

SPEARS ROBERT R JR  
 Form 4  
 January 04, 2018

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 SPEARS ROBERT R JR

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 CAPSTEAD MORTGAGE CORP  
 [CMO]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 8401 N CENTRAL  
 EXPRESSWAY, SUITE 800  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 01/03/2018

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 EVP & CIO

DALLAS, TX 75225

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price \$		
				Code V	Amount		
Common Stock	01/03/2018		A	41,860	A 8.6 <u>(1)</u>	427,794	D

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
				Code V (A) (D)		Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title	
Performance Units	(2)	01/03/2018		A	62,790	(2) (2)	Common Stock	(2)

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SPEARS ROBERT R JR 8401 N CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY SUITE 800 DALLAS, TX 75225			EVP & CIO	

## Signatures

Robert Spears 01/04/2018

Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Represents a portion of the executive's 2017 long-term incentive compensation. The unvested stock awards, granted from the Amended and Restated 2014 Flexible Incentive Plan, vest 100% at the end of year three. Dividends associated with these shares will only be paid upon vesting of the awards.

(2) Represents the primary component of the executive's 2017 long-term incentive compensation. The performance units ("Units") are convertible into common stock of the Issuer after December 31, 2020 and before March 15, 2021, with the conversion factor determined formulaically, based on achievement of stated performance criteria. The Units target a one-for-one conversion ratio into the common stock of the Issuer; however, the actual conversion ratio will be dependent on the achievement of the performance objectives outlined in the Issuer's 2018 Long-Term Award criteria. The Units could expire without converting into any shares of common stock of the Issuer or could be convertible into as many as 200% of the number of Units granted to the Reporting Person provided maximum thresholds are achieved for all performance objectives. The Units will terminate on December 31, 2020 if minimum performance criteria are not achieved for any of the performance objectives.

(3) The number reflects adjustment made as a result of expiration of performance units previously granted to the executive.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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any provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units. The provisions described in this section, as well as those described under Description of Common Stock, Description of Preferred Stock, Description of Warrants and Description of Debt Securities will apply to the securities included in each unit, to the extent relevant.

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### **Issuance in Series**

We may issue units in such amounts and in as many distinct series as we wish. This section summarizes terms of the units that apply generally to all series. Most of the financial and other specific terms of your series will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### **Unit Agreements**

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following provisions will apply to any units we issue pursuant to this prospectus. We will issue the units under one or more unit agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or other financial institution, as unit agent. We may add, replace or terminate unit agents from time to time. We will identify the unit agreement under which each series of units will be issued and the unit agent under that agreement in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The following provisions will generally apply to all unit agreements unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### *Enforcement of Rights*

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following provisions will apply to any units we issue pursuant to this prospectus. The unit agent under a unit agreement will act solely as our agent in connection with the units issued under that agreement. The unit agent will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of those units or of the securities comprising those units. The unit agent will not be obligated to take any action on behalf of those holders to enforce or protect their rights under the units or the included securities.

Except as indicated in the next paragraph, a holder of a unit may, without the consent of the unit agent or any other holder, enforce its rights as holder under any security included in the unit, in accordance with the terms of that security and the indenture, warrant agreement, rights agreement or other instrument under which that security is issued. Those terms are described elsewhere in this prospectus under the sections relating to debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or warrants, as relevant.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a unit agreement may limit or otherwise affect the ability of a holder of units issued under that agreement to enforce its rights, including any right to bring a legal action, with respect to those units or any securities, other than debt securities, that are included in those units. Limitations of this kind will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

#### *Modification without Consent of Holders*

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following provisions will apply to any units we issue pursuant to this prospectus. We and the applicable unit agent may amend any unit or unit agreement without the consent of any holder:

to cure any ambiguity;

to correct or supplement any defective or inconsistent provision; or

to make any other change that we believe is necessary or desirable and will not adversely affect the interests of the affected holders in any material respect.

We do not need any approval to make changes that affect only units to be issued after the changes take effect. We may also make changes that do not adversely affect a particular unit in any material respect, even if they adversely affect other units in a material respect. In those cases, we do not need to obtain the approval of the holder of the unaffected unit; we need only obtain any required approvals from the holders of the affected units.

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### *Modification with Consent of Holders*

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following provisions will apply to any units we issue pursuant to this prospectus. We may not amend any particular unit or a unit agreement with respect to any particular unit unless we obtain the consent of the holder of that unit, if the amendment would:

impair any right of the holder to exercise or enforce any right under a security included in the unit if the terms of that security require the consent of the holder to any changes that would impair the exercise or enforcement of that right; or

reduce the percentage of outstanding units or any series or class the consent of whose holders is required to amend that series or class, or the applicable unit agreement with respect to that series or class, as described below.

Any other change to a particular unit agreement and the units issued under that agreement would require the following approval:

if the change affects only the units of a particular series issued under that agreement, the change must be approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding units of that series; or

if the change affects the units of more than one series issued under that agreement, it must be approved by the holders of a majority of all outstanding units of all series affected by the change, with the units of all the affected series voting together as one class for this purpose.

These provisions regarding changes with majority approval also apply to changes affecting any securities issued under a unit agreement, as the governing document.

In each case, the required approval must be given by written consent.

### *Unit Agreements Will Not Be Qualified Under Trust Indenture Act*

No unit agreement will be qualified as an indenture, and no unit agent will be required to qualify as a trustee, under the Trust Indenture Act. Therefore, holders of units issued under unit agreements will not have the protections of the Trust Indenture Act with respect to their units.

### **Mergers and Similar Transactions Permitted; No Restrictive Covenants or Events of Default**

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following provisions will apply to any units we issue pursuant to this prospectus. The unit agreements will not restrict our ability to merge or consolidate with, or sell our assets to, another corporation or other entity or to engage in any other transactions. If at any time we merge or consolidate with, or sell our assets substantially as an entirety to, another corporation or other entity, the successor entity will succeed to and assume our obligations under the unit agreements. We will then be relieved of any further obligation under these agreements.

The unit agreements will not include any restrictions on our ability to put liens on our assets, including our interests in our subsidiaries, nor will they restrict our ability to sell our assets. The unit agreements also will not provide for any events of default or remedies upon the occurrence of any events of default.

### **Governing Law**

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following provisions will apply to any units we issue pursuant to this prospectus. The unit agreements and the units will be governed by New York law.



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### **Form, Exchange and Transfer**

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following provisions will apply to any units we issue pursuant to this prospectus. We will issue each unit in global that is, book-entry form only. Units in book-entry form will be represented by a global security registered in the name of a depository, which will be the holder of all the units represented by the global security. Those who own beneficial interests in a unit will do so through participants in the depository's system, and the rights of these indirect owners will be governed solely by the applicable procedures of the depository and its participants. We describe book-entry securities below under Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance.

In addition, we will issue each unit in registered form, unless we say otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. Bearer securities would be subject to special provisions, as we describe below under Securities Issued in Bearer Form.

Each unit and all securities comprising the unit will be issued in the same form.

If we issue any units in registered, non-global form, the following will apply to them.

The units will be issued in the denominations stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Holders may exchange their units for units of smaller denominations or combined into fewer units of larger denominations, as long as the total amount is not changed.

Holders may exchange or transfer their units at the office of the unit agent. Holders may also replace lost, stolen, destroyed or mutilated units at that office. We may appoint another entity to perform these functions or perform them ourselves.

Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange their units, but they may be required to pay for any tax or other governmental charge associated with the transfer or exchange. The transfer or exchange, and any replacement, will be made only if our transfer agent is satisfied with the holder's proof of legal ownership. The transfer agent may also require an indemnity before replacing any units.

If we have the right to redeem, accelerate or settle any units before their maturity, and we exercise our right as to less than all those units or other securities, we may block the exchange or transfer of those units during the period beginning 15 days before the day we mail the notice of exercise and ending on the day of that mailing, in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers of or exchange any unit selected for early settlement, except that we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unsettled portion of any unit being partially settled. We may also block the transfer or exchange of any unit in this manner if the unit includes securities that are or may be selected for early settlement.

Only the depository will be entitled to transfer or exchange a unit in global form, since it will be the sole holder of the unit.

### **Payments and Notices**

In making payments and giving notices with respect to our units, we will follow the procedures we plan to use with respect to our debt securities, where applicable.

### **LEGAL OWNERSHIP AND BOOK-ENTRY ISSUANCE**

We can issue securities in registered form or in the form of one or more global securities. We describe global securities in greater detail below. We refer to those persons who have securities registered in their own names on the books that we or any applicable depository or warrant agent maintain for this purpose as the holders of those securities. These persons are the legal holders of the securities. We refer to those persons who, indirectly

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through others, own beneficial interests in securities that are not registered in their own names, as indirect holders of those securities. As we discuss below, indirect holders are not legal holders, and investors in securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect holders.

### **Book-Entry Holders**

Except as described below, we will issue securities in book-entry form only, as we will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement. This means securities may be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depositary on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system. These participating institutions, which are referred to as participants, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Only the person in whose name a security is registered is recognized as the holder of that security. Global securities will be registered in the name of the depositary or its participants. Consequently, for global securities, we will recognize only the depositary as the holder of the securities, and we will make all payments on the securities to the depositary. The depositary passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depositary and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the securities.

As a result, investors in a book-entry security will not own securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depositary's book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect holders, and not legal holders, of the securities.

### **Street Name Holders**

We may terminate a global security or issue securities that are not issued in global form. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their securities in their own names or in street name. Securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

For securities held in street name, we or any applicable depositary will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the securities are registered as the holders of those securities, and we or any such depositary will make all payments on those securities to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold securities in street name will be indirect holders, not legal holders, of those securities.

### **Legal Holders**

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of any applicable depositary or warrant agent or other third party employed by us or any of the foregoing, run only to the legal holders of the securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a security or has no choice because we are issuing the securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with depositary participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, we may want to obtain the approval of the holders to amend an instrument defining the rights of security holders, to relieve us of the consequences of a breach or of our or its obligation to comply with a particular provision of such an instrument or for other purposes. In such an event, we would seek approval only from the legal holders, and not the indirect holders, of the securities. Whether and how the holders contact the indirect holders is up to the legal holders.



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### **Special Considerations for Indirect Holders**

If you hold securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;

how it would exercise rights under the securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and

if the securities are in book-entry form, how the depository's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

### **Global Securities**

A global security is a security that represents one or any other number of individual securities held by a depository. Generally, all securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms.

