement. The supplements to this prospectus will provide the specific terms of the plan of distribution. The net proceeds we expect to receive from sales by us will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Capital Market and is quoted under the symbol CRTX. On May 7, 2010, the last reported sale price of our common stock was \$6.27 per share.

As of May 7, 2010, the aggregate market value of our outstanding common stock held by non-affiliates was approximately \$48.3 million, based on 25,602,028 shares of outstanding common stock, of which 7,704,884 shares were held by non-affiliates, and a per share price of \$6.27 based on the closing price of our common stock on that date. As of the date hereof, we have not offered any securities pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6. of Form S-3 during the prior twelve-calendar-month period that ends on, and includes, the date of this prospectus.

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should review carefully the risks and uncertainties described under the heading Risk Factors on page 3 and those contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and in any related free writing prospectuses that we have authorized for use in connection with a specific offering and in our Securities and Exchange Commission filings that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Prospectus dated May 12, 2010

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a shelf registration statement that we filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. By using a shelf registration statement, we may sell common stock from time to time and in one or more offerings as described herein up to a maximum of 15 million shares. Each time that we sell securities under this shelf registration process, we will provide a prospectus supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the securities being offered and the specific terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the prospectus supplement. Before purchasing any securities, you should carefully read both this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any related free-writing prospectuses that we have authorized in connection with a specific offering, together with the additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, in any prospectus supplement and in any related free-writing prospectuses that we have authorized in connection with a specific offering. We have not authorized any dealer, salesman or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, the accompanying supplement to this prospectus and any related free-writing prospectuses that we have authorized in connection with a specific offering. We will not make an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, the prospectus supplement to this prospectus and any related free-writing prospectuses that we have authorized in connection with a specific offering is accurate as of the date on its respective cover, and that any information incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, unless we indicate otherwise. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

When we refer to **Cornerstone Therapeutics**, **we**, **our** and **us** in this prospectus, we mean **Cornerstone Therapeutics Inc.**, a Delaware corporation, unless otherwise specified. Our principal executive offices are located at 1255 Crescent Green Drive, Suite 250, Cary, North Carolina 27518, and our telephone number is (919) 678-6611.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, any prospectus supplement, any related free-writing prospectuses that we have authorized in connection with a specific offering and the documents we incorporate by reference in this prospectus may include

forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. For purposes of these statutes, any statement contained herein or therein, other than a statement of historical fact, may be a forward-looking statement. We may, in some cases, use words such as anticipate,

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believe, could, estimate, expect, intend, may, plan, project, should, target, will, would or of uncertainty of future events or outcomes to identify these forward-looking statements. Examples of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from historical performance and any forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the risks described in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as well as any amendments thereto reflected in subsequent filings with the SEC. Given these risks, uncertainties and other factors, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Also, these forward-looking statements represent our estimates and assumptions only as of the date such forward-looking statements are made. You should read carefully and completely this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectuses that we have authorized for use in connection with a specific offering, together with the information incorporated herein or therein by reference as described under the headings **Where You Can Find More Information** and **Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference**, and with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from what we expect. We hereby qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements. Except as required by law, we assume no obligation to update these forward-looking statements publicly or to update the reasons actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements, even if new information becomes available in the future. Our forward-looking statements do not reflect the potential impact of any future acquisitions, mergers, dispositions, joint ventures or investments we may make.

ABOUT CORNERSTONE THERAPEUTICS INC.

Cornerstone Therapeutics Inc. is a specialty pharmaceutical company focused on acquiring, developing and commercializing significant products primarily for the respiratory and related markets. We seek to acquire rights to existing undervalued and/or poorly marketed established commercial products, which we then quickly re-launch to generate lasting high-value earnings streams. We also seek to acquire late-stage development products that we can shepherd through FDA approval and commercialization. We target products that fit within our existing product families, fill holes in our expanding portfolio and offer potential synergies once integrated into our portfolio.

We currently derive the majority of our revenue from five key product families:

CUROSURF[®], an FDA-approved natural lung surfactant for the treatment of Respiratory Distress Syndrome in premature infants, for which we acquired rights in the United States in August 2009;

FACTIVE[®], a fluoroquinolone with a broad and powerful activity against certain microorganisms implicated in certain respiratory infections, including multi-drug resistant strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, for which we acquired rights in North America and certain European countries in September 2009;

SPECTRACEF[®] (cefditoren pivoxil) tablets, a third-generation cephalosporin indicated for the treatment of certain respiratory and skin infections, for which we acquired rights in the United States in October 2006;

ZYFLO CR[®], the only FDA-approved leukotriene synthesis inhibitor indicated for prophylaxis and chronic treatment of asthma, for which we acquired worldwide rights in December 2003 and March 2004; and

Our other products, of which the most significant are ALLERX[®] (combinations of methscopolamine nitrate, pseudoephedrine hydrochloride, phenylephrine hydrochloride and chlorpheniramine maleate) tablets and HYOMAX[®] (hyoscyamine sulfate) tablets. Our ALLERX Dose Pack products consist of various oral tablet dose packs prescribed for the treatment of symptoms of allergic rhinitis, for which we acquired U.S. rights to the current patent covering this product line in August 2006. Our HYOMAX family of products includes five antispasmodic medications containing an anticholinergic, which may be prescribed for functional intestinal disorders to reduce symptoms such as those seen in mild dysenteries, diverticulitis and irritable bowel

syndrome, for which we acquired the rights in May 2008.

