ATHERSYS, INC / NEW

FORM 10-Q
(Quarterly Report)

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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

☒ **QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2017

OR

☐ **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from _____ to _____.

Commission file number: 001-33876

Athersys, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	**20-4864095**
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	**(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)**
3201 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio	**44115-2634**
(Address of principal executive offices)	**(Zip Code)**

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (216) 431-9900

Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report: Not Applicable

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days: Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes ☒ No ☐

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

Large accelerated filer	☐	Accelerated filer	☒
Non-accelerated filer	☐ (do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company	☐
Emerging growth company	☐		

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act): Yes ☐ No ☒

The number of outstanding shares of the registrant's common stock, $0.001 par value, as of November 3, 2017 was 118,533,763.

ATHERSYS, INC.

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements.

Athersys, Inc.
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets
(In thousands, except share and per share data)

	September 30, 2017 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2016
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	**$ 28,234**	$ 14,753
Accounts receivable	**707**	598
Prepaid expenses and other	**1,031**	929
Total current assets	**29,972**	16,280
Equipment, net	**2,265**	2,605
Deferred tax assets	**198**	175
Total assets	**$ 32,435**	$ 19,060
Liabilities and stockholders' equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	**$ 4,285**	$ 4,761
Accrued compensation and related benefits	**1,017**	1,190
Accrued clinical trial costs	**146**	389
Accrued expenses	**412**	535
Deferred revenue	**503**	—
Total current liabilities	**6,363**	6,875
Warrant liabilities	—	1,004
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, at stated value; 10,000,000 shares authorized, and no shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016	—	—
Common stock, $0.001 par value; 300,000,000 and 150,000,000 shares authorized at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively, and 116,883,763 and 86,629,302 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively	**117**	87
Additional paid-in capital	**363,485**	329,373
Accumulated deficit	**(337,530)**	(318,279)
Total stockholders' equity	**26,072**	11,181
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	**$ 32,435**	$ 19,060

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Athersys, Inc.
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Loss
(In thousands, except share and per share data)
(Unaudited)

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2017	**2016**	**2017**	**2016**
Revenues				
Contract revenue	**$ 179**	$ 150	**$ 1,888**	$ 15,410
Grant revenue	**220**	161	**650**	954
Total revenues	**399**	311	**2,538**	16,364
Costs and expenses				
Research and development	**5,441**	5,263	**15,707**	17,750
General and administrative	**2,113**	1,830	**6,391**	5,831
Depreciation	**177**	114	**508**	248
Total costs and expenses	**7,731**	7,207	**22,606**	23,829
Gain from insurance proceeds, net	**—**	682	**—**	682
Loss from operations	**(7,332)**	(6,214)	**(20,068)**	(6,783)
Income (expense) from change in fair value of warrants, net	**—**	191	**728**	(1,689)
Other income, net	**71**	7	**155**	228
Loss before income taxes	**(7,261)**	(6,016)	**(19,185)**	(8,244)
Income tax benefit	**18**	12	**44**	34
Net loss and comprehensive loss	**$ (7,243)**	$ (6,004)	**$ (19,141)**	$ (8,210)
Net loss per share, basic	**$ (0.06)**	$ (0.07)	**$ (0.17)**	$ (0.10)
Weighted average shares outstanding, basic	**114,515,405**	84,928,198	**109,506,379**	84,352,347
Net loss per share, diluted	**$ (0.06)**	$ (0.07)	**$ (0.17)**	$ (0.10)
Weighted average shares outstanding, diluted	**114,515,405**	85,896,993	**109,506,379**	84,352,347

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Athersys, Inc.
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(In thousands)
(Unaudited)

	Nine months ended September 30, 2017	2016
Operating activities		
Net loss	**$(19,141)**	$ (8,210)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation	**508**	248
Gain from forgiveness of note payable	**—**	(190)
Stock-based compensation	**2,232**	2,177
Gain from insurance proceeds, net	**—**	(682)
Change in fair value of warrant liabilities	**(728)**	1,689
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	**(109)**	63
Prepaid expenses and other	**(125)**	(262)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	**(1,015)**	765
Deferred revenue	**503**	(245)
Net cash used in operating activities	**(17,875)**	(4,647)
Investing activities		
Purchase of available-for-sale-securities	**—**	(15,903)
Sales of available-for-sale-securities	**—**	4,830
Purchases of equipment	**(168)**	(1,635)
Proceeds from insurance	**—**	507
Net cash used in investing activities	**(168)**	(12,201)
Financing activities		
Proceeds from issuance of common stock, net	**29,863**	2,386
Shares retained for withholding tax payments on stock-based awards	**(200)**	(418)
Proceeds from exercise of warrants	**1,861**	162
Net cash provided by financing activities	**31,524**	2,130
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	**13,481**	(14,718)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	**14,753**	23,027
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period	**$ 28,234**	$ 8,309

See accompanying notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Athersys, Inc.
Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
Three- and Nine-Month Periods Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016

1. Background and Basis of Presentation

We are an international biotechnology company that is focused primarily in the field of regenerative medicine and operate in one business segment. Our operations consist primarily of research and product development activities.

We incurred losses since our inception in 1995 and had an accumulated deficit of $338 million at September 30, 2017. We will require substantial additional capital to continue our research and development programs, including progressing our clinical product candidates to commercialization and preparing for commercial-scale manufacturing. At September 30, 2017, we had available cash and cash equivalents of $28.2 million, and we believe that these funds, used to execute our existing operating plans, are sufficient to meet our obligations as they come due for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the issuance of these unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements. In the longer term, we will make use of available cash, but will have to continue to generate additional capital to meet our needs through new and existing collaborations and related license fees and milestones, the sale of equity securities from time to time, including through our equity purchase agreement, grant-funding opportunities, deferring certain discretionary costs and staging certain development costs, as needed.

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") for interim financial information and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, since they are interim statements, the accompanying financial statements do not include all of the information and notes required by GAAP for complete financial statements. The accompanying financial statements reflect all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring adjustments, that are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair presentation of financial position and results of operations for the interim periods presented. Interim results are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Our critical accounting policies, estimates and assumptions are described in "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," which is included below in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

2. Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In March 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2016-09, *Compensation - Stock Compensation - Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting* ("ASU 2016-09"), which involves several aspects of the accounting for share-based payment transactions, including the income tax consequences, classification of awards as either equity or liabilities, and classification on the statement of cash flows. Under the new standard, income tax benefits and deficiencies are to be recognized as income tax expense or benefit in the statement of operations and the tax effects of exercised or vested awards should be treated as discrete items in the reporting period in which they occur.