Each security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depository. Unless specified otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ( "DTC" ), will be the depository for all securities issued in book-entry form.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository, its nominee or a successor depository, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under "Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated." As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and legal holder of all securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a legal holder of the security, but only an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

If the prospectus supplement for a particular security indicates that the security will be issued in global form only, then the security will be represented by a global security at all times unless and until the global security is terminated. If termination occurs, we may issue the securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the securities may no longer be held through any book-entry clearing system.

### **Special Considerations for Global Securities**

As an indirect holder, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depository, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize an indirect holder as a legal holder of securities and instead deal only with the depository that holds the global security.



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If securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

An investor cannot cause the securities to be registered in his or her name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the securities, except in the special situations we describe below.

An investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the securities, as we describe above.

An investor may not be able to sell interests in the securities to some insurance companies and to other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form.

An investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in a global security in circumstances where certificates representing the securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective.

The depositary's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor's interest in a global security. We and any applicable agent have no responsibility for any aspect of the depositary's actions or for its records of ownership interests in a global security. We and any applicable agent also will not supervise the depositary in any way.

The depositary may, and we understand that DTC will, require that those who purchase and sell interests in the global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds, and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well.

Financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in the global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the securities.

There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

### **Special Situations When A Global Security Will Be Terminated**

In a few special situations described below, the global security will terminate, and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing those interests. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in securities transferred to their own name, so that they will be direct holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above.

The global security will terminate when the following special situations occur:

if the depositary notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depositary for that global security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depositary within 90 days;

if we notify any applicable depositary or warrant agent that we wish to terminate that global security; or

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if an event of default has occurred with regard to securities represented by that global security and has not been cured or waived. The applicable prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of securities covered by the prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, the depository, and not us or any applicable agent, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders.

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**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We may sell the securities covered by this prospectus directly to purchasers or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, who may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from us. These discounts, concessions or commissions as to any particular underwriter, broker-dealer or agent may be in excess of those customary in the types of transactions involved. In addition, we may issue the securities as a dividend or distribution or in a subscription rights offering to our existing security holders.

The securities may be sold in one or more transactions at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at varying prices determined at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. These sales may be effected in transactions which may involve crosses or block transactions.

If underwriters are used in a primary offering of securities, such offered securities may be resold in one or more transactions:

on any national securities exchange or quotation service on which the preferred stock or the common stock may be listed or quoted at the time of sale, including, as of the date of this prospectus, the NASDAQ Capital Market in the case of the common stock;

in the over-the-counter market;

in transactions otherwise than on these exchanges or services or in the over-the-counter market; or

through the writing of options, whether the options are listed on an options exchange or otherwise.

Each prospectus supplement will state the terms of the offering, including, but not limited to:

the names of any underwriters, dealers, or agents;

the public offering or purchase price of the securities and the net proceeds that we will receive from the sale;

any underwriting discounts and commissions or other items constituting underwriters' compensation;

any discounts, commissions, or fees allowed or paid to dealers or agents; and

any securities exchange on which the offered securities may be listed.

If we sell securities to underwriters, we will execute an underwriting agreement with them at the time of the sale and will name them in the applicable prospectus supplement. In connection with these sales, the underwriters may be deemed to have received compensation in the form of underwriting discounts and commissions. The underwriters also may receive commissions from purchasers of securities for whom they may act as agent. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the underwriters will not be obligated to purchase the securities unless the conditions set forth in the underwriting agreement are satisfied, and if the underwriters purchase any of the securities offered by such prospectus supplement, they will be required to purchase all of such offered securities. The underwriters may acquire the securities for their own account and may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or varying prices determined at the time of sale. The underwriters may sell the securities to or through dealers, and those dealers may receive discounts, concessions, or commissions from the underwriters as well as from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent.

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We may designate agents who agree to use their reasonable efforts to solicit purchasers for the period of their appointment or to sell securities on a continuing basis. We may also sell securities directly to one or more purchasers without using underwriters or agents.

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Under agreements entered into with us, underwriters and agents may be entitled to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution for payments the underwriters or agents may be required to make. The underwriters, agents, and their affiliates may engage in financial or other business transactions with us and our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

The aggregate proceeds to us from the sale of the securities will be the purchase price of the securities less discounts and commissions, if any.

In order to comply with the securities laws of certain states, if applicable, any securities covered by this prospectus must be sold in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in certain states securities may not be sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and is complied with.

In order to facilitate the offering of the securities, any underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities or any other securities the prices of which may be used to determine payments on such securities. Specifically, any underwriters may over allot in connection with the offering, creating a short position for their own accounts. In addition, to cover overallotments or to stabilize the price of the securities or of any such other securities, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, the securities or any such other securities in the open market. Finally, in any offering of the securities through a syndicate of underwriters, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing the securities in the offering if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed securities in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities above independent market levels. Any such underwriters are not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time.

The applicable prospectus supplement may provide that the original issue date for your securities may be more than three scheduled business days after the trade date for your securities. Accordingly, in such a case, if you wish to trade securities on any date prior to the third business day before the original issue date for your securities, you will be required, by virtue of the fact that your securities initially are expected to settle in more than three scheduled business days after the trade date for your securities, to make alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

The securities may be new issues of securities and may have no established trading market. The securities may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. We can make no assurance as to the liquidity of or the existence of trading markets for any of the securities.

In order to comply with the securities laws of some states, if applicable, the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus must be sold in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in some states the shares of common stock may not be sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and is complied with.

To the extent required, this prospectus may be amended or supplemented from time to time to describe a specific plan of distribution.

### **Transfer Agent**

The transfer agent and registrar for Agenesis common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company. Its telephone number is (800) 937-5449.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the securities that may be offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP.

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**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Agenus Inc., as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2011, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

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**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

Agenus Inc. ( Agenus ) is subject to the information requirements of the Exchange Act, and files annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at Room 1580, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, we file many of our documents electronically with the SEC, and you may access those documents over the Internet. The SEC maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The address of the SEC 's website is <http://www.sec.gov>. Documents we have filed with the SEC are also available on our website through the investor link at [www.agenusbio.com](http://www.agenusbio.com). Information contained on our web site does not constitute a part of this prospectus and is not incorporated by reference herein.

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**December , 2012**

**PROSPECTUS**

**\$150,000,000**

**of**

**Common Stock**

**Preferred Stock**

**Warrants**

**Debt Securities**

**Units**

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**The information contained in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These securities may not be sold nor may offers to buy be accepted prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, nor shall there be any sale of these securities, in any jurisdiction where such offer, solicitation or sale is not permitted or would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.**

**Subject To Completion, Dated December 21, 2012**

**PROSPECTUS**

**Agenus Inc.**  
**10,000,000 Shares of Common Stock**

This prospectus relates to the issuance and sale of up to 10,000,000 shares of our common stock from time to time through our sales agent, MLV & Co. LLC. These sales, if any, will be made pursuant to the terms of a sales agreement between us and the sales agent, which was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Our common stock trades on the NASDAQ Capital Market (NASDAQ) under the symbol AGEN. Sales of shares of our common stock under this prospectus, if any, may be made by any method deemed to be an at-the-market offering as defined in Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, which includes sales made directly on the NASDAQ, the existing trading market for our common stock. The sales agent is not required to sell any specific number of shares of our common stock. The sales agent has agreed to use its commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices to sell the shares, on mutually agreed terms between the sales agent and us. On December 17, 2012, the last reported sales price of our common stock on the NASDAQ was \$3.96 per share. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in any escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

The compensation payable to the sales agent for sales of common stock sold pursuant to the sales agreement will be an aggregate of 3% of the gross proceeds of the sales price of common stock sold. The net proceeds from any sales under this prospectus will be used as described under Use of Proceeds. The proceeds that we receive from sales of our common stock will depend on the number of shares actually sold and the offering price of such shares.

As of December 17, 2012, the aggregate market value of our outstanding common stock held by non-affiliates was approximately \$89,986,000, based on 24,601,622 shares of outstanding common stock, of which approximately 1,878,000 shares were held by affiliates, and a price of \$3.96 per share, which was the last reported sale price of our common stock on the NASDAQ on December 17, 2012.

In connection with the sale of common stock on our behalf, the sales agent may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act ), and the compensation of the sales agent may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. We have agreed to provide indemnification and contribution to the sales agent against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

**You should read carefully and consider the Risk Factors referenced on page 4 of this prospectus and the risk factors described in other documents incorporated by reference herein.**

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.

**The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT OF PRIOR AGREEMENT**

On March 2, 2012, we entered into a sales agreement with MLV & Co. LLC, as sales agent, which we refer to as the prior sales agreement. On December 21, 2012, we entered into a new sales agreement with the sales agent, which we refer to as the new sales agreement. The shares of common stock being offered for sale pursuant to this prospectus relate to the new sales agreement. All references to the sales agreement in this prospectus are references to the new sales agreement unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus and the documents incorporated into each by reference include important information about us, the shares being offered and other information you should know before investing in our common stock.

You should rely on this prospectus and the information incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not, and the sales agent has not, authorized anyone to provide you with information that is in addition to or different from that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We are not, and the sales agent is not, offering to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than as of the date of this prospectus or in the case of the documents incorporated by reference, the date of such documents regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of our common stock. Our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

All references in this prospectus to Agenus, the Company, we, us or our mean Agenus Inc. and its subsidiaries, unless we state otherwise or context otherwise requires.

**CAUTIONARY NOTE ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein and other written and oral statements we make from time to time contain certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. You can identify these forward-looking statements by the fact they use words such as could, expect, anticipate, estimate, target, may, project, guidance, intend, plan, believe, will, potential, opportunity, future and other words and terms of similar expression in connection with any discussion of future operating or financial performance. You can also identify forward-looking statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. Such forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and involve inherent risks and uncertainties, including factors that could delay, divert or change any of them, and could cause actual outcomes to differ materially from current expectations. These statements are likely to relate to, among other things, our business strategy, our research and development, our product development efforts, our ability to commercialize our product candidates, the activities of our licensees, our prospects for initiating partnerships or collaborations, the timing of the introduction of products, the effect of new accounting pronouncements, uncertainty regarding our future operating results and our profitability, anticipated sources of funds as well as our plans, objectives, expectations and intentions.