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We were incorporated in Delaware on July 14, 2000. Our principal executive offices are located at 1255 Crescent Green Drive, Suite 250, Cary, North Carolina 27518, and our telephone number is (919) 678-6611. Our corporate website address is www.crtx.com. We do not incorporate the information on, or accessible through, our website into this prospectus, and you should not consider any information on, or that can be accessed through, our website as part of this prospectus.

Prior to our October 31, 2008 merger with Cornerstone BioPharma Holdings, Inc., or Cornerstone BioPharma, we were known as Critical Therapeutics, Inc., or Critical Therapeutics. Following the closing of the merger, former Cornerstone BioPharma stockholders owned approximately 70%, and former Critical Therapeutics stockholders owned approximately 30%, of our common stock. In connection with the completion of the merger, on October 31, 2008 we changed our name to Cornerstone Therapeutics Inc.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves certain risks. Potential investors are urged to read and consider the risk factors and other disclosures relating to an investment in our securities described in any applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, as updated by our subsequent filings under the Exchange Act, and other reports and documents we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and that are incorporated by reference herein. You should consider carefully those risks as well as other information contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein and any free writing prospectuses that we have authorized for use in connection with a specific offering, before deciding whether to purchase any of our common stock. Each of the risk factors could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition, as well as adversely affect the value of an investment in our common stock, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as described in the applicable prospectus supplement, we anticipate using the net proceeds from the sale of our common stock for general corporate purposes, including capital expenditures, working capital, repayment of any indebtedness outstanding, product and other acquisitions and other business opportunities. Pending such uses of proceeds, the net proceeds may be temporarily invested in short-term securities.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus from time to time:

through agents;

through underwriters or dealers;

directly to one or more purchasers;

through a combination of any of these methods of sale; or

through any other methods described in a prospectus supplement.

We will identify the specific plan of distribution, including any underwriters, dealers, agents or direct purchasers and their compensation, in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If we use underwriters in the sale, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including:

negotiated transactions;

at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

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at prices related to prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase any securities will be conditioned on customary closing conditions.

We may sell the securities through agents from time to time. The prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities and any commissions we pay to them. Generally, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

In compliance with guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, the maximum consideration or discount to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate amount of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement.

Underwriters and agents may be entitled under agreements entered into with us to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments that the underwriters or agents may be required to make. Underwriters and agents may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are a public company and file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and information statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy materials that we have filed with the SEC at the SEC public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Copies of reports and other information from us are available on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Such filings are also available at our website at <http://www.crtx.com>. Materials accessed at or through our website are not a part of this prospectus.

We have filed a registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part, covering the securities offered hereby. As allowed by SEC rules, this prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and the exhibits, financial statements and schedules thereto. We refer you to the registration statement, the exhibits, financial statements and schedules thereto for further information. This prospectus is qualified in its entirety by such other information.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference in this prospectus the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The following documents filed with the SEC are hereby incorporated by reference in this prospectus:

(a) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, filed with the SEC on March 4, 2010;

(b) Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2010, filed with the SEC on May 4, 2010;

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(c) Our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 1, 2010, as amended by our Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on April 5, 2010; and

(d) The description of our Common Stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on September 2, 2009, and any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

In addition, all documents that we subsequently file pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, either (i) prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold or (ii) after the date of the

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initial registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and prior to the effectiveness of the registration statement, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. However, any documents or portions thereof, whether specifically listed above or filed in the future, that are not deemed filed with the SEC, including without limitation the certifications required by Rule 13a-14(b) or Rule 15d-14(b) under the Exchange Act, any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K or certain exhibits furnished pursuant to Item 9.01 of Form 8-K, shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Any statement in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for the purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We will furnish without charge to you, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents incorporated by reference herein, other than exhibits to such documents that are not specifically incorporated by reference therein. All requests should be sent to the attention of Andrew K. W. Powell, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary, Cornerstone Therapeutics Inc., 1255 Crescent Green Drive, Suite 250, Cary, North Carolina 27518 or made via telephone at (888) 466-6505.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of our common shares issuable hereunder will be passed upon for us by Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P., Raleigh, North Carolina.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Cornerstone Therapeutics Inc. appearing in Cornerstone Therapeutics Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2009 and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the reports of Grant Thornton LLP, independent registered public accountants, upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing in giving said reports.

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Common Stock

PROSPECTUS

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The fees and expenses to be paid in connection with the distribution of the securities being registered hereby are as follows (all amounts except the registration fee are estimates):

SEC registration fee	\$ 6,770	
Accounting fees and expenses		*
Legal fees and expenses		*
Printing fees		*
Miscellaneous		*
Total	\$	*

* Cannot be estimated at this time.