An entity should also recognize excess tax benefits regardless of whether the benefit reduces taxes payable in the current period. Excess tax benefits should be classified along with other income tax cash flows as an operating activity. In regard to forfeitures, the entity may make an entity-wide accounting policy election to either estimate the number of awards that are expected to vest or account for forfeitures when they occur. We have adopted ASU 2016-09, effective on January 1, 2017. Upon adoption, we elected to change our policy and to recognize the impact of forfeitures when they occur, and we recognized a cumulative effect adjustment to accumulated deficit on a modified-retrospective basis as of January 1, 2017 of approximately $0.1 million.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, *Leases (Topic 842)* ("ASU 2016-02"), which requires lessees to put most leases on their balance sheets, but recognize expenses on their income statements in a manner similar to current accounting practice. Under the guidance, lessees initially recognize a lease liability for the obligation to make lease payments and a right-of-use ("ROU") asset for the right to use the underlying asset for the lease term. The lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments over the lease term. The ROU asset is measured at the lease liability amount, adjusted for lease prepayments, lease incentives received and the lessee's initial direct costs. The guidance is effective for the annual and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2018, with early adoption permitted. We have not elected to early adopt ASU 2016-02 in 2017 and are in the process of evaluating the impact the new guidance will have on our consolidated financial statements upon adoption. We currently have operating leases for two facilities that will need to be evaluated under ASU 2016-02.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)* ("ASU 2014-09"). ASU 2014-09 requires an entity to recognize revenue in a manner that depicts the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. To achieve that core principle, the amendment provides five steps that an entity should apply when recognizing revenue. The amendment also specifies the recognition of some costs to obtain or fulfill a contract with a customer and expands the disclosure requirements around contracts with customers. An entity can either adopt this amendment retrospectively to each prior reporting period presented or retrospectively with the cumulative effect of initially applying the update recognized at the date of initial application. In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-14, which delayed the effective date of ASU 2014-09 by one year, making the new standard effective for annual and interim reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption permitted for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016. We plan to adopt ASU 2014-09 effective January 1, 2018 under the modified retrospective approach. We have developed an implementation plan, identified our revenue streams and concluded that each of our contracts will be evaluated on a one-for-one basis to assess the impact of the new guidance on our consolidated financial statements. We are now evaluating each of the potential deliverables from our collaboration agreements and grant awards, as well as documenting our internal controls over the adoption and implementation of the new standard. As the evaluation of our contracts is in process, we have not yet fully determined the impact that adopting ASU 2014-09 will have on our consolidated financial statements; however, we expect that the adoption of the new standard may result in increased disclosures in our financial statements and increased internal control processes over the revenue evaluation process.

3. Net Loss per Share

Basic and diluted net loss per share have been computed using the weighted-average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period. The table below reconciles the net loss and the number of shares used to calculate basic and diluted net loss per share for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, in thousands, except per share data.

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2017	**2016**	**2017**	**2016**
Numerator:				
Net loss attributable to common stockholders - Basic	**$ (7,243)**	$ (6,004)	**$ (19,141)**	$ (8,210)
Less: income from change in fair value of warrants	**—**	(191)	**—**	—
Net loss attributable to common stockholders used to calculate diluted net loss per share	**$ (7,243)**	$ (6,195)	**$ (19,141)**	$ (8,210)
Denominator:				
Weighted-average shares outstanding - Basic	**114,515**	84,928	**109,506**	84,352
Potentially dilutive common shares outstanding:				
Warrants	**—**	969	**—**	—
Weighted-average shares used to calculate diluted net loss per share	**114,515**	85,897	**109,506**	84,352
Basic earnings per share	**$ (0.06)**	$ (0.07)	**$ (0.17)**	$ (0.10)
Dilutive earnings per share	**$ (0.06)**	$ (0.07)	**$ (0.17)**	$ (0.10)

We have outstanding stock-based awards and warrants that are not used in the calculation of diluted net loss per share because to do so would be antidilutive. The following instruments were excluded from the calculation of diluted net loss per share because their effects would be antidilutive:

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2017	**2016**	**2017**	**2016**
Stock-based awards	**10,880,000**	10,840,306	**10,880,000**	10,840,306
Warrants	**—**	—	**—**	1,893,527
Total	**10,880,000**	10,840,306	**10,880,000**	12,733,833

4. Financial Instruments

Fair Value Measurements

We classify the inputs used to measure fair value into the following hierarchy:

Level 1 Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for similar assets or liabilities, or unadjusted quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, or inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability.

Level 3 Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

At September 30, 2017, we had no financial assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis. At December 31, 2016, we had warrant liabilities of $1,004,000 that represented Level 3 liabilities under the hierarchy. In March 2017, these warrants were either exercised or expired, and we no longer have any outstanding warrants.

We review and reassess the fair value hierarchy classifications on a quarterly basis. Changes from one quarter to the next related to the observability of inputs in a fair value measurement may result in a reclassification between fair value hierarchy levels. There were no reclassifications for all periods presented.

The estimated fair value of warrants accounted for as liabilities, representing a Level 3 fair value measure, was determined on the issuance date and subsequently marked to market at each financial reporting date. We use the Black-Scholes valuation model to value the warrant liabilities at fair value. The fair value was estimated using the expected volatility based on our historical volatility and is determined using probability weighted-average assumptions, when appropriate.

A roll-forward of fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) for the warrant liabilities is as follows (in thousands):

	Nine months ended September 30, 2017
Balance January 1, 2017	**$ 1,004**
Settlements from exercises	**(276)**
Gain included in income from change in fair value of warrants	**(728)**
Balance September 30, 2017	**$ —**

5. Insurance Recovery

In May 2016, a flood caused damage to our primary facilities that required the reconstruction of certain laboratory space over several months. The damaged items included fully-depreciated leasehold improvements under an operating lease and laboratory supplies, all of which were covered by insurance and were replaced at replacement cost. Net insurance recovery proceeds resulted in the recognition of a net insurance recovery gain amounting to $682,000 as of September 30, 2016. Since the majority of the damage from the flood was to fully-depreciated leasehold improvements, the amount of losses were less than the amount of the insurance proceeds received. No insurance recoveries were recognized in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2017.

6. Collaborative Arrangements and Revenue Recognition

Healios

In January 2016, we entered into a license agreement (“Healios Agreement”) with HEALIOS K.K. (“Healios”) to develop and commercialize MultiStem cell therapy for ischemic stroke in Japan, and to provide Healios with access to Athersys’ proprietary stem cell technology for use in Healios’ “organ bud” program, initially for transplantation to treat liver disease or dysfunction. Under the Healios Agreement, Healios also obtained a right, at their option, to expand the scope of the collaboration to include the exclusive rights to develop and commercialize MultiStem for the treatment of two additional indications in Japan, which include acute respiratory distress syndrome (“ARDS”) and another indication in the orthopedic area, and to include all indications for the “organ bud” program. Healios may exercise its option to expand the collaboration prior to certain milestone dates that are expected to occur within the next several years.

Under the terms of the Healios Agreement, we received a nonrefundable, up-front cash payment of $15 million from Healios. Healios is responsible for the costs of clinical development in Japan. Athersys is providing manufacturing services to Healios, currently comprising the supply of product for its clinical trial and preparations for commercial manufacturing, and we receive payments for product supplied to Healios.

For the ischemic stroke indication, we may also receive additional success-based development, regulatory approval and sales milestones, which are non-refundable and non-creditable towards future royalties or any other payment due from Healios. We will also receive tiered royalties on net product sales, starting in the low double-digits and increasing incrementally into the high teens, depending on net sales levels.

If Healios exercises the option to expand the collaboration to include ARDS and another indication in the orthopedic area, we would be entitled to receive a cash payment of $10 million at the time of exercise and receive royalties from product sales and success-based development, regulatory approval and sales milestones, as well as payments for product supply related to the additional indications covered by the option.

For the “organ bud” product, we are entitled to receive a fractional royalty percentage on net sales of the “organ bud” products and will receive payments for manufactured product supplied to Healios under a manufacturing supply agreement. Additionally, we have a right of first negotiation for commercialization of an “organ bud” product in North America, with such right expiring on certain dates in the future.

To determine the appropriate accounting for the license agreement, we evaluated the Healios Agreement and related facts and circumstances, focusing in particular on the rights and obligations of the arrangement. We determined that our obligations under the Healios Agreement represent multiple deliverables, and for deliverables with standalone value, our policy is to account for these as separate units of accounting. We allocate the overall consideration of the arrangement that is fixed and determinable, excluding consideration that is contingent upon future deliverables, to the separate units of accounting based on estimated selling prices (as defined in ASC 605-25) of each deliverable.