Although we believe we have been prudent in our plans and assumptions, no assurance can be given that any goal or plan set forth in forward-looking statements can be achieved and readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such statements, which speak only as of the date made. We undertake no obligation to release publicly any revisions to forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

We have included more detailed descriptions of these risks and uncertainties and other risks and uncertainties applicable to our business that we believe could cause actual results to differ materially from any forward-looking statement in the Risk Factors sections of this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein including, but not limited to, the risk factors incorporated by reference from our filings with the SEC. We encourage you to read those descriptions carefully. We caution investors not to place significant reliance on forward-looking statements; such statements need to be evaluated in light of all the information contained and incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Furthermore, the statements speak only as of the date of each document, and we undertake no obligation to update or revise these statements.

Oncophage<sup>®</sup> and Stimulon<sup>®</sup> are registered trademarks of Agenus Inc. and its subsidiaries. All rights reserved.

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**PROSPECTUS SUMMARY**

*The following is a summary of selected information contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference. It does not contain all of the information that you should consider before buying our securities. You should read this prospectus in its entirety, including the information incorporated by reference herein and therein.*

**The Company**

**Our Business**

Agenus Inc. (including its subsidiaries, also referred to as Agenus, the Company, we, us, and our ) is a biotechnology company developing and commercializing technologies to treat cancers and infectious diseases, primarily based on immunological approaches. Our technology portfolio consists of our Saponin Platform (based on our saponin adjuvant based technologies) and our Heat Shock Protein ( HSP ) Platform (based on our HSP based technologies). Within our Saponin Platform is QS-21 Stimulon<sup>®</sup> adjuvant, or QS-21, which is used by our licensees in numerous vaccines under development in trials, some as advanced as Phase 3, for a variety of diseases, including cancer, shingles, malaria, Alzheimer's disease, human immunodeficiency virus and tuberculosis. Within our HSP Platform, we are developing our Recombinant Series and our Prophage Series vaccines. HerpV, a therapeutic vaccine candidate from the Recombinant Series which is administered with QS-21, has been tested in a Phase 1 clinical trial for the treatment of genital herpes and is now entering a Phase 2 trial. In our Prophage Series we have tested product candidates in Phase 3 clinical trials for the treatment of renal cell carcinoma ( RCC ), the most common type of kidney cancer, and for metastatic melanoma, as well as in Phase 1 and Phase 2 clinical trials in a range of indications. Prophage Series vaccine R-100 is registered for use in Russia for the treatment of RCC in patients at intermediate risk of recurrence as Oncophage<sup>®</sup> vaccine (vitespen). Product candidates from our Prophage G-Series are currently in Phase 2 clinical trials in glioma, a type of brain cancer. Our business activities have included product research and development, intellectual property prosecution, manufacturing, regulatory and clinical affairs, corporate finance and development activities, market development, and support of our collaborations. Our product candidates require clinical trials and approvals from regulatory agencies, as well as acceptance in the marketplace. Part of our strategy is to develop and commercialize some of our product candidates by continuing our existing arrangements with academic and corporate collaborators and licensees and by entering into new collaborations.

You can find more information about Agenus in Agenus filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission referenced in the sections in this document titled Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference beginning on page 9.

**Risk Factors**

Before purchasing any of the securities you should carefully consider the risk factors relating to Agenus incorporated by reference in this prospectus from our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012, as well as the risks, uncertainties and additional information set forth in our SEC reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K and in the other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. For a description of these reports and documents, and information about where you can find them, see Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference. Additional risks not presently known or that we presently consider to be immaterial could subsequently materially and adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, business and prospects.

**Corporate Information**

Our principal executive office is located at 3 Forbes Road, Lexington, MA, 02421, and our telephone number is (781) 674-4400. Our website address is [www.agenusbio.com](http://www.agenusbio.com). **Information contained on our website is not a part of this prospectus.**

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**The Offering**

*The following summary contains basic information about our common stock and the offering and is not intended to be complete. It does not contain all the information that may be important to you. For a more complete understanding of our common stock, you should read the section entitled Description of Common Stock.*

<b>Issuer</b>	Agenus Inc.
<b>Common stock offered</b>	Up to 10,000,000 shares
<b>Sales Agent</b>	MLV & Co. LLC
<b>Risk factors</b>	Your investment in our common shares involves substantial risks. You should consider the Risk Factors included and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, including the risk factors incorporated by reference from our filings with the SEC.
<b>NASDAQ symbol</b>	AGEN
<b>Use of Proceeds</b>	We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes which may include the acquisition of companies or businesses, repayment and refinancing of debt, working capital and capital expenditures. We may temporarily invest the net proceeds in investment-grade, interest-bearing securities until they are used for their stated purpose. We have not determined the amount of net proceeds to be used specifically for such purposes. As a result, management will retain broad discretion over the allocation of net proceeds.



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**RISK FACTORS**

Before purchasing any of the securities you should carefully consider the risk factors relating to Agenus incorporated by reference in this prospectus from our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012, as well as the risks, uncertainties and additional information set forth in our SEC reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K and in the other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. For a description of these reports and documents, and information about where you can find them, see Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference. Additional risks not presently known or that we presently consider to be immaterial could subsequently materially and adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, business and prospects.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes which may include the acquisition of companies or businesses, repayment and refinancing of debt, working capital and capital expenditures. We may temporarily invest the net proceeds in investment-grade, interest-bearing securities until they are used for their stated purpose. We have not determined the amount of net proceeds to be used specifically for such purposes. As a result, management will retain broad discretion over the allocation of net proceeds.

**DILUTION**

If you invest in our common stock, your ownership interest will be diluted to the extent of the difference between the public offering price per share and the as-adjusted net tangible book value per share after this offering. We calculate net tangible book value per share by dividing the net tangible book value, which is tangible assets less total liabilities, by the number of outstanding shares of our common stock.

Our net tangible book value as of September 30, 2012 was \$(15,729,148), or \$(0.64) per share of common stock. After giving effect to the sale of our common stock in the aggregate amount of \$39,600,000 at an assumed offering price of \$3.96 per share, the last reported sale price of our common stock on NASDAQ as of December 17, 2012, and after deducting estimated offering commissions and expenses payable by us, our net tangible book value as of September 30, 2012 would have been \$22,682,852, or \$0.66 per share of common stock. This represents an immediate increase in the net tangible book value of \$1.30 per share to our existing stockholders and an immediate and substantial dilution in net tangible book value of \$3.30 per share to new investors. The following table illustrates this per share dilution:

Assumed offering price per share	\$ 3.96
Net tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2012	\$ (0.64)
Increase in net tangible book value per share after this offering	\$ 1.30
As-Adjusted net tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2012, after giving effect to this offering	\$ 0.66
Dilution per share to new investors in this offering	\$ 3.30

The above discussion and table are based on approximately 24,585,000 shares of our common stock outstanding as of September 30, 2012 and does not include:

3,309,378 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding or issuable warrants with a weighted-average exercise price of \$18.83 per share;

2,769,311 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options with a weighted-average exercise price of \$7.09 per share;

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257,415 nonvested shares;

333,333 shares issuable upon the conversion of our outstanding shares of Series A Convertible Preferred Stock;

102,328 shares issuable under our Employee Stock Purchase Plan;

176,029 shares issuable under our Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan; and

the effect of any conversion of our 2006 Notes into equity interests of one of our subsidiaries.

**DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK**

**General**

Each share of Agenus' common stock has the same relative rights and is identical in all respects with each other share of common stock.

**Voting Rights**

Subject to preferences that may apply to shares of preferred stock outstanding at the time, the holders of outstanding shares of common stock are entitled to receive dividends out of assets legally available for payment of dividends, as the board may from time to time determine. Each stockholder is entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. Our certificate of incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting for the election of directors, which means that the holders of a majority of the shares voted can elect all of the directors then standing for election. The common stock is not entitled to preemptive rights and is not subject to conversion or redemption. Each outstanding share of common stock offered by this prospectus will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable.

**Dividends**

Holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in any dividends declared by our board of directors, subject to any preferential dividend rights of any outstanding preferred stock. Dividends consisting of shares of common stock may be paid to holders of shares of common stock. We have never declared or paid cash dividends on our common stock. We do not intend to pay cash dividends in the foreseeable future.

**Preemptive Rights**

Holders of common stock do not have any preemptive rights with respect to any shares that may be issued by Agenus in the future. Thus, Agenus may sell shares of its common stock without first offering them to the then holders of common stock.

**Liquidation**

In the event of any liquidation or dissolution of Agenus, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of Agenus' common stock would be entitled to receive pro rata, after payment of all debts and liabilities of Agenus, all assets of Agenus available for distribution, subject to the rights of the holders of any preferred stock which may be issued with a priority in liquidation or dissolution over the holders of common stock.

**Listing**

Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol AGEN. On December 17, 2012, the last reported sale price for our common stock on The NASDAQ Capital Market was \$3.96 per share. As of December 17, 2012, we had approximately 19,000 stockholders of record.

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### **Anti-Takeover Provisions**

#### *Statutory Business Combination Provision*

Delaware has adopted a business combination statute (Section 203 of the DGCL) that may also have additional anti-takeover effects to provisions in Agenus' restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws. Section 203 of the DGCL, which, subject to certain exceptions, prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years following the time that such stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless:

the board of directors of the corporation approves either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, prior to the time the interested stockholder attained that status;

upon the closing of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding, for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding, those shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers and by employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or

at or subsequent to such time, the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

With certain exceptions, an interested stockholder is a person or group who or which owns 15% or more of the corporation's outstanding voting stock (including any rights to acquire stock pursuant to an option, warrant, agreement, arrangement or understanding, or upon the exercise of conversion or exchange rights, and stock with respect to which the person has voting rights only), or is an affiliate or associate of the corporation and was the owner of 15% or more of such voting stock at any time within the previous three years.

In general, Section 203 defines a business combination to include:

any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;

any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of the assets of the corporation involving the interested stockholder;

subject to certain exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to the interested stockholder;

any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock or any class or series of the corporation beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or

the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation.

A Delaware corporation may opt out of this provision with an express provision in its original certificate of incorporation or an express provision in its amended and restated certificate of incorporation or bylaws resulting from a stockholders' amendment approved by at least a majority of the outstanding voting shares. However, Agenus has not opted out of this provision. Section 203 could prohibit or delay mergers or other takeover or change-in-control attempts and, accordingly, may discourage attempts to acquire Agenus.