Item 15. *Indemnification of Directors and Officers*

Section 102 of the General Corporation Law of Delaware allows a corporation to eliminate the personal liability of directors of a corporation to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for a breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except where the director breached his or her duty of loyalty, failed to act in good faith, engaged in intentional misconduct or knowingly violated a law, authorized the payment of a dividend or approved a stock repurchase in violation of Delaware corporate law or obtained an improper personal benefit. Our certificate of incorporation provides that, except to the extent that the General Corporation Law of Delaware prohibits the elimination or limitation of liability of directors for breach of fiduciary duty, none of our directors shall be personally liable to us or our stockholders for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duty as a director.

Section 145 of the General Corporation Law of Delaware provides that a corporation has the power to indemnify a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation and certain other persons serving at the request of the corporation in related capacities against amounts paid and expenses incurred in connection with an action or proceeding to which such person is or is threatened to be made a party by reason of such position, if such person shall have acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, in any criminal proceeding, if such person had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful; provided that, in the case of actions brought by or in the right of the corporation, no indemnification shall be made with respect to any matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the adjudicating court determines that such indemnification is proper under the circumstances.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that we must (i) indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law and (ii) advance expenses, as incurred, to our directors and officers in connection with a legal proceeding to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. These provisions are not exclusive of any other rights to which a director or officer may be entitled by law, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise.

Cornerstone BioPharma Holdings, Inc. (CBHI), our wholly owned subsidiary, has entered into an indemnification agreement with Craig A. Collard, our President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman. Among other things, the indemnification agreement requires CBHI to indemnify Mr. Collard for expenses incurred by Mr. Collard in connection with actions or proceedings in connection with his service as a director, officer, employee, agent or fiduciary of CBHI or of any other enterprise that he is or was serving at CBHI s express written request. The indemnification agreement also provides for mandatory advancement of expenses to Mr. Collard.

In addition, we maintain insurance on behalf of our directors and officers insuring them against liability asserted against them in their capacities as directors or officers or arising out of such status.

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The above arrangements may discourage stockholders from bringing a lawsuit against directors for breach of their fiduciary duty. These provisions may also have the effect of reducing the likelihood of derivative litigation against directors and officers, even though such an action, if successful, might otherwise benefit our stockholders and us. In addition, your investment may be adversely affected to the extent we pay the costs of settlement and damage awards against directors and officers pursuant to these indemnification provisions. We believe that these provisions are necessary to attract and retain talented and experienced directors and officers.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to our directors, officers and controlling persons pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, we have been advised that, in the opinion of the SEC, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable.

Item 16. Exhibits

The list of exhibits filed as a part of this registration statement on Form S-3 is set forth in the Exhibit Index immediately preceding the exhibits hereto and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 17. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) to include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i), (1)(ii) and (1)(iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(A) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

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(B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be

governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing this Registration Statement on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Cary, State of North Carolina, on May 12, 2010.

CORNERSTONE THERAPEUTICS INC.

By: /s/ Craig A. Collard

Craig A. Collard
President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS that each individual whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Craig A. Collard, David J. Price and Andrew K. W. Powell, and each of them, his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments, including post-effective amendments, to this Registration Statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and all documents in connection therewith, making such changes in this Registration Statement as such person or persons so acting deems appropriate, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done or by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated.

Name	Title	Date
/s/ Craig A. Collard Craig A. Collard	President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman (Principal Executive Officer)	May 11, 2010
/s/ David J. Price David J. Price	Executive Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	May 11, 2010
/s/ Ira Duarte Ira Duarte	Director of Accounting (Principal Accounting Officer)	May 11, 2010
/s/ Alessandro Chiesi Alessandro Chiesi	Director	May 11, 2010
/s/ Christopher Codeanne	Director	May 11, 2010

Christopher Codeanne

/s/ Michael Enright

Director

May 11, 2010

Michael Enright

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Name	Title	Date
/s/ Anton Giorgio Failla Anton Giorgio Failla	Director	May 11, 2010
/s/ Michael Heffernan Michael Heffernan	Director	May 11, 2010
/s/ Robert Stephan Robert Stephan	Director	May 11, 2010

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement.(1)
4.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2004).
4.2	Amendment to the Registrant's Certificate of Incorporation, effecting a 10-to-1 reverse stock split of the Registrant's common stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 30, 2008).
4.3	Amendment to the Registrant's Certificate of Incorporation, changing the name of the corporation from Critical Therapeutics, Inc. to Cornerstone Therapeutics Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 30, 2008).
4.4	Amendment to the Registrant's Certificate of Incorporation, effecting certain changes pursuant to the Governance Agreement among Chiesi Farmaceutici S.p.A., the Registrant and certain other stockholders of the Registrant dated May 6, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K dated August 27, 2009).
4.5	Fourth Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant dated July 28, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K dated July 27, 2009).
5.1	Opinion of Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P.
23.1	Consent Grant Thornton LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
23.2	Consent of Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P. (contained in Exhibit 5.1).
24.1	Power of Attorney (contained on signature page).

(1) To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a current report on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference, if applicable.