Given Healios’ ability to sublicense under the Healios Agreement and its ability to conduct the ongoing development efforts at the inception of the arrangement, we concluded that the license had stand-alone value and would be treated as a separate unit of accounting, noting also that there was no general right of return associated with the license. Furthermore, the preclinical and clinical manufacturing services and certain near-term regulatory advisory services to be provided to Healios under the Healios Agreement were also determined to have stand-alone value and considered separate units of accounting at the inception of the arrangement.

We were unable to establish vendor-specific objective evidence of selling price or third-party evidence for either the license or the services, and thus, instead, allocated the arrangement consideration between the license and the services based on their relative selling prices using a best estimate of selling price (“BESP”). We developed the BESP of the license using a probability-weighted, discounted cash flow analysis using the income approach, taking into consideration market assumptions, including the estimated development and commercialization timeline, data regarding patient population, discount rate related to our industry, and probability of success using market data for both our industry and the therapeutic field. We estimated the BESP of the manufacturing services and certain near-term regulatory advisory services using actual historical experience and best estimates of the cost of obtaining these services at arm’s length from a third-party provider, including an estimated mark-up. As a result of the analysis, we initially allocated the $15 million of proceeds received to the license, which represented the amount of consideration that was allocable at inception pursuant to the relative selling price and was not contingent upon delivery of additional items under the Healios Agreement.

The license was delivered and the proceeds allocated to it were recognized as revenue in January 2016. Amounts received under the Healios Agreement are included within contract revenues in the consolidated statement of operations and comprehensive loss.

Other contingent deliverables that were not accounted for at the inception of the arrangement, and will not be accounted for until the contingency is resolved, included the potential expansion of the collaboration to include additional indications, and the milestones that are not substantive since they are dependent on the activities of Healios. Further, the Healios arrangement contemplates our providing manufacturing services for commercial product supply, the terms of which are not defined and are to be agreed upon in the future under a separate commercial supply agreement. Upon the removal of these contingencies or modifications to the deliverables under the arrangement, we will reevaluate the allocation of revenue to the remaining undelivered items, including the estimated selling prices and the overall consideration of the arrangement, with any changes in estimates accounted for on a prospective basis.

In January 2017, we signed a clinical trial supply agreement for the manufacturing of investigational product for Healios for its Japan clinical study, the terms of which were consistent with the license agreement. The clinical trial supply agreement was amended in July 2017 and clarifies the operational elements, terms and cost-sharing arrangement associated with our supply of clinical material. The manufacturing proceeds from Healios that relate specifically to the cost-sharing arrangement may result in a reduction in the proceeds we receive from Healios upon the achievement of two future milestones, and an increase to a late-stage commercial milestone. Of the aggregate $225 million of potential proceeds from success-based development, regulatory approval and sales milestones, the maximum decrease related to current cost-sharing proceeds amounts to less than 6% of the aggregate milestones, and the maximum increase amounts to less than 3%. The cost-sharing proceeds received are not recognized as revenue until the related milestone is achieved, at which time, the culmination of the earnings process will be complete. Until that time, the cost-sharing proceeds, upon receipt, will be reflected on the balance sheet. We expect to receive the first cost-sharing proceeds from Healios in the fourth quarter of 2017.

In September 2017, we entered into a services agreement with Healios, in which Healios provides financial support to establish a contract manufacturer in Japan to produce product for Healios. The arrangement includes a potential decrease to the amount we may receive from a future milestone if Healios is unable to obtain product from the contract manufacturer within a specified period of time. We expect the services under this arrangement to commence in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Furthermore, in September 2017, we amended the Healios Agreement to confer to Healios a limited license to manufacture MultiStem in the event that we are acquired by a third-party.

Other

In January 2017, we received an option fee related to an agreement that was entered into in December 2016 with a global leader in the animal health business segment to evaluate our cell therapy technology for application in an animal health area. Under the terms of the agreement, we received the payment in exchange for an exclusive period to evaluate our cell therapy technology with an option to negotiate for a license for the development and commercialization of the technology for the animal health area. The option fee is recorded as deferred revenue at September 30, 2017 since the performance obligation of granting a license has not occurred. If the option is exercised, we will include the option fee in the overall consideration for the license arrangement, to be evaluated at that time. If the option is not exercised, the option fee will be recognized as revenue at that time since there will be no more performance obligations. The evaluation of our technology for this application is currently ongoing.

Under our agreement with RTI Surgical, Inc. to develop and commercialize biologic implants using our technology for certain orthopedic applications in the bone graft substitutes market, we are eligible to receive cash payments upon the successful achievement of certain commercial milestones. The first commercial milestone was achieved in the first quarter of 2017, with a payment in the amount of $1.0 million, which we received in April 2017. In addition, we continue to receive tiered royalties on worldwide commercial sales of implants using our technologies based on a royalty rate starting in the mid-single digits and increasing into the mid-teens.

7. Stock-based Compensation

We have an incentive plan that authorizes 20,035,000 shares of common stock for awards to employees, directors and consultants. The incentive plan authorizes the issuance of equity-based compensation in the form of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares and units, and other stock-based awards. In June 2017, a separate incentive plan with 1,465,000 authorized shares expired according to its terms, and 1,074,391 stock options remain outstanding under the plan that survive the plan's expiration. As of September 30, 2017, a total of 3,979,429 shares of common stock have been issued under our equity incentive plans.

As of September 30, 2017, a total of 6,362,584 shares of common stock were available for issuance under our equity incentive plans, and stock-based awards to purchase 10,880,000 shares of common stock were outstanding. For the three-month periods ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, stock-based compensation expense was approximately $814,000 and $748,000, respectively. At September 30, 2017, total unrecognized estimated compensation cost related to unvested stock-based awards was approximately $8.0 million, which is expected to be recognized by the end of 2021 using the straight-line method

8. Stockholders' Equity

Charter Amendment

In June 2017, our stockholders approved an amendment to our certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock to 300,000,000. Other than the change to the number of authorized shares of common stock, there were no changes to the terms of our common stock.

Equity Offering

In February 2017, we completed a public offering generating net proceeds of approximately $20.9 million through the issuance of 22,772,300 shares of common stock at an offering price of $1.01 per share.

Equity Purchase Agreement

We currently have in place an equity purchase agreement with Aspire Capital Fund LLC ("Aspire Capital") that was entered into in December 2015 and provides that Aspire Capital is committed to purchase shares of our common stock up to an aggregate amount of $30.0 million over a three-year term, subject to our election to sell any such shares. We filed a registration statement for the resale of 16,600,000 shares of common stock in connection with the equity facility. During the three-month period ended September 30, 2017, we sold 3,700,000 shares to Aspire Capital under the equity purchase agreement, generating aggregate proceeds of $6.6 million. During the nine-month period ended September 30, 2017, we sold 5,350,000 shares to Aspire Capital under the equity purchase agreement, generating aggregate proceeds of $9.0 million.

9. Warrant Liabilities

As of September 30, 2017, we had no warrants outstanding. All of our previously outstanding warrants were either exercised prior to expiration or expired in March 2017. We received proceeds of $1.9 million in the first quarter of 2017 from warrant exercises. Prior to their expiration, we accounted for common stock warrants as either liabilities or as equity instruments depending on the specific terms of the warrant agreement. Registered common stock warrants that could require cash settlement were accounted for as liabilities and classified on the consolidated balance sheet as a non-current liability. The warrant liabilities were revalued at fair value at each balance sheet date subsequent to the initial issuance, and changes in the fair market value of the warrants were reflected in the consolidated statement of operations as income (expense) from change in fair value of warrants.