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### *Size of the Board and Vacancies*

Our bylaws provide that the exact number of directors is determined by resolution of the board of directors or by the stockholders at the annual meeting. Our board of directors has the right to fill any vacancies resulting from death, resignation, disqualification or removal, as well as any newly created directorships arising from an increase in the size of the board.

### *Amendment of Charter Provisions*

The affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the voting power of all then outstanding shares of our voting stock, voting together as a single class, is required to, among other things, amend, alter, change or repeal certain provisions of our restated certificate of incorporation. Our bylaws may only be amended (or new bylaws adopted) by the board of directors or the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the voting power of all then outstanding shares of our voting stock represented in person or by proxy at the meeting at which the amendment is voted on.

### *Undesignated Preferred Stock*

We could issue preferred stock that could have other rights, including economic rights senior to our common stock, so that the issuance of the preferred stock could adversely affect the market value of our common stock. The issuance of the preferred stock may also have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of Agenus without any action by the stockholders. The effects of issuing preferred stock could include one or more of the following:

restricting dividends on the common stock;

diluting the voting power of the common stock;

impairing the liquidation rights of the common stock; or

discouraging, delaying or preventing changes in control or management of Agenus.

## **Transfer Agent**

The transfer agent and registrar for Agenus common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company. Its telephone number is (800) 937-5449.

## **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We have entered into a sales agreement, dated as of December 21, 2012, with MLV & Co. LLC, the sales agent, under which we may sell an aggregate of 10,000,000 shares of our common stock from time to time through the sales agent. The sales agent may sell the common stock by any method that is deemed to be an at-the-market offering as defined in Rule 415 of the Securities Act, including sales made directly on the NASDAQ Capital Market or on any other existing trading market for the common stock. The sales agent may also sell the common stock in negotiated transactions, subject to our prior approval.

Each time that we wish to issue and sell common stock under the sales agreement, we will agree with the sales agent on the number of shares to be issued, the dates on which such sales are anticipated to be made and any minimum price below which sales may not be made. Once we have so instructed the sales agent, the sales agent has agreed to use its commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices to sell such shares up to the amount specified on such terms. The settlement between us and the sales agent of our common stock is generally anticipated to occur on the third trading day following the date on which the sale was made. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in an escrow, trust or similar arrangement. The obligation of the sales agent under the sales agreement to sell our common stock is subject to a number of conditions that we must meet.



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We will pay the sales agent a total commission equal to an aggregate of 3% of the gross proceeds we receive from the sales of our common stock. Because there is no minimum offering amount required as a condition to closing this offering, the actual total public offering amount, commissions and proceeds to us, if any, is not determinable at this time.

In connection with the sale of our common stock contemplated in this prospectus, the sales agent may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act, and the compensation paid to the sales agent may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. We have agreed to indemnify the sales agent against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Sales of our common stock as contemplated in this prospectus will be settled through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company or by such other means as we and the sales agent may agree upon.

The offering of our common stock pursuant to the sales agreement will terminate on the earliest of (1) the sale of all of our common stock subject to the sales agreement, or (2) termination of the sales agreement by us or the sales agent. The sales agent may terminate the sales agreement at any time in certain circumstances, including the occurrence of a material adverse change that, in the sales agent's reasonable judgment, may impair its ability to sell the common stock, our failure to satisfy any condition under the sales agreement or a suspension or limitation of trading of our common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market. We and the sales agent may each terminate the sales agreement at any time upon 10 days prior notice.

This summary of the material provisions of the sales agreement does not purport to be a complete statement of its terms and conditions. A copy of the sales agreement is filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) below.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the securities that may be offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP. LeClairRyan, A Professional Corporation, New York, New York, is counsel for MLV & Co. LLC in connection with this offering.

## **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Agenus Inc., as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2011, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

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**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

Agenus Inc. ( Agenus ) is subject to the information requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and files annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at Room 1580, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, we file many of our documents electronically with the SEC, and you may access those documents over the Internet. The SEC maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The address of the SEC's website is <http://www.sec.gov>. Documents we have filed with the SEC are also available on our website through the investor link at [www.agenusbio.com](http://www.agenusbio.com). Information contained on our web site does not constitute a part of this prospectus and is not incorporated by reference herein.

**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 filed by us with the SEC. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement, certain parts of which are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. Statements contained in this prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to are not necessarily complete and in each instance reference is made to the copy of that contract or other document filed with the SEC. For further information about us and the securities offered by this prospectus, we refer you to the registration statement and its exhibits and schedules which may be obtained as described herein.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information contained in documents that we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus and information in documents that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information in this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below into this prospectus, and any future filings made by us with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), until the offering of all the securities by this prospectus is completed, including all filings made after the date of this prospectus. We hereby incorporate by reference the documents listed below (File No. 000-29089).

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 (File No. 000-29089);

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on December 19, 2012; November 9, 2012; October 23, 2012; June 19, 2012; March 20, 2012; March 5, 2012 and March 2, 2012 (except, with respect to each of the foregoing, for portions of such reports which were deemed to be furnished and not filed) (File No. 000-29089);

our Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 4, 2012;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 (File No. 000-29089);

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012 (File No. 000-29089);

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 (File No. 000-29089); and

the description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed under the Exchange Act on January 24, 2000, including any amendment or reports filed for the purpose of updating such descriptions (File No. 333-91747).

We will provide each person to whom this prospectus is delivered a copy of all of the information that has been incorporated by reference in this prospectus but not delivered with this prospectus. You may obtain copies of





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these filings, at no cost, through the Investor section of our website ([www.agenusbio.com](http://www.agenusbio.com)), and you may request copies of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at:

Agenus Inc.

Attention: Secretary

3 Forbes Road

Lexington, MA 02421

Telephone: (781) 674-4400

The information contained on our website is not a part of this prospectus.

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**December , 2012**

**PROSPECTUS**

**10,000,000 Shares of Common Stock**

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**The information contained in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These securities may not be sold nor may offers to buy be accepted prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, nor shall there be any sale of these securities, in any jurisdiction where such offer, solicitation or sale is not permitted or would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.**

**Subject To Completion, Dated December 21, 2012**

**PROSPECTUS**

**766,036 Shares of Common Stock**

This prospectus relates to the issuance of up to 766,036 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share ( common stock ), issuable upon the conversion of 3,105 shares of Series B2 Convertible Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share ( Series B2 Convertible Preferred Stock ). If the shares of Series B2 Convertible Preferred Stock are converted through payment of cash consideration, if at all, we will receive the cash from such conversion.

You should read this prospectus carefully before you invest in our securities. You should read this prospectus together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** before you make your investment decision.

Our common stock is quoted on The NASDAQ Capital Market ( NASDAQ ) under the ticker symbol AGEN. On December 17, 2012, the last reported closing price per share of our common stock was \$3.96 per share.

**Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before investing in any of our securities, you should read the discussion of material risks in investing in our common stock. See Risk Factors on page 3 of this prospectus.**

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

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We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. The information contained in this prospectus is accurate only as of the applicable dates, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or the time of issuance or resale of any securities. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

The content of this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus necessarily reflect the position or the policy of the U.S. Government, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Effective October 3, 2011, our certificate of incorporation was amended to effect a reverse stock split of our common stock on the basis of one post-split share for every six pre-split shares. All references in this prospectus to share and per share amounts reflect the reverse stock split.

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**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE**

The Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) allows us to incorporate by reference in this prospectus the information we file with the SEC. This helps us disclose certain important information to you by referring you to the documents we file. The information we incorporate by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Because we are incorporating by reference future filings with the SEC, this prospectus is continually updated and those future filings may modify or supersede some of the information included or incorporated in this prospectus. This means that you must look at all of the SEC filings that we incorporate by reference to determine if any of the statements in this prospectus or in any document previously incorporated by reference have been modified or superseded. We incorporate by reference each of the documents listed below.

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 (File No. 000-29089);

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on December 19, 2012; November 9, 2012; October 23, 2012; June 19, 2012; March 20, 2012; March 5, 2012 and March 2, 2012 (except, with respect to each of the foregoing, for portions of such reports which were deemed to be furnished and not filed) (File No. 000-29089);

our Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 4, 2012;

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our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 (File No. 000-29089); and

the description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ) on January 24, 2000, including any amendment or reports filed for the purpose of updating such descriptions (File No. 333-91747).

All filings by Agenus pursuant to the Exchange Act subsequent to the date hereof and prior to effectiveness of this registration statement are incorporated in this registration statement and deemed to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents or reports. In addition, all documents and reports filed by Agenus subsequent to the date hereof pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this registration statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents or reports. Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Statements in this prospectus concerning any document we filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or that we otherwise filed with the SEC are not intended to be comprehensive and are qualified by reference to these filings. You should review the complete document to evaluate these statements.

You may obtain copies of these documents, other than exhibits, free of charge on the Company's website, [www.agenusbio.com](http://www.agenusbio.com), as soon as reasonably practicable after they have been filed with the SEC and through the SEC's website, [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

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**CAUTIONARY NOTE ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus and any information incorporated by reference into this prospectus may contain certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act ) and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. You can identify these forward-looking statements by the fact they use words such as could, expect, anticipate, estimate, target, may, project, guidance, plan, believe, will, potential, opportunity, future and other words and terms of similar meaning and expression in connection with any discussion of future operating or financial performance. You can also identify forward-looking statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. Such forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and involve inherent risks and uncertainties, including factors that could delay, divert or change any of them, and could cause actual outcomes to differ materially from current expectations. These statements are likely to relate to, among other things, our business strategy, our research and development, our product development efforts, our ability to commercialize our product candidates, the activities of our licensees, our prospects for initiating partnerships or collaborations, the timing of the introduction of products, the effect of new accounting pronouncements, uncertainty regarding our future operating results and our profitability, anticipated sources of funds as well as our plans, objectives, expectations and intentions.

Although the Company believes it has been prudent in its plans and assumptions, no assurance can be given that any goal or plan set forth in forward-looking statements can be achieved and readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such statements, which speak only as of the date made. The Company undertakes no obligation to release publicly any revisions to forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Oncophage® and Stimulon® are registered trademarks of Agenus Inc. and its subsidiaries. All rights reserved.

