

HEMISPHERX BIOPHARMA INC
Form 8-K
October 03, 2016

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

October 3, 2016 (September 30, 2016)

HEMISPHERX BIOPHARMA, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware **0-27072** **52-0845822**
(state or other juris- (Commission (I.R.S. Employer
diction of incorporation) File Number) (Identification No.)

16179103
JFK

**Boulevard,
Suite
500,
Philadelphia,
PA**

(Address
of
principal
executive
offices)

Registrant's
telephone number,
including area code:
(215) 988-0080

**1617 JFK
Boulevard, Suite
500, Philadelphia,
PA 19103**

(Former name or
former address, if
changed since last
report)

Check the
appropriate box
below if the Form
8-K filing is
intended to
simultaneously
satisfy the filing
obligation of the
registrant under any
of the following
provisions (see
General Instruction
A.2. below):

Written
communications
pursuant to Rule
425 under the
Securities Act (17
CFR 230.425)

Soliciting material
pursuant to Rule
14a-12 under the
Exchange Act (17
CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement
communications
pursuant to Rule
14d-2(b) under the
Exchange Act (17
CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement
communications
pursuant to Rule
13e-4(c) under the
Exchange Act (17
CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On September 30, 2016, Peter W. Rodino III resigned as a member of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Hemispherx Biopharma, Inc. (the “Company”) to permit him to serve the Company in a new capacity. In this regard, effective October 1, 2016, the Company retained Mr. Rodino as its Executive Director for Governmental Relations, and as its General Counsel.

Mr. Rodino was appointed a Director of the Company in July 2013 and served in that capacity until his resignation. While on the Board, he served as Lead Director, Chairman and Financial Expert of the Audit Committee, a member of the Compensation Committee and a member of the Governance and Nomination Committee. Mr. Rodino has broad legal, financial, and executive experience. In addition to being President of Rodino Consulting LLC and managing partner at several law firms during his many years as a practicing attorney, he served as Chairman and CEO of Crossroads Health Plan, the first major Health Maintenance Organization in New Jersey. For approximately 20 years, as founder and president of Rodino Consulting, Mr. Rodino has provided business and government relations consulting. Mr. Rodino holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Georgetown University and a J.D. degree from Seton Hall University.

Mr. Rodino, in his capacity as Executive Director for Governmental Relations and General Counsel, will receive an annual base salary of \$350,000. The Company and Mr. Rodino are actively working on a definitive employment agreement.

The Board also reviewed and accepted the findings and recommendations of the Compensation Committee, that is working with an independent compensation consultant, on a new salary and an amended and restated employment agreement for Thomas Equels, the Company’s Chief Executive Officer and President. Effective, October 1, 2016, Mr. Equels’ annual base salary is \$750,000. The Committee is actively working on an amended and restated employment agreement for Mr. Equels.

In addition, the Board, after reviewing the findings and recommendations of its Compensation Committee, increased the salaries of a number of Company employees, effective October 1, 2016. In this regard, Dr. David Strayer, who was promoted to Chief Scientific Officer in February 2016 and continues to serve as Chief Medical Director, will receive an annual salary of \$325,000, and Adam Pascale, who was promoted to Chief Financial Officer in February 2016, will receive an annual salary of \$250,000.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

HEMISPHERX BIOPHARMA, INC.

October 3, 2016 By: /s/ Thomas K. Equels
Thomas K. Equels, President