10. Income Taxes

We have U.S. federal net operating loss and research and development tax credit carryforwards, as well as state and city net operating loss carryforwards, which may be used to reduce future taxable income and tax liabilities. We also have foreign net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards, and the foreign net operating losses do not expire. Substantially all of our deferred tax assets have been fully offset by a valuation allowance due to our cumulative losses. We recognize refundable tax benefits related to research and development credits associated with one of our foreign subsidiary.

The utilization of net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards generated prior to October 2012 is substantially limited under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as a result of our October 2012 equity offering. We generated U.S. federal net operating loss carryforwards, research and development tax credits, and state and local net operating loss carryforwards since 2012. We will update our analysis under Section 382 prior to using these attributes.

11. Subsequent Events

License Agreement and Settlement

In October 2017, we entered into an agreement with Garnet BioTherapeutics, Inc. (“Garnet”) to settle longstanding intellectual property disagreements between the parties. As a routine matter, we actively develop, improve, protect and defend our intellectual property portfolio through prosecution efforts and contractual arrangements. Over the past several years, we have been involved in several proceedings in the United States and Europe involving Garnet, focused on stem cell technologies. As part of the agreement, we have been granted a license to Garnet patents and applications that have been at the core of the intellectual property dispute, for use related to the treatment or prevention of disease or conditions using cells. In return, we have agreed not to enforce our intellectual property rights against Garnet with respect to therapeutic agents derived from cells (but we fully retain our ability to enforce our rights with respect to cells used as therapy). We also agreed not to further challenge the patentability or validity of certain Garnet applications or patents (noting that we have been granted a license, as described above). We initially paid Garnet $500,000 and issued 1,000,000 shares of our common stock in connection with the execution of the agreement, and we will pay an additional $250,000 over each of the next four quarters. Additionally, we will issue 500,000 shares of common stock upon issuance of a patent from the Garnet patent applications at the core of the dispute. There will be no royalty payments or milestone payments to Garnet associated with the development and commercialization of our cell therapy products or other payments to Garnet related to the settlement agreement.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

This discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our unaudited financial statements and notes thereto included in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and the audited financial statement and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016. Operating results are not necessarily indicative of results that may occur in future periods.

Overview and Recent Developments

We are an international biotechnology company that is focused primarily in the field of regenerative medicine. Our MultiStem ® cell therapy, a patented and proprietary allogeneic stem cell product, is our lead platform product and is currently in later-stage clinical development. Our current clinical development programs are focused on treating neurological conditions, cardiovascular disease, inflammatory and immune disorders, certain pulmonary conditions and other conditions where the current standard of care is limited or inadequate for many patients.

Current Programs

By applying our proprietary MultiStem cell therapy product, we established therapeutic product development programs treating neurological conditions, cardiovascular disease, inflammatory and immune disorders, and other conditions. Our programs in the clinical development stage include the following:

- Ischemic Stroke : We completed our Phase 2 study of MultiStem treatment of patients suffering a moderate to severe ischemic stroke and announced the one-year follow-up data and final results from the study in February 2016. We are actively engaged in advancing the next stage of clinical development of this program, both independently and with HEALIOS K.K., or Healios.

  In September 2016, we announced that we received agreement from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, under a Special Protocol Assessment, or SPA, for the design and planned analysis of a pivotal Phase 3 clinical trial of MultiStem cell therapy for the treatment of ischemic stroke. The SPA provides agreement from the FDA that the protocol design, clinical endpoints, planned conduct and statistical analyses encompassed in Athersys' planned Phase 3 study are acceptable to support a regulatory submission for approval of the MultiStem product for treating ischemic stroke patients. If the trial is successful, we believe the results from our Phase 3 MASTERS-2 clinical trial, together with other available clinical data, would provide the foundation of the regulatory package to be submitted for marketing approval. In May 2017, we announced that the FDA granted us Fast Track designation for our clinical product for the treatment of ischemic stroke. Such designation for a new biologic product means that the FDA will take such actions as are appropriate to expedite the development and review of our application to approve the product, and specifically, under Fast Track designation, the program becomes eligible for rolling submission, accelerated approval and priority review of the biologics license application, facilitating a timely regulatory review. Also, in August 2017, we announced that the design of MASTERS-2 received a Final Scientific Advice positive opinion from the European Medicines Agency, or EMA, representing EMA's agreement that successful results from the trial could result in commercialization of the MultiStem therapy. This positive opinion provides further alignment among the key regulators regarding potential commercialization of the MultiStem product upon success of this single pivotal trial. We also recently received the Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy, or RMAT, designation from the FDA, which was established this year under the 21 st Century Cures Legislation.

The RMAT designation may be obtained for eligible cell therapy and other regenerative medicine and advanced therapies when the FDA agrees that preliminary clinical evidence indicates that the therapy has demonstrated the potential to address unmet medical needs for a serious or life threatening disease or condition. The designation enables sponsors to discuss with the FDA multidisciplinary strategic development plans, including expediting manufacturing development plans for commercialization to support priority review and accelerated approval

In September 2016, we announced the successful completion of the Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Agency, or PMDA, review of Healios' Clinical Trial Notification, or CTN, allowing Healios to commence its confirmatory clinical trial, TREASURE, evaluating the safety and efficacy of administration of MultiStem cell therapy for the treatment of ischemic stroke in Japan, which will be evaluated under the new regulatory framework for regenerative medicine therapies. In accordance with the regulatory system in Japan, a CTN is equivalent to an Investigational New Drug, or IND, application under the regulatory system used in the United States, or U.S. This clinical trial to be conducted in Japan is part of a partnership and license agreement between Healios and Athersys, focused on the development and commercialization of MultiStem in Japan for the treatment of ischemic stroke, and potentially other indications. The study design was accepted as proposed to PMDA in the CTN.

Our MASTERS-2 clinical trial will be a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial designed to enroll 300 patients in North America and Europe who have suffered moderate to moderate-severe ischemic stroke. The enrolled subjects will receive either a single intravenous dose of MultiStem cell therapy or placebo, administered within 18-36 hours of the occurrence of the stroke, in addition to the standard of care. The primary endpoint will evaluate disability using modified Rankin Scale, or mRS, scores at three months, comparing the distribution, or the "shift" between the MultiStem treatment and placebo groups. The mRS shift analyzes patient improvement across the full disability spectrum, enabling recognition of improvements in disability and differences in mortality and other serious outcomes, among strokes of different severities. The study will also assess Excellent Outcome (the achievement of mRS $\leq$ 1, NIHSS $\leq$ 1, and Barthel Index $\geq$ 95) at three months and one year as key secondary endpoints. Additionally, the study will consider other measures of functional recovery, biomarker data and clinical outcomes, including hospitalization, mortality and life-threatening adverse events, and post-stroke complications such as infection.

Healios' TREASURE study in Japan is a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial conducted at hospitals in Japan that have extensive experience at providing care for stroke victims. Based on the experience from our B01-02 study, subjects enrolled in the trial will receive either a single dose of MultiStem or placebo, administered within 18–36 hours of the occurrence of the stroke, in addition to standard of care. The study will evaluate patient recovery through approximately 90 days following initial treatment based on Excellent Outcome and other neurological, functional and clinical endpoints. The TREASURE study had been initiated earlier in 2017, though interruption in media supply at our contract manufacturer, Lonza, affected manufacturing of the MultiStem product and had slowed the launch of the Japan study. The TREASURE study has recently been reinitiated, following a brief interruption to resupply placebo that was out of specification. Further interruptions in material supply or product manufacturing could constrain product supply and slow the progress of the clinical study.

We are preparing to launch our MASTERS-2 clinical trial, but the precise timing for the initiation will depend on the completion of trial preparations, including the manufacture of clinical product, and ongoing business development discussions related to our stroke program. We will provide updates as we move forward with these plans. We then look forward to using the accelerated pathway afforded to us by the regulators in the U.S., Europe and Japan upon study completion.