**RISK FACTORS**

Before purchasing any of the securities you should carefully consider the risk factors relating to Agenus incorporated by reference in this prospectus from our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012, as well as the risks, uncertainties and additional information set forth in our SEC reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K and in the other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. For a description of these reports and documents, and information about where you can find them, see Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference. Additional risks not presently known or that we presently consider to be immaterial could subsequently materially and adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, business and prospects.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

If the shares of Series B2 Convertible Preferred Stock are converted through payment of cash consideration, if at all, we will receive the cash from such conversion. We intend to use the cash consideration received, if any, for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes may include the acquisition of companies or businesses, repayment and refinancing of debt, working capital and capital expenditures, research and development expenditures, clinical trial expenditures, and acquisitions of new technologies. We may temporarily invest the net proceeds in investment-grade, interest-bearing securities until they are used for their stated purpose. We have not determined the amount of net proceeds to be used specifically for such purposes. As a result, management will retain broad discretion over the allocation of net proceeds.



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**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

In September 2007, we offered the shares of Series B2 Convertible Preferred Stock that may be converted into shares of our common stock as described in this prospectus (as well as shares of our common stock and shares of our Series B1 Convertible Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share; collectively the shares ) through Wm Smith Securities, Incorporated. Fletcher International, Ltd. purchased all of the shares that we sold.

Pursuant to a placement agency agreement between us and Wm Smith Securities, Incorporated, we engaged Wm Smith Securities, Incorporated as our exclusive placement agent in connection with the issuance and sale, on a best efforts basis, of the shares to Fletcher International, Ltd. The placement agent did not purchase or sell any of the shares we offered, and it was not required to arrange the purchase or sale of any specific number or dollar amount of common stock, but it agreed to use reasonable efforts to arrange for the sale of the shares.

We paid the placement agent a placement agent fee equal to 4.0% of the gross proceeds of the September 2007 offering. The following table shows the per share and total placement agent fees we paid to the placement agent in connection with the sale of the shares.

Per share	\$ 0.7392
Total	\$ 200,000

Wm Smith Securities, Incorporated, in its capacity as placement agent, may be deemed to be an underwriter for purposes of the Securities Act.

We have agreed to indemnify the placement agent and its controlling persons against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Our common stock is quoted on The NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol AGEN.

**DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

Agenus is authorized to issue up to 70,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, with 24,645,122 issued as of December 17, 2012. Agenus is also authorized to issue up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, with 31,620 Series A convertible preferred stock issued as of December 17, 2012 and 3,105 Series B2 convertible preferred stock issued as of December 17, 2012.

**General**

Each share of Agenus common stock has the same relative rights and is identical in all respects with each other share of common stock.

**Voting Rights**

Subject to preferences that may apply to shares of preferred stock outstanding at the time, the holders of outstanding shares of common stock are entitled to receive dividends out of assets legally available for payment of dividends, as the board may from time to time determine. Each stockholder is entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders. Our certificate of incorporation does not provide for cumulative voting for the election of directors, which means that the holders of a majority of the shares voted can elect all of the directors then standing for election. The common stock is not entitled to preemptive rights and is not subject to conversion or redemption. Each outstanding share of common stock offered by this prospectus will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable.

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### **Dividends**

Holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in any dividends declared by our board of directors, subject to any preferential dividend rights of any outstanding preferred stock. Dividends consisting of shares of common stock may be paid to holders of shares of common stock. We have never declared or paid cash dividends on our common stock. We do not intend to pay cash dividends in the foreseeable future.

### **Preemptive Rights**

Holders of common stock do not have any preemptive rights with respect to any shares that may be issued by Agenus in the future. Thus, Agenus may sell shares of its common stock without first offering them to the then holders of common stock.

### **Liquidation**

In the event of any liquidation or dissolution of Agenus, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of Agenus common stock would be entitled to receive pro rata, after payment of all debts and liabilities of Agenus, all assets of Agenus available for distribution, subject to the rights of the holders of any preferred stock which may be issued with a priority in liquidation or dissolution over the holders of common stock.

### **Listing**

Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol AGEN. On December 17, 2012, the last reported sale price for our common stock on The NASDAQ Capital Market was \$3.96 per share. As of December 17, 2012, we had approximately 19,000 stockholders of record.

### **Anti-Takeover Provisions**

#### *Statutory Business Combination Provision*

The State of Delaware has adopted a business combination statute (Section 203 of the DGCL) that may also have additional anti-takeover effects to provisions in Agenus restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws. Section 203 of the DGCL, which, subject to certain exceptions, prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years following the time that such stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless:

the board of directors of the corporation approves either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, prior to the time the interested stockholder attained that status;

upon the closing of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding, for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding, those shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers and by employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or

at or subsequent to such time, the business combination is approved by the board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

With certain exceptions, an interested stockholder is a person or group who or which owns 15% or more of the corporation's outstanding voting stock (including any rights to acquire stock pursuant to an option, warrant, agreement, arrangement or understanding, or upon the exercise of conversion or exchange rights, and stock with respect to which the person has voting rights only), or is an affiliate or associate of the corporation and was the owner of 15% or more of such voting stock at any time within the previous three years.



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In general, Section 203 defines a business combination to include:

any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;

any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of the assets of the corporation involving the interested stockholder;

subject to certain exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to the interested stockholder;

any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock or any class or series of the corporation beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or

the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation.

A Delaware corporation may opt out of this provision with an express provision in its original certificate of incorporation or an express provision in its amended and restated certificate of incorporation or bylaws resulting from a stockholders' amendment approved by at least a majority of the outstanding voting shares. However, Agenus has not opted out of this provision. Section 203 could prohibit or delay mergers or other takeover or change-in-control attempts and, accordingly, may discourage attempts to acquire Agenus.

### *Size of the Board and Vacancies*

Our bylaws provide that the exact number of directors is determined by resolution of the board of directors or by the stockholders at the annual meeting. Our board of directors has the right to fill any vacancies resulting from death, resignation, disqualification or removal, as well as any newly created directorships arising from an increase in the size of the board.

### *Amendment of Charter Provisions*

The affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the voting power of all then outstanding shares of our voting stock, voting together as a single class, is required to, among other things, amend, alter, change or repeal certain provisions of our restated certificate of incorporation. Our bylaws may only be amended (or new bylaws adopted) by the board of directors or the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the voting power of all then outstanding shares of our voting stock represented in person or by proxy at the meeting at which the amendment is voted on.

### *Undesignated Preferred Stock*

We could issue preferred stock that could have other rights, including economic rights senior to our common stock, so that the issuance of the preferred stock could adversely affect the market value of our common stock. The issuance of the preferred stock may also have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of Agenus without any action by the stockholders. The effects of issuing preferred stock could include one or more of the following:

restricting dividends on the common stock;

diluting the voting power of the common stock;

impairing the liquidation rights of the common stock; or

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discouraging, delaying or preventing changes in control or management of Agenus.

**Transfer Agent**

The transfer agent and registrar for Agenus common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company. Its telephone number is (800) 937-5449.

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the securities that may be offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Agenus Inc., as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2011, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

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**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

Agenus Inc. ( Agenus ) is subject to the information requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and files annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at Room 1580, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, we file many of our documents electronically with the SEC, and you may access those documents over the Internet. The SEC maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The address of the SEC 's website is <http://www.sec.gov>. Documents we have filed with the SEC are also available on our website through the investor link at [www.agenusbio.com](http://www.agenusbio.com). Information contained on our web site does not constitute a part of this prospectus and is not incorporated by reference herein.

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**December , 2012**

**PROSPECTUS**

**766,036 Shares of Common Stock**



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**The information contained in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These securities may not be sold nor may offers to buy be accepted prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, nor shall there be any sale of these securities, in any jurisdiction where such offer, solicitation or sale is not permitted or would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.**

**Subject To Completion, Dated December 21, 2012**

**PROSPECTUS**

## **1,166,666 Shares of Common Stock**

We have prepared this prospectus to allow certain stockholders or their pledgees, donees, transferees, or other successors in interest, to sell, from time to time, up to 1,166,666 shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants which are held by certain stockholders named in this prospectus. Any such stockholders are referred to in this prospectus as selling stockholders. We would not receive any proceeds from any such sale of these shares.

You should read this prospectus carefully before you invest in our securities. You should read this prospectus together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** before you make your investment decision.

Our common stock is quoted on The NASDAQ Capital Market ( **NASDAQ** ) under the ticker symbol AGEN. On December 17, 2012, the last reported closing price per share of our common stock was \$3.96 per share.

**Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before investing in any of our securities, you should read the discussion of material risks in investing in our common stock. See Risk Factors on page 3 of this prospectus.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

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The content of this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus do not necessarily reflect the position or the policy of the U.S. Government, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

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the description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ) on January 24, 2000, including any amendment or reports filed for the purpose of updating such descriptions (File No. 333-91747).

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**CAUTIONARY NOTE ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

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intend, plan, believe, will, potential, opportunity, future and other words and terms of similar meaning and expression in connection with a discussion of future operating or financial performance. You can also identify forward-looking statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. Such forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and involve inherent risks and uncertainties, including factors that could delay, divert or change any of them, and could cause actual outcomes to differ materially from current expectations. These statements are likely to relate to, among other things, our business strategy, our research and development, our product development efforts, our ability to commercialize our product candidates, the activities of our licensees, our prospects for initiating partnerships or collaborations, the timing of the introduction of products, the effect of new accounting pronouncements, uncertainty regarding our future operating results and our profitability, anticipated sources of funds as well as our plans, objectives, expectations and intentions.

Although the Company believes it has been prudent in its plans and assumptions, no assurance can be given that any goal or plan set forth in forward-looking statements can be achieved and readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such statements, which speak only as of the date made. The Company undertakes no obligation to release publicly any revisions to forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Oncophage<sup>®</sup> and Stimulon<sup>®</sup> are registered trademarks of Agenus Inc. and its subsidiaries. All rights reserved.

## **RISK FACTORS**

Before purchasing any of the securities you should carefully consider the risk factors relating to Agenus incorporated by reference in this prospectus from our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012, as well as the risks, uncertainties and additional information set forth in our SEC reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K and in the other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. For a description of these reports and documents, and information about where you can find them, see [Where You Can Find More Information](#) and [Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference](#). Additional risks not presently known or that we presently consider to be immaterial could subsequently materially and adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, business and prospects.

## **USE OF PROCEEDS**

The net proceeds from any disposition of the shares covered hereby would be received by the selling stockholders or their transferees. We would not receive any of the proceeds from any such sale of the common stock offered by this prospectus.