- Acute Myocardial Infarction : We are conducting an ongoing Phase 2 clinical study in the U.S. for the administration of MultiStem cell therapy to patients that have suffered an acute myocardial infarction, or AMI. In a Phase 1 clinical study, we previously evaluated the administration of MultiStem to patients that suffered an AMI. The results of this study demonstrated a favorable safety profile and encouraging signs of improvement in heart function among patients that exhibited severely compromised heart function prior to treatment. This data was published in a leading peer reviewed scientific journal, and one-year follow-up data suggested that the benefit observed was sustained over time. We were awarded in 2013 a grant for up to $2.8 million in funding to support the advancement of this clinical program, and we launched a double-blind, sham-controlled Phase 2 clinical study, evaluating the safety and efficacy of MultiStem treatment in subjects who have a non-ST elevated myocardial infarction. The study is currently enrolling patients and is being conducted at leading cardiovascular centers in the U.S. We continue to take steps to improve enrollment rates that have been below our expectations, and when we are in a position to do so, we will provide further information about the anticipated timing of study completion.
- Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome : We have also initiated a clinical study for the treatment of acute respiratory distress syndrome, or ARDS, in the United Kingdom and in the U.S. We were awarded a grant from Innovate UK for up to approximately £2.0 million (of which £0.75 million is our portion) as partial support of a Phase 1/2 clinical study evaluating the administration of MultiStem cell therapy to ARDS patients. ARDS is a serious immunological and inflammatory condition characterized by widespread inflammation in the lungs that severely compromises pulmonary function, requiring patients to be placed on a ventilator. ARDS can be triggered by pneumonia, sepsis, or other trauma and represents a major cause of morbidity and mortality in the critical care setting. The Phase 1/2 clinical trial is ongoing, and our objective is to make substantial progress in patient accrual through this upcoming winter season, and complete enrollment, if possible.
- Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant / GvHD : We completed a Phase 1 clinical study of the administration of MultiStem cell therapy to patients suffering from leukemia or certain other blood-borne cancers, in which patients undergo radiation therapy and then receive a hematopoietic stem cell transplant. Such patients are at significant risk for serious complications, including graft-vs-host disease, or GvHD. Data from the study suggested that the treatment may have a beneficial effect in reducing the incidence and severity of GvHD, as well as providing other benefits. We were granted orphan drug designation by the FDA and the EMA for MultiStem treatment in the prevention of GvHD, and the MultiStem product was granted Fast Track designation by the FDA for prophylaxis therapy against GvHD following hematopoietic cell transplantation. Subsequently, our registration study design received a positive opinion from the EMA through the SA procedure, as well as a SPA designation from the FDA. Currently, this program is staged for future registration-directed development dependent on the achievement of certain business development and financial objectives and the development and success of alternative therapies for treating the underlying conditions leading to transplant.

MultiStem therapy has been evaluated in other disease areas, such as inflammatory bowel disease with a collaborator, solid organ transplant in an investigator-sponsored study, and a limited number of compassionate use cases.

While development of our clinical programs for human health indications remains our priority, based on our research to date and work performed at our wholly-owned subsidiary, we are also evaluating our cell therapy for use in treating diseases and conditions in the animal health segment. We have demonstrated in preclinical animal health models that our cell therapy can promote tissue repair and healing that could provide meaningful benefits to animal patients, including those suffering from conditions with unmet medical need. In January 2017, we entered into an evaluation and option agreement with a global leader in the animal health business segment to evaluate our cell therapy technology for application in an undisclosed animal health area. We received a payment in exchange for an exclusive period to evaluate our cell therapy technology with an option to negotiate for a license for the development and commercialization of the technology for the animal health area. The evaluation of our technology for this application is currently ongoing.

We are engaged in preclinical development and evaluation of MultiStem therapy in other indications, focusing on the neurological, cardiovascular and inflammatory and immune disease areas, and we conduct such work both through our own internal research efforts and through a broad global network of collaborators. We are routinely in discussions with third parties about collaborating in the development of MultiStem therapy for various programs and may enter into one or more business partnerships to advance these programs over time.

While the MultiStem product platform continues to advance, we are engaged in process development initiatives intended to increase manufacturing scale, reduce production costs, and enhance process controls and product quality, among other things. These initiatives are being conducted both internally and outsourced to select contractors, and the related investments are meant to enable us to meet potential commercial demand in the event of eventual regulatory approval. Until such time as we are able to manufacture products ourselves in accordance with good manufacturing practices, we will continue to rely on third party manufacturers to make our MultiStem product for clinical trials and eventual commercial sales. These third parties may not deliver sufficient quantities of our MultiStem product, manufacture MultiStem product in accordance with specifications, or comply with applicable government regulations. From time to time, such third party manufacturers, or their material suppliers, may experience production delays, stoppages or interruptions in supply, which may affect the initiation, execution and timing of completion of clinical trials or commercial activities.

In January 2016, we entered into a license agreement with Healios to develop and commercialize MultiStem cell therapy for ischemic stroke in Japan, and to provide Healios with access to our proprietary technologies for use in Healios' proprietary "organ bud" program, initially for transplantation to treat liver disease or dysfunction. Under the agreement, Healios also obtained a right to expand the scope of the collaboration to include the exclusive rights to develop and commercialize MultiStem for the treatment of two additional indications in Japan, which include ARDS and another indication in the orthopedic area, as well as all indications for the "organ bud" program. Healios is working toward the development and commercialization of the MultiStem product in Japan, and we are providing the manufactured product to Healios for its clinical studies; provided, that, if we fail to perform our responsibilities to supply clinical trial product to Healios, then under certain circumstances, we may be required to grant Healios a license to make the product solely for use in the licensed field in Japan.

We also have a collaboration with RTI Surgical, Inc., or RTI, for the development of products for certain orthopedic applications using our stem cell technologies in the bone graft substitutes market, and we continue to receive royalty revenue from product sales and may receive other payments, from time to time, upon the successful achievement of certain commercial milestones. The first commercial milestone was achieved in the first quarter of 2017, with a payment in the amount of $1.0 million.

Financial

In February 2017, we completed a public offering generating net proceeds of approximately $20.9 million through the issuance of 22,772,300 shares of common stock at an offering price of $1.01 per share.

In connection with our January 2016 license agreement with Healios, we received a non-refundable up-front cash payment of $15 million from Healios, and the collaboration can be expanded at Healios' election. If Healios expands the collaboration, we will be entitled to receive an additional cash payment of $10 million, royalties from product sales, success-based development, regulatory approval and sales milestones, and payments for product supply for the additional indications. We are also entitled to receive a fractional royalty percentage on net sales of the "organ bud" products.

For the ischemic stroke indication, we may receive additional success-based development, regulatory approval and sales milestones and tiered royalties on product sales, starting in the low double digits and increasing incrementally into the high teens depending on net sales levels. Additionally, we receive payments for product supplied to Healios under a manufacturing supply agreement, which is initially focused on clinical product supply, and in 2017, we agreed to a cost-sharing arrangement with Healios for clinical product for its TREASURE trial in Japan that may impact the amount of proceeds we receive from future milestones. Also in 2017, we entered into a services agreement with Healios related to the establishment of a contract manufacturer in Japan to produce product for Healios.

In 2016, a flood caused damage to our primary facilities that required the reconstruction of certain laboratory space and was covered by insurance at replacement cost. Insurance recovery proceeds were recognized in the consolidated statement of operations and comprehensive loss.

Results of Operations

Since our inception, our revenues have consisted of license fees, contract revenues and milestone payments from our collaborators, and grant proceeds primarily from federal, state and foundation grants. We have derived no revenue from the commercial sale of therapeutic products to date, but we receive royalties on commercial sales by a licensee of products using our technologies. Research and development expenses consist primarily of external clinical and preclinical study fees, manufacturing costs, salaries and related personnel costs, legal expenses resulting from intellectual property prosecution processes, facility costs, and laboratory supply and reagent costs. We expense research and development costs as they are incurred. We expect to continue to make significant investments in research and development to enhance our technologies, advance clinical trials of our product candidates, expand our regulatory affairs and product development capabilities, conduct preclinical studies of our product and manufacture our product candidates. General and administrative expenses consist primarily of salaries and related personnel costs, professional fees and other corporate expenses. We expect to continue to incur substantial losses through at least the next several years.

Three Months Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016

Revenues . Revenues increased slightly to $0.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2017 compared to $0.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2016 due to an increase of $0.1 million in grant revenues. Our grant revenues fluctuate from period to period based on the timing of grant-related activities and the award and expiration of new grants.

Research and Development Expenses. Research and development expenses increased to $5.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2017 from $5.3 million in the comparable period in 2016. The $0.1 million increase is primarily comprised of an increase in preclinical and clinical development costs of $0.8 million offset by decreases in internal research supplies of $0.4 million, a decrease in sponsored research costs of $0.2 million and a decrease in travel costs of $0.1 million. The increase in our clinical and preclinical costs is primarily due to increased process development activities to support large-scale manufacturing, and clinical product manufacturing costs during the period, partially offset by a decrease in costs for our stroke B01-02 study that concluded in the spring of 2016. Our clinical development, manufacturing and process development costs vary over time based on clinical manufacturing campaigns, the timing and stage of clinical trials underway, and manufacturing process development activities. Other than external expenses for our clinical and preclinical programs, we do not track our research expenses by project; rather, we track such expenses by the type of cost incurred.

General and Administrative Expenses. General and administrative expenses increased to $2.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2017 from $1.8 million in the comparable period in 2016. The $0.3 million increase was due primarily to an increase of $0.1 million in personnel costs compared to the same period in 2016, an increase in stock-based compensation of $0.1 million and a $0.1 million increase in other administrative costs.

Depreciation . Depreciation expense increased to $177,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2017 from $114,000 in the comparable period in 2016. The increase related primarily to assets placed in service in the latter half of 2016 as a result of flood repairs, and equipment purchased for use in manufacturing process development activities. As a result of these additions, we expect our depreciation to increase in 2017 as compared to 2016.

Gain from Insurance Proceeds, net . No insurance recoveries were recognized during the three months ended September 30, 2017. The net insurance recovery gain of $0.7 million during the three months ended September 30, 2016 included the cumulative losses associated with May 2016 flood damage (e.g., removal, disposal, clean-up, insurance deductible) and the cumulative insurance proceeds received. The net amount reflects a gain as of September 30, 2016 since most of the replacement cost was capitalized as leasehold improvements.

Income (expense) from Change in Fair Value of Warrants, net . We had no income recognized during the three months ended September 30, 2017 for the market value change in our warrant liabilities, since as of March 31, 2017, all of our warrants were either exercised or expired. For the comparable period of 2016, we had $0.2 million of income reflecting primarily changes in our stock price.

Other Income, net. Other income, net, generally includes net foreign currency gains and losses, and net interest income and expense.

Income Tax Benefit. The income tax benefit in 2017 and 2016 represents refundable foreign tax credits.

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016

Revenues . Revenues decreased to $2.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 from $16.3 million in the comparable period in 2016, reflecting the upfront license fee of $15.0 million from our Healios collaboration in the first quarter of 2016, partially offset by a milestone payment from RTI of $1.0 million in the second quarter of 2017.

Research and Development Expenses. Research and development expenses decreased to $15.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 from $17.8 million in the comparable period in 2016. The increase of $2.1 million related primarily to a decrease of $0.9 million in internal research supplies, a decrease of $0.4 million in preclinical and clinical development costs, a decrease in sponsored research costs of $0.4 million, a decrease in license fees of $0.3 million and a decrease in travel costs of $0.2 million. The decrease in our clinical and preclinical costs is primarily due to decreased process development activities to support large-scale manufacturing, and clinical product manufacturing costs. The decrease in research supplies was due to a decrease in internal process development activities. Other than external expenses for our clinical and preclinical programs, we do not track our research expenses by project; rather, we track such expenses by the type of cost incurred.

General and Administrative Expenses. General and administrative expenses increased to $6.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 from $5.8 million in the comparable period in 2016. The $0.6 million increase was due primarily to an increase in salary and benefits, other outside services, professional fees and stock-based compensation compared to the same period in 2016.

Depreciation . Depreciation expense increased to $0.5 million for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2017 compared to $0.2 million for the period ended September 30, 2016. The increase related primarily to assets placed in service in the latter half of 2016 as a result of flood repairs, and equipment purchased for use in manufacturing process development activities. As a result of these additions, we expect our depreciation to increase in 2017 as compared to 2016.

Gain from Insurance Proceeds, net . No insurance recoveries were recognized during the nine months ended September 30, 2017. The net insurance recovery gain of $0.7 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2016 included the cumulative losses associated with May 2016 flood damage (e.g., removal, disposal, clean-up, insurance deductible) and the cumulative insurance proceeds received. The net amount reflects a gain as of September 30, 2016 since most of the replacement cost was capitalized as leasehold improvements.

Income (expense) from Change in Fair Value of Warrants, net . Income of $0.7 million was recognized during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 for the market value change in our warrant liabilities, compared to $1.7 million expensed in the comparable period in 2016, reflecting primarily changes in our stock price.

Other Income, net. Other income, net, was $155,000 for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2017 and $228,000 for the comparable 2016 period, and is typically comprised of interest income and expense, foreign currency gains and losses, and tax credits. However, we recognized other income of $190,000 from a loan that was forgiven in the first quarter of 2016.

Income Tax Benefit. The income tax benefit in 2017 and 2016 represents refundable foreign tax credits.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our sources of liquidity include our cash balances and any available-for-sale securities. At September 30, 2017, we had $28.2 million in cash and cash equivalents. We have primarily financed our operations through business collaborations, grant funding and equity financings. We conduct all of our operations through our subsidiary, ABT Holding Company. Consequently, our ability to fund our operations depends on ABT Holding Company's financial condition and its ability to make dividend payments or other cash distributions to us. There are no restrictions, such as government regulations or material contractual arrangements, that restrict the ability of ABT Holding Company to make dividend and other payments to us.

We have incurred losses since inception of our operations in 1995 and had an accumulated deficit of $338 million at September 30, 2017. Our losses have resulted principally from costs incurred in research and development, clinical and preclinical product development, acquisition and licensing costs and general and administrative costs associated with our operations. We used the financing proceeds from equity and debt offerings and other sources of capital to develop our technologies, to discover and develop therapeutic product candidates, develop business collaborations and to acquire certain technologies and assets.

In February 2017, we completed a public offering generating net proceeds of approximately $20.9 million through the issuance of 22,772,300 shares of common stock at an offering price of $1.01 per share.

We have an equity purchase agreement with Aspire Capital Fund, LLC, or Aspire Capital, whereby Aspire Capital is committed to purchase up to an aggregate of $30 million of shares of our common stock over a three-year period ending in January 2019, subject to our election to sell any such shares.

Under the agreement, we have the right to sell shares, subject to certain volume limitations and a minimum floor price, at a modest discount to the prevailing market price. During the three-month period ended September 30, 2017, we generated proceeds aggregating $6.6 million from sales of our common stock to Aspire Capital.