## **SELLING STOCKHOLDERS**

We have prepared this prospectus to allow certain stockholders or their pledgees, donees, transferees or other successors in interest, to sell, from time to time, up to 1,166,666 shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants which are held by the stockholders named below. Any such stockholders are referred to herein as [selling stockholders](#).

All of the common stock offered by this prospectus may be offered by the selling stockholders for their own accounts. We would receive no proceeds from any such sale of these shares by the selling stockholders.

## **2008 Private Placement**

In April 2008, we completed a private placement under which we issued and sold (i) 1,166,666 shares of common stock, and (ii) warrants to acquire up to 1,166,666 shares of common stock. We raised a gross amount of \$21 million in the placement.

Each investor in the placement executed a Securities Purchase Agreement, and represented to us that they were accredited investors purchasing the securities for their own account. Investors participating in the placement received registration rights with respect to the shares, and this prospectus is part of the registration statement filed as part of such obligations.

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The following table sets forth information with respect to our common stock known to us to be beneficially owned by the selling stockholders as of December 17, 2012, including shares obtainable under warrants, and being offered under this prospectus. To our knowledge, except as otherwise disclosed herein, each of the selling stockholders has sole voting and investment power over the common stock listed in the table below. Except as otherwise disclosed herein, no selling stockholder, to our knowledge, has had a material relationship with us during the three years immediately preceding the consummation of the placement, other than as an owner of our common stock or other securities.

Name of Selling Stockholder	Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock Prior to the Offering		Common Stock Saleable Pursuant to This Prospectus	Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock After the Offering <sup>(1)</sup>	
	Number of Shares	Percent of Class		Number of Shares	Percent of Class
Iroquois Master Fund Limited	1,471,965 <sup>(2)</sup>	5.7%	1,000,000 <sup>(2)</sup>	471,965	1.8%
Firebird Global Master Fund, Ltd.	166,666 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.6%	166,666 <sup>(3)</sup>		

- (1) Assumes that all of the shares held by the selling stockholders covered by this prospectus are sold, and that the selling stockholders acquire no additional shares of common stock before the completion of this offering. However, as the selling stockholders can offer all, some, or none of their common stock, no definitive estimate can be given as to the number of shares that the selling stockholders will ultimately offer or sell under this prospectus.
- (2) Iroquois Master Fund Limited owns warrants to purchase up to 1,471,965 additional shares of our common stock which may be exercised in whole or in part at any time and from time to time after October 10, 2008 and on or before February 3, 2014. In accordance with the terms of the warrants, the selling stockholders are restricted from beneficially owning in excess of 4.99%, and in certain circumstances 9.99%, of the common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to the issuance of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants.
- (3) Firebird Global Master Fund, Ltd. owns warrants to purchase up to 166,666 additional shares of our common stock which may be exercised in whole or in part at any time and from time to time after October 10, 2008 and on or before April 9, 2013. In accordance with the terms of the warrants, the selling stockholders are restricted from beneficially owning in excess of 4.99%, and in certain circumstances 9.99%, of the common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to the issuance of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants.

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

The selling stockholders, which as used herein include donees, pledgees, transferees, or other successors-in-interest selling shares of common stock or interests in shares of common stock received after the date of this prospectus from a selling stockholder as a gift, pledge, partnership distribution, or other transfer, may, from time to time, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any or all of their shares of common stock or interests in shares of common stock on any stock exchange, market, or trading facility on which the shares are traded or in private transactions. These dispositions may be at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at prices related to the prevailing market price, at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices.

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The selling stockholders may use any one or more of the following methods when disposing of shares or interests therein:

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker-dealer solicits purchasers;

block trades in which the broker-dealer will attempt to sell the shares as agent, but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;

an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of the applicable exchange;

privately negotiated transactions;

short sales effected after the effective date of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part;

through the writing or settlement of options or other hedging transactions, whether through an options exchange or otherwise;

broker-dealers may agree with the selling stockholders to sell a specified number of such shares at a stipulated price per share; or

a combination of any such methods of sale.

The selling stockholders may, from time to time, pledge or grant a security interest in some or all of the shares of common stock owned by them and, if they default in the performance of their secured obligations, the pledgees or secured parties may offer and sell the shares of common stock, from time to time, under this prospectus, or under an amendment to this prospectus under Rule 424(b)(3) or other applicable provision of the Securities Act amending the list of selling stockholders to include the pledgee, transferee, or other successors in interest as selling stockholders under this prospectus. The selling stockholders also may transfer the shares of common stock in other circumstances, in which case the transferees, pledgees or other successors in interest will be the selling beneficial owners for purposes of this prospectus.

In connection with any sale of our common stock or interests therein, the selling stockholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions, which may in turn engage in short sales of the common stock in the course of hedging the positions they assume. The selling stockholders may also sell shares of our common stock short and deliver these securities to close out their short positions, or loan or pledge the common stock to broker-dealers that in turn may sell these securities. The selling stockholders may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions or the creation of one or more derivative securities which require the delivery to such broker-dealer or other financial institution of shares offered by this prospectus, which shares such broker-dealer or other financial institution may resell pursuant to this prospectus (as supplemented or amended to reflect such transaction).

The aggregate proceeds to the selling stockholders from any sale of the common stock offered by them will be the purchase price of the common stock less discounts or commissions, if any. Each of the selling stockholders reserves the right to accept and, together with their agents from time to time, to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of common stock to be made directly or through agents. We would not receive any of the proceeds from any such sale.

The selling stockholders also may resell all or a portion of the shares in open market transactions in reliance upon Rule 144 under the Securities Act, provided that they meet the criteria and conform to the requirements of that rule.



## Edgar Filing: SPEARS ROBERT R JR - Form 4

The selling stockholders and any underwriters, broker-dealers or agents that participate in the sale of the common stock or interests therein may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Securities Act. Any discounts, commissions, concessions or profit they earn on any resale of the shares may be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Selling stockholders are subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act.

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To the extent required, the shares of our common stock to be sold, the names of the selling stockholders, the respective purchase prices and public offering prices, the names of any agents, dealer or underwriter, and any applicable commissions or discounts with respect to a particular offer will be set forth in this prospectus, a prospectus supplement or, if appropriate, a post-effective amendment to the registration statement that includes this prospectus.

In order to comply with the securities laws of some states, if applicable, the common stock may be sold in these jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in some states the common stock may not be sold unless it has been registered or qualified for sale or an exemption from registration or qualification requirements is available and is complied with.

We have advised the selling stockholders that the anti-manipulation rules of Regulation M under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of shares in the market and to the activities of the selling stockholders and their affiliates. In addition, we will make copies of this prospectus (as it may be supplemented or amended from time to time) available to the selling stockholders for the purpose of satisfying the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act. The selling stockholders may indemnify any broker-dealer that participates in transactions involving the sale of the shares against certain liabilities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act.

We have agreed to indemnify the selling stockholders against liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act and state securities laws, relating to the registration of the shares offered by this prospectus.

We have agreed with the selling stockholders to keep the registration statement, of which this prospectus constitutes a part, effective until the earliest of (1) such time as all of the shares covered by this prospectus have been disposed of pursuant to and in accordance with the registration statement, (2) the date on which the shares may be sold without volume limitations by non-affiliates pursuant to Rule 144 of the Securities Act, or (3) five years after the registration statement becomes effective.

**LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the securities that may be offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Agenus Inc., as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2011, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

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**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

Agenus Inc. ( Agenus ) is subject to the information requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), and files annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at Room 1580, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, we file many of our documents electronically with the SEC, and you may access those documents over the Internet. The SEC maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The address of the SEC 's website is <http://www.sec.gov>. Documents we have filed with the SEC are also available on our website through the investor link at [www.agenusbio.com](http://www.agenusbio.com). Information contained on our web site does not constitute a part of this prospectus and is not incorporated by reference herein.

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**December , 2012**

**PROSPECTUS**

**1,166,666 Shares of Common Stock**

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**The information contained in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These securities may not be sold nor may offers to buy be accepted prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, nor shall there be any sale of these securities, in any jurisdiction where such offer, solicitation or sale is not permitted or would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.**

**Subject To Completion, Dated December 21, 2012**

**PROSPECTUS**

## **1,736,235 Shares of Common Stock**

We have prepared this prospectus to allow certain stockholders or their pledgees, donees, transferees, or other successors in interest, to sell, from time to time, up to 284,785 shares of our common stock, which they have acquired in a private placement in the United States, and up to 1,451,450 shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants which are held by certain stockholders named in this prospectus. Any such stockholders are referred to in this prospectus as selling stockholders. We would not receive any proceeds from any such sale of these shares.

You should read this prospectus carefully before you invest in our securities. You should read this prospectus together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** before you make your investment decision.

Our common stock is quoted on The NASDAQ Capital Market ( **NASDAQ** ) under the ticker symbol AGEN. On December 17, 2012, the last reported closing price per share of our common stock was \$3.96 per share.

**Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before investing in any of our securities, you should read the discussion of material risks in investing in our common stock. See Risk Factors on page 3 of this prospectus.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

**The date of this prospectus is \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.**

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

We incorporate by reference important information into this prospectus. You may obtain the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus without charge by following the instructions under [Where You Can Find More Information](#). You should carefully read this prospectus as well as additional information described under [Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference](#). If the information in, or incorporated by reference in, this prospectus conflicts with information in a document incorporated by reference herein, the information in this prospectus shall control. As used in this prospectus, unless the context otherwise requires, the terms [we](#), [us](#), [our](#) and [the Company](#) mean, collectively, Agenus Inc. and its subsidiaries and their predecessors.

We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. The information contained in this prospectus is accurate only as of the applicable dates, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or the time of issuance or resale of any securities. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

The content of this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus do not necessarily reflect the position or the policy of the U.S. Government, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Effective October 3, 2011, our certificate of incorporation was amended to effect a reverse stock split of our common stock on the basis of one post-split share for every six pre-split shares. All references in this prospectus to share and per share amounts reflect the reverse stock split.

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**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE**

The Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) allows us to incorporate by reference in this prospectus the information we file with the SEC. This helps us disclose certain important information to you by referring you to the documents we file. The information we incorporate by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Because we are incorporating by reference future filings with the SEC, this prospectus is continually updated and those future filings may modify or supersede some of the information included or incorporated in this prospectus. This means that you must look at all of the SEC filings that we incorporate by reference to determine if any of the statements in this prospectus or in any document previously incorporated by reference have been modified or superseded. We incorporate by reference each of the documents listed below.

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 (File No. 000-29089);

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on December 19, 2012; November 9, 2012; October 23, 2012; June 19, 2012; March 20, 2012; March 5, 2012 and March 2, 2012 (except, with respect to each of the foregoing, for portions of such reports which were deemed to be furnished and not filed) (File No. 000-29089);

our Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 4, 2012;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 (File No. 000-29089);

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012 (File No. 000-29089);

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 (File No. 000-29089); and

the description of our common stock contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ) on January 24, 2000, including any amendment or reports filed for the purpose of updating such descriptions (File No. 333-91747).

All filings by Agenus pursuant to the Exchange Act subsequent to the date hereof and prior to effectiveness of this registration statement are incorporated in this registration statement and deemed to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents or reports. In addition, all documents and reports filed by Agenus subsequent to the date hereof pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this registration statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents or reports. Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Statements in this prospectus concerning any document we filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or that we otherwise filed with the SEC are not intended to be comprehensive and are qualified by reference to these filings. You should review the complete document to evaluate these statements.

You may obtain copies of these documents, other than exhibits, free of charge on the Company's website, [www.agenusbio.com](http://www.agenusbio.com), as soon as reasonably practicable after they have been filed with the SEC and through the SEC's website, [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).



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**CAUTIONARY NOTE ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus and any information incorporated by reference into this prospectus may contain certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act ) and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. You can identify these forward-looking statements by the fact they use words such as could, expect, anticipate, estimate, target, may, project, guidance, plan, believe, will, potential, opportunity, future and other words and terms of similar meaning and expression in connection with any discussion of future operating or financial performance. You can also identify forward-looking statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. Such forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and involve inherent risks and uncertainties, including factors that could delay, divert or change any of them, and could cause actual outcomes to differ materially from current expectations. These statements are likely to relate to, among other things, our business strategy, our research and development, our product development efforts, our ability to commercialize our product candidates, the activities of our licensees, our prospects for initiating partnerships or collaborations, the timing of the introduction of products, the effect of new accounting pronouncements, uncertainty regarding our future operating results and our profitability, anticipated sources of funds as well as our plans, objectives, expectations and intentions.

Although the Company believes it has been prudent in its plans and assumptions, no assurance can be given that any goal or plan set forth in forward-looking statements can be achieved and readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such statements, which speak only as of the date made. The Company undertakes no obligation to release publicly any revisions to forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Oncophage® and Stimulon® are registered trademarks of Agenus Inc. and its subsidiaries. All rights reserved.

**RISK FACTORS**

Before purchasing any of the securities you should carefully consider the risk factors relating to Agenus incorporated by reference in this prospectus from our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012, as well as the risks, uncertainties and additional information set forth in our SEC reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K and in the other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. For a description of these reports and documents, and information about where you can find them, see Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference. Additional risks not presently known or that we presently consider to be immaterial could subsequently materially and adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, business and prospects.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

The net proceeds from any disposition of the shares covered hereby would be received by the selling stockholders or their transferees. We would not receive any of the proceeds from any such sale of the common stock offered by this prospectus.

**SELLING STOCKHOLDERS**

We have prepared this prospectus to allow certain stockholders or their pledgees, donees, transferees, or other successors in interest, to sell, from time to time, up to 284,785 shares of our common stock, which they have acquired in a private placement in the United States, and up to 1,451,450 shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants which are held by the stockholders named below. Any such stockholders are referred to herein as selling stockholders.

All of the common stock offered by this prospectus may be offered by the selling stockholders for their own accounts. We would receive no proceeds from any such sale of these shares by the selling stockholders.

**Table of Contents****2008 Private Placement**

In January of 2008, we completed a private placement that included (i) 1,451,450 shares of common stock, (ii) warrants to acquire up to 1,451,450 shares of common stock, and (iii) unit warrants, which, if exercisable due to a Triggering Event as that term is defined in the applicable warrant, permit a holder to acquire up to 1,451,450 shares of common stock and warrants to acquire up to an additional 1,451,450 shares of common stock. We raised a gross amount of approximately \$26.1 million in the placement.

Each investor in the placement executed a Securities Purchase Agreement, and represented to us that they were accredited investors purchasing the securities for their own account. Investors participating in the placement received registration rights with respect to the shares, and this prospectus is part of the registration statement filed in satisfaction of our obligations.

The following table sets forth information with respect to our common stock known to us to be beneficially owned by the selling stockholders as of December 17, 2012, including shares obtainable under warrants, and being offered under this prospectus. To our knowledge, except as otherwise disclosed herein, each of the selling stockholders has sole voting and investment power over the common stock listed in the table below. Except as otherwise disclosed herein, no selling stockholder, to our knowledge, has had a material relationship with us during the three years immediately preceding the consummation of the placement, other than as an owner of our common stock or other securities.

Name of Selling Stockholder	Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock Prior to the Offering <sup>(1)</sup>		Common Stock Saleable Pursuant to This Prospectus	Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock After the Offering <sup>(1)</sup>	
	Number of Shares	Percent of Class		Number of Shares	Percent of Class
Oracle Investment Management, Inc. <sup>(2)</sup>	277,777	1.1%	277,777		0%
Invus Public Equities, L.P. <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	965,685	3.7%	555,555	410,130	1.6%
Fidelity Select Portfolios: Biotechnology Portfolio <sup>(5)</sup>	408,089	1.6%	258,000	150,089	0.6%
Fidelity Advisors Series VII: Fidelity Advisor Biotechnology Fund <sup>(6)</sup>	84,758	0.3%	75,333	9,425	0%
Garo H. Armen, Ph.D. <sup>(7)(8)</sup>	1,549,704	5.9%	180,682	1,369,022	5.3%
Armen Partners, LP <sup>(7)(9)</sup>	444,721	1.7%	388,888	55,833	0.2%

- (1) Assumes that all of the shares held by the selling stockholders covered by this prospectus are sold, and that the selling stockholders acquire no additional shares of common stock before the completion of this offering. However, as the selling stockholders can offer all, some, or none of their common stock, no definitive estimate can be given as to the number of shares that the selling stockholders will ultimately offer or sell under this prospectus.
- (2) Shares beneficially owned by Oracle Investment Management, Inc. include shares underlying warrants to purchase up to 277,777 shares of our common stock which may be exercised in whole or in part at any time and from time to time after July 9, 2008 and on or before January 9, 2018.

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- (3) Shares beneficially owned by Invus Public Equities, L.P. include shares underlying warrants to purchase up to 555,555 shares of our common stock which may be exercised in whole or in part at any time and from time to time after July 9, 2008 and on or before January 9, 2018.
- (4) Invus Public Equities Advisors, LLC is the general partner to Invus Public Equities, L.P. Kahlil Barrage is the portfolio manager and vice president of Invus Public Equities Advisors, LLC and in such capacity has voting, dispositive, and investment power of these shares.
- (5) Shares beneficially owned by Fidelity Select Portfolios: Biotechnology Portfolio include shares underlying warrants to purchase up to 258,000 shares of our common stock which may be exercised in whole or in part at any time and from time to time after July 9, 2008 and on or before January 9, 2018.
- (6) Shares beneficially owned by Fidelity Advisor Series VII: Fidelity Advisor Biotechnology Fund include shares underlying warrants to purchase up to 75,333 shares of our common stock which may be exercised in whole or in part at any time and from time to time after July 9, 2008 and on or before January 9, 2018.
- (7) Garo H. Armen is the Chief Executive Officer of Agenus and owns a controlling interest in Armen Partners, LP which as of the date of this registration statement owns 250,277 shares of our common stock. Dr. Armen has a pecuniary interest in only a portion of the shares held by Armen Partners, LP and disclaims beneficial ownership except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein. Dr. Armen is also the CEO, Chairman of the Board of Managers, and a member of Antigenics Holdings L.L.C. ( Holdings ) which, as of the date of this registration statement, owns 4,046 shares of our common stock. Dr. Armen has a pecuniary interest only in a portion of the shares held by Holdings and disclaims beneficial ownership except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein. Dr. Armen is trustee and has investment authority for the Garo Armen 2009 4 Year GRAT and the Garo Armen 2012 2 Year GRAT, each holding 292,122 and 500,000 shares of Agenus Inc. common stock respectively. Dr. Armen disclaims beneficial ownership therein.
- (8) Shares beneficially owned by Garo H. Armen include shares underlying warrants to purchase up to 90,341 shares of our common stock which may be exercised in whole or in part at any time and from time to time after July 9, 2008 and on or before January 9, 2018.
- (9) Shares beneficially owned by Armen Partners, LP include shares underlying warrants to purchase up to 194,444 shares of our common stock which may be exercised in whole or in part at any time and from time to time after July 9, 2008 and on or before January 9, 2018.

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

The selling stockholders, which as used herein include donees, pledgees, transferees, or other successors-in-interest selling shares of common stock or interests in shares of common stock received after the date of this prospectus from a selling stockholder as a gift, pledge, partnership distribution, or other transfer, may, from time to time, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any or all of their shares of common stock or interests in shares of common stock on any stock exchange, market, or trading facility on which the shares are traded or in private transactions. These dispositions may be at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at prices related to the prevailing market price, at varying prices determined at the time of sale, or at negotiated prices.

The selling stockholders may use any one or more of the following methods when disposing of shares or interests therein:

ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker-dealer solicits purchasers;

block trades in which the broker-dealer will attempt to sell the shares as agent, but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;

purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;

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an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of the applicable exchange;

privately negotiated transactions;

short sales effected after the effective date of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part;

through the writing or settlement of options or other hedging transactions, whether through an options exchange or otherwise;

broker-dealers may agree with the selling stockholders to sell a specified number of such shares at a stipulated price per share; or

a combination of any such methods of sale.

The selling stockholders may, from time to time, pledge or grant a security interest in some or all of the shares of common stock owned by them and, if they default in the performance of their secured obligations, the pledgees or secured parties may offer and sell the shares of common stock, from time to time, under this prospectus, or under an amendment to this prospectus under Rule 424(b)(3) or other applicable provision of the Securities Act amending the list of selling stockholders to include the pledgee, transferee, or other successors in interest as selling stockholders under this prospectus. The selling stockholders also may transfer the shares of common stock in other circumstances, in which case the transferees, pledgees or other successors in interest will be the selling beneficial owners for purposes of this prospectus.