In connection with our January 2016 license agreement with Healios, we received an up-front cash payment of $15 million from Healios, and the collaboration can be expanded at Healios' election. If Healios expands the collaboration, we will be entitled to receive an additional cash payment of $10 million, royalties from product sales, success-based development, regulatory approval and sales milestones, and payments for product supply for the additional indications. Healios may exercise its option to expand the collaboration after the receipt of the initial results from Athersys' ongoing ARDS clinical trial. We are also entitled to receive a fractional royalty percentage on net sales of the "organ bud" products.

For the ischemic stroke indication, we may also receive success-based development and regulatory approval milestones potential sales milestones from Healios and tiered royalties on product sales, starting in the low double digits and increasing incrementally into the high teens depending on net sales levels. Additionally, we receive payments for product supplied to Healios under a manufacturing supply agreement, which is initially focused on clinical product supply, and in 2017, we agreed to a cost-sharing arrangement with Healios for clinical product for its TREASURE trial in Japan that may impact the amount of proceeds we receive from future milestones.

Under the terms of our RTI agreement, we are eligible to receive cash payments aggregating up to $35.5 million upon the successful achievement of certain commercial milestones. The first commercial milestone was achieved in the first quarter of 2017 in the amount of $1.0 million, which we received in April 2017. However, there can be no assurance that additional milestones will be achieved. In addition, we continue to receive tiered royalties on worldwide commercial sales of implants using our technologies based on a royalty rate starting in the mid-single digits and increasing into the mid-teens.

We remain entitled to receive license fees for targets that were delivered to Bristol-Myers Squibb under our completed 2001 collaboration, as well as milestone payments and royalties on compounds developed by Bristol-Myers Squibb using our technology, though there can be no assurance that we will achieve any such milestones or royalties. Bristol-Myers Squibb still has a few active programs using our cell lines, and during 2016, we received a $0.6 million milestone payment related to this collaboration.

We are obligated to pay the University of Minnesota a sublicense fee or a royalty based on worldwide commercial sales of licensed products if covered by a valid licensed patent. The low single-digit royalty rate may be reduced if third-party payments for intellectual property rights are necessary or commercially desirable to permit the manufacture or sale of the product. As of September 30, 2017, we have paid no royalties to the University of Minnesota and have paid sublicense fees from time-to-time in connection with our collaborations. In connection with our expanding intellectual property portfolio, we periodically enter into other academic license agreements, which are typically specific to patents in a specific field.

In 2015, we and another company were awarded a grant from Innovate UK as partial support of our Phase 1/2 clinical study evaluating the administration of MultiStem cell therapy to ARDS patients. The grant is expected to provide up to approximately £2.0 million in support (of which £0.75 million is our portion) over the course of the study, the majority of which has been received, and the study is currently enrolling patients.

We will require substantial additional funding in order to continue our research and product development programs, including preclinical evaluation and clinical trials of our product candidates and manufacturing process development. At September 30, 2017, we had available investments and cash and cash equivalents of $28.2 million, and we intend to meet our short-term liquidity needs with available cash. Over the longer term, we will make use of available cash, but will have to continue to generate additional funding to meet our needs, through business development, achievement of milestones under our collaborations, and grant-funding opportunities. Additionally, we may raise capital from time to time through our equity purchase agreement with Aspire Capital, subject to its volume and price limitations. We also manage our cash by deferring certain discretionary costs and staging certain development costs to extend our operational runway, as needed. Over time, we may consider the sale of additional equity securities, or possibly borrowing from financing institutions.

Our capital requirements over time depend on a number of factors, including progress in our clinical development programs, our clinical and preclinical pipeline of additional opportunities and their stage of development, additional external costs such as payments to contract research organizations and contract manufacturing organizations, additional personnel costs and the costs in filing and prosecuting patent applications and enforcing patent claims. The availability of funds impacts our ability to advance multiple clinical programs concurrently, and any shortfall in funding could result in our having to delay or curtail research and development efforts. Further, these requirements may change at any time due to technological advances, business development activity or competition from other companies. We cannot assure you that adequate funding will be available to us or, if available, that it will be available on acceptable terms.

We expect to continue to incur substantial losses through at least the next several years and may incur losses in subsequent periods. The amount and timing of our future losses are highly uncertain. Our ability to achieve and thereafter sustain profitability will be dependent upon, among other things, successfully developing, commercializing and obtaining regulatory approval or clearances for our technologies and products resulting from these technologies.

Cash Flow Analysis

Net cash used in operating activities was $17.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and $4.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2016, reflecting the approximately $15 million of cash received from Healios in January 2016, the $1.0 million commercial milestone received from RTI in April 2017, other contract and deferred revenues received in the first half of 2017, and the variation in the use of cash to fund preclinical and clinical development activities. Net cash used in operating activities may fluctuate significantly on a quarter-to-quarter basis, as it has over the past several years, primarily due to the receipt of collaboration fees and payment of specific clinical trial costs, such as clinical manufacturing campaigns, contract research organization costs and manufacturing process development projects.

Net cash used in investing activities was $0.2 million and $12.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The decrease in the 2017 period related to a net decrease of $11.1 million of investment purchases, with the remainder of the increase related to purchases of equipment primarily for our process development projects and as replacements for assets damaged in the 2016 flood damage. Purchases of equipment, net of insurance proceeds received, were $0.2 million for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2017, compared to $1.1 million for the comparable prior year period.

Financing activities provided cash of $31.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017, including $20.9 million of net proceeds from the February 2017 stock offering, equity sales to Aspire Capital under our equity purchase agreement and the exercise of common stock warrants, net of shares retained for withholding tax payments on stock-based awards. Financing activities provided cash of $2.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2016 related primarily to equity sales to Aspire Capital under our equity purchase agreement and the exercise of common stock warrants, net of shares retained for withholding tax payments on stock-based awards.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We have no off-balance sheet arrangements.

Critical Accounting Policies and Management Estimates

The Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, defines critical accounting policies as those that are, in management's view, important to the portrayal of our financial condition and results of operations and demanding of management's judgment. Our discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations are based on our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates on experience and on various assumptions that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from those estimates. A description of these accounting policies and estimates is included in Item 7 "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016. There have been no material changes in our accounting policies and estimates as described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016. For additional information regarding our accounting policies, see Note B to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Cautionary Note on Forward-Looking Statements

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that involve risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements relate to, among other things, the expected timetable for development of our product candidates, our growth strategy, and our future financial performance, including our operations, economic performance, financial condition, prospects, and other future events. We have attempted to identify forward-looking statements by using such words as "anticipates," "believes," "can," "continue," "could," "estimates," "expects," "intends," "may," "plans," "potential," "should," "suggest," "will," or other similar expressions. These forward-looking statements are only predictions and are largely based on our current expectations. These forward-looking statements appear in a number of places in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

In addition, a number of known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors could affect the accuracy of these statements. Some of the more significant known risks that we face are the risks and uncertainties inherent in the process of discovering, developing, and commercializing products that are safe and effective for use as human therapeutics, including the uncertainty regarding market acceptance of our product candidates and our ability to generate revenues. These risks may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance, or achievements to differ materially from any future results, levels of activity, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements.