In connection with any sale of our common stock or interests therein, the selling stockholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions, which may in turn engage in short sales of the common stock in the course of hedging the positions they assume. The selling stockholders may also sell shares of our common stock short and deliver these securities to close out their short positions, or loan or pledge the common stock to broker-dealers that in turn may sell these securities. The selling stockholders may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions or the creation of one or more derivative securities which require the delivery to such broker-dealer or other financial institution of shares offered by this prospectus, which shares such broker-dealer or other financial institution may resell pursuant to this prospectus (as supplemented or amended to reflect such transaction).

The aggregate proceeds to the selling stockholders from any sale of the common stock offered by them will be the purchase price of the common stock less discounts or commissions, if any. Each of the selling stockholders reserves the right to accept and, together with their agents from time to time, to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of common stock to be made directly or through agents. We would not receive any of the proceeds from any such sale.

The selling stockholders also may resell all or a portion of the shares in open market transactions in reliance upon Rule 144 under the Securities Act, provided that they meet the criteria and conform to the requirements of that rule.

The selling stockholders and any underwriters, broker-dealers or agents that participate in the sale of the common stock or interests therein may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Securities Act. Any discounts, commissions, concessions or profit they earn on any resale of the shares may be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Selling stockholders are subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act.

To the extent required, the shares of our common stock to be sold, the names of the selling stockholders, the respective purchase prices and public offering prices, the names of any agents, dealer or underwriter, and any applicable commissions or discounts with respect to a particular offer will be set forth in this prospectus, a prospectus supplement or, if appropriate, a post-effective amendment to the registration statement that includes this prospectus.

## **Table of Contents**

In order to comply with the securities laws of some states, if applicable, the common stock may be sold in these jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in some states the common stock may not be sold unless it has been registered or qualified for sale or an exemption from registration or qualification requirements is available and is complied with.

We have advised the selling stockholders that the anti-manipulation rules of Regulation M under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of shares in the market and to the activities of the selling stockholders and their affiliates. In addition, we will make copies of this prospectus (as it may be supplemented or amended from time to time) available to the selling stockholders for the purpose of satisfying the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act. The selling stockholders may indemnify any broker-dealer that participates in transactions involving the sale of the shares against certain liabilities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act.

We have agreed to indemnify the selling stockholders against liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act and state securities laws, relating to the registration of the shares offered by this prospectus.

We have agreed with the selling stockholders to keep the registration statement, of which this prospectus constitutes a part, effective until the earliest of (1) such time as all of the shares covered by this prospectus have been disposed of pursuant to and in accordance with the registration statement, (2) the date on which the shares may be sold without volume limitations by non-affiliates pursuant to Rule 144 of the Securities Act, or (3) five years after the registration statement becomes effective.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the securities that may be offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP.

## **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Agenus Inc., as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2011, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

## **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

Agenus Inc. ( Agenus ) is subject to the information requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and files annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the Public Reference Room of the SEC at Room 1580, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, we file many of our documents electronically with the SEC, and you may access those documents over the Internet. The SEC maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The address of the SEC's website is <http://www.sec.gov>. Documents we have filed with the SEC are also available on our website through the investor link at [www.agenusbio.com](http://www.agenusbio.com). Information contained on our web site does not constitute a part of this prospectus and is not incorporated by reference herein.

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**December , 2012**

**PROSPECTUS**

**1,736,235 Shares of Common Stock**

**Table of Contents****PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table sets forth the various expenses in connection with the registration of the securities offered hereby. Agenus Inc. will bear all of these expenses. All amounts are estimated except for the SEC registration fee:

Item	Amount
SEC registration fee	\$ 22,412
Legal fees and expenses	
Accounting fees and expenses	
Printing and related expenses	
Miscellaneous	
Total	\$ *

\* The amount of securities and number of offerings are indeterminable and the expenses cannot be estimated at this time.

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers**

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law permits, in general, a Delaware corporation to indemnify any person who was or is a party to any proceeding (other than an action by, or in the right of, the corporation) by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director or officer of the corporation, or served another business enterprise in any capacity at the request of the corporation, against liability incurred in connection with such proceeding, including the expenses (including attorney's fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred in connection with such proceeding, if such person 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 criminal actions or proceedings, additionally had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful. A Delaware corporation's power to indemnify applies to actions brought by or in the right of the corporation as well, but only to the extent of expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the defense or settlement of the action or suit, provided that no indemnification shall be provided in such actions in the event of any adjudication of negligence or misconduct in the performance of such person's duties to the corporation, unless a court believes that in light of all the circumstances indemnification should apply. Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law also permits, in general, a Delaware corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director or officer of the corporation, or served another entity in any capacity at the request of the corporation, against liability incurred by such person in such capacity, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability.

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and certain executive officers and have obtained insurance covering our directors and officers against losses and insuring us against certain of our obligations to indemnify our directors and officers.

Our Fifth Amended and Restated By-Laws provide that we shall indemnify each of our directors and officers, to the maximum extent permitted from time to time by law, against all expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by reason of the fact that he or she is a director or officer.

This right of indemnification conferred in our Fifth Amended and Restated By-Laws is not exclusive of any other right.

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In addition, as permitted by Section 102 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation includes a provision that eliminates the personal liability of our directors for monetary damages for breach of their fiduciary duty as directors except for liability (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Company or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

These indemnification provisions may be sufficiently broad to permit indemnification of our directors and officers for liabilities (including reimbursement of expenses incurred) arising under the Securities Act.

### **Item 16. Exhibits**

The following Exhibits are filed herewith or incorporated herein by reference:

- 1.1 Form of Underwriting Agreement or Purchase Agreement.\*
- 1.2 Amended and Restated At Market Issuance Sales Agreement with MLV & Co. LLC, filed herewith.
- 3.1 Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Antigenics Inc. filed as Exhibit 3.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-29089) filed on June 10, 2002 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 3.2 Certificate of Amendment to the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Antigenics Inc. filed as Exhibit 3.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-29089) filed on June 11, 2007 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 3.3 Certificate of Ownership and Merger changing the name of the corporation to Agenus Inc. filed as Exhibit 3.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-29089) filed on January 6, 2011 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 3.4 Certificate of Second Amendment to the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Agenus Inc. filed as Exhibit 3.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-29089) filed on September 30, 2011 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 3.5 Certificate of Third Amendment to the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Agenus Inc. filed as Exhibit 3.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 000-02089) filed on November 7, 2012 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 3.6 Fifth Amended and Restated By-laws of Agenus Inc. filed as Exhibit 3.2 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 000-29089) filed on January 6, 2011 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 4.1 Form of Indenture. Filed as Exhibit 4.14 to Amendment No. 1 to our registration statement on Form S-3 dated July 23, 2002 (File No. 333-90380) and incorporated herein by reference.
- 4.2 Form of Common Stock Certificate. Filed as Exhibit 4.1 to our registration statement on Form S-1 dated November 30, 1999 (File No. 333-91747) and incorporated herein by reference.



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- 4.3 Securities Purchase Agreement dated January 9, 2008. Previously filed as an exhibit to the Company's Form 8-K filed on January 11, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 4.4 Securities Purchase Agreement dated April 8, 2008. Previously filed as an exhibit to the Company's Form 8-K filed on April 10, 2008 and incorporated herein by reference.
- 4.5 Specimen certificate for shares of Preferred Stock.\*
- 4.6 Form of Depositary Shares.\*

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- 4.7 Form of Warrant.\*
- 4.8 Form of Stock Purchase Contract.\*
- 4.9 Form of Senior Debt Security.\*
- 4.10 Form of Subordinated Debt Security.\*
- 4.11 Form of Unit Agreement.\*
- 5.1 Opinion of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP, filed herewith.
- 12.1 Statement Regarding Computation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends, filed herewith.
- 23.1 Consent of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).
- 23.2 Consent of KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, filed herewith.
- 24.1 Power of Attorney (included in the signature page to this Registration Statement).
- 25.1 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under Indenture for Senior Debt Securities under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.\*\*
- 25.2 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under Indenture for Subordinated Debt Securities under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.\*\*

\* To be filed, if necessary, by post-effective amendment to this registration statement or as an exhibit to a current report of the registrant on Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference.

\*\* To be incorporated herein by reference from a subsequent filing in accordance with Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

**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:

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- (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 this 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 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

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- (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 this registration statement;

*Provided, however,* That Paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 or Form F-3 and 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 herein, 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:
- (i) If the registrant is relying on Rule 430B:
- (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
- (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:



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- (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) The undersigned registrant hereby further undertakes that, for the 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 herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (c) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to deliver or cause to be delivered with the prospectus, to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the latest annual report to security holders that is incorporated by reference in the prospectus and furnished pursuant to and meeting the requirements of Rule 14a-3 or Rule 14c-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and, where interim financial information required to be presented by Article 3 of Regulation S-X is not set forth in the prospectus, to deliver, or cause to be delivered to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the last quarterly report that is specifically incorporated by reference in the prospectus to provide such interim financial information.
- (d) 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 Securities Act of 1933 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 Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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**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 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 Town of Lexington, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on this 21st day of December, 2012.

AGENUS INC.

By: /s/ Garo H. Armen  
Garo H. Armen

Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board

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**Table of Contents****POWER OF ATTORNEY**

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each individual whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Garo H. Armen and Karen Valentine, jointly and severally, his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full powers of substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all supplements amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all documents in connection therewith, 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 connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of them, or their or his substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

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

<b>SIGNATURE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
/s/ Garo H. Armen		December 21, 2012
Garo H. Armen	Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors (Principal Executive Officer)	
/s/ Christine M. Klaskin		December 21, 2012
Christine M. Klaskin	Vice President, Finance (Principal Accounting Officer and Principal Financial Officer)	
/s/ Brian Corvese		December 21, 2012
Brian Corvese	Director	
/s/ Tom Dechaene		December 21, 2012
Tom Dechaene	Director	
/s/ Wadiah Jordan		December 21, 2012
Wadiah Jordan	Director	
/s/ Shalini Sharp		December 21, 2012
Shalini Sharp	Director	
/s/ Timothy R. Wright		December 21, 2012
Timothy R. Wright	Director	



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- 4.7 Form of Warrant.\*
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- 4.9 Form of Senior Debt Security.\*
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