Other important factors to consider in evaluating our forward-looking statements include:

- our ability to raise capital to fund our operations;

- the timing and nature of results from our MultiStem clinical trials, including the MASTERS-2 Phase 3 clinical trial and the Healios TREASURE clinical trial in Japan;
- the possibility of delays in, adverse results of, and excessive costs of the development process;
- our ability to successfully initiate and complete clinical trials of our product candidates;
- the possibility of delays, work stoppages or interruptions in manufacturing by third parties or us, such as due to material supply constraints or regulatory issues;
- uncertainty regarding market acceptance of our product candidates and our ability to generate revenues, including MultiStem cell therapy for the treatment of stroke, AMI and ARDS, and the prevention of GvHD and other disease indications;
- changes in external market factors;
- changes in our industry's overall performance;
- changes in our business strategy;
- our ability to protect and defend our intellectual property and related business operations, including the successful prosecution of our patent applications and enforcement of our patent rights, and operate our business in an environment of rapid technology and intellectual property development;
- our possible inability to realize commercially valuable discoveries in our collaborations with pharmaceutical and other biotechnology companies;
- our ability to meet milestones and earn royalties under our collaboration agreements, including the success of our collaboration with Healios;
- our collaborators' ability to continue to fulfill their obligations under the terms of our collaboration agreements;
- the success of our efforts to enter into new strategic partnerships and advance our programs, including, without limitation, in the United States, Europe and Japan;
- our possible inability to execute our strategy due to changes in our industry or the economy generally;
- changes in productivity and reliability of suppliers; and
- the success of our competitors and the emergence of new competitors.

Although we currently believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee our future results, levels of activity or performance. We undertake no obligation to publicly update forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law. You are advised, however, to consult any further disclosures we make on related subjects in our reports on Forms 10-Q, 8-K and 10-K filed with or furnished to the SEC. You should understand that it is not possible to predict or identify all risk factors. Consequently, you should not consider any such list to be a complete set of all potential risks or uncertainties.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

Interest Rate Risk

We invest our cash from time to time in conservative portfolios. We had no investments at September 30, 2017.

We enter into loan arrangements with financial institutions when needed and when available to us, and we had no borrowings outstanding at September 30, 2017.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

Disclosure controls and procedures

Our management, under the supervision of and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and our Senior Vice President of Finance, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Based upon this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Senior Vice President of Finance have concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

Changes in internal control over financial reporting

During the last fiscal quarter covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, there has been no change in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

During the quarter ended September 30, 2017, we sold an aggregate of 3,700,000 shares of common stock to Aspire Capital under our equity purchase agreement, generating aggregate proceeds of $6.6 million. Each issuance of these unregistered shares qualifies as an exempt transaction pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933. Each issuance qualified for exemption under Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933 because none involved a public offering. Each offering was not a public offering due to the number of persons involved, the manner of the issuance and the number of securities issued. In addition, in each case Aspire Capital had the necessary investment intent.

Item 6. Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	Description
10.1	First Amendment to the License Agreement, by and between ABT Holding Company and HEALIOS, K.K., dated as of July 21, 2017.
10.2	Second Amendment to the License Agreement, by and between ABT Holding Company and HEALIOS, K.K., dated as of September 19, 2017.
31.1	Certification of Gil Van Bokkelen, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to SEC Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification of Laura K. Campbell, Senior Vice President of Finance, pursuant to SEC Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification of Gil Van Bokkelen, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and Laura Campbell, Senior Vice President of Finance, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

SIGNATURES

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

ATHERSYS, INC.

Date: November 8, 2017

/s/ Gil Van Bokkelen

Gil Van Bokkelen
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
(principal executive officer authorized to sign on behalf of the registrant)

/s/ Laura K. Campbell

Laura K. Campbell
Senior Vice President of Finance
(principal financial and accounting officer authorized to sign on behalf of the registrant)

EXHIBIT 10.1

FIRST AMENDMENT TO LICENSE AGREEMENT

This First Amendment to the License Agreement (the " ***First Amendment*** ") is dated July 21, 2017 and amends the License Agreement dated January 8, 2016 (the " ***Agreement*** ") by and between ABT Holding Company (" ***ATHX*** "), a Delaware corporation having its principal place of business at 3201 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115 and wholly-owned subsidiary of Athersys, Inc. (" ***Athersys*** "), and HEALIOS, K.K. (" ***Healios*** "), a Japanese company having its principal place of business at World Trade Center Bldg. 15F, 2-4-1 Hamamatsucho, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-6115 Japan. All defined terms used but not defined in this First Amendment shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.

WHEREAS , the parties have entered into the Agreement, under the terms and conditions of which the parties continue to perform; and

WHEREAS , the Parties wish to amend certain provisions of the Agreement related to the supply of Product in accordance with discussions between the Parties and the separate Clinical Trial Supply Agreement, dated January 19, 2017, as amended.

NOW, THEREFORE , in consideration of the above premises and the mutual promises set forth below, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree to amend the Agreement as follows:

1. Section 10.4(a) shall be amended as follows:

(a) For Products supplied for use in any clinical development or clinical study of the subject Product, a "Clinical Trial Supply Agreement" shall be established by the Parties, and the transfer price and/or cost reimbursement (together with other terms and conditions of Product and materials supply) shall be included in such agreement. The cost per dose will be defined in the "Clinical Trial Supply Agreement" in an amount acceptable to Healios, and reflecting reimbursement for a portion of the manufacturing costs. The Parties will review and adjust, if necessary, such cost approximately each calendar quarter (until the Product has achieved approval).

2. Section 10.5 of the Agreement shall be amended as follows:

ATHX and its Affiliates will use commercially reasonable efforts to be able to supply the Products pursuant to Section 10.4(a) to Healios for use in the Primary Field in the Territory at a Cost of Supply equal to or less than the amount per dose specified according to Section 10.4(a). If despite such efforts ATHX determines that neither ATHX nor any of its Affiliates (including through use of one or more Third Party Manufacturer(s)) will be able to supply to Healios Products pursuant to Section 10.4(a) for use in the Primary Field in the Territory at a price that is equal to or less than the amount per dose specified according to Section 10.4(a), then ATHX will notify Healios promptly and provide the reason(s) why. If ATHX or any of its Affiliates does not supply any of the Products pursuant to Section 10.4(a) to Healios at a cost that is equal to or less than the amount per dose specified according to Section 10.4(a) or at such other transfer

price or cost reimbursement that is otherwise acceptable to Healios as indicated by written agreement, then the sole and exclusive remedy of Healios will be that ATHX will grant to Healios the licenses set forth in Section 2.2 and 3.2 to make and have made such Products so affected anywhere in the world solely for import into the Territory for use in the Primary Field in the Territory.

Upon execution of this First Amendment by the parties, this First Amendment shall be made a part of and shall be incorporated by reference into the Agreement. All terms and conditions of the Agreement not amended herby shall remain in full force and effect and are hereby ratified by the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF , the parties have caused this Amendment to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

HEALIOS K.K.

Signature: /s/ Hardy TS Kagimoto
Name: Hardy TS Kagimoto
Title: President & CEO
Date: August 3, 2017

ABT HOLDING COMPANY

Signature: /s/ William O. Lehmann
Name: William O. Lehmann, Jr.
Title: President
Date: August 3, 2017

EXHIBIT 10.2

SECOND AMENDMENT TO LICENSE AGREEMENT

This Second Amendment to the License Agreement (the " ***Second Amendment*** ") is dated September 19, 2017 and amends the License Agreement dated January 8, 2016 (the " ***Agreement*** "), as amended, by and between ABT Holding Company (" ***ATHX*** "), a Delaware corporation having its principal place of business at 3201 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115 and wholly-owned subsidiary of Athersys, Inc. (" ***Athersys*** "), and HEALIOS, K.K. (" ***Healios*** "), a Japanese company having its principal place of business at World Trade Center Bldg. 15F, 2-4-1 Hamamatsucho, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-6115 Japan. All defined terms used but not defined in this Second Amendment shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.

WHEREAS , the Parties have entered into the Agreement, under the terms and conditions of which the Parties continue to perform; and

WHEREAS , the Parties wish to amend a certain provision of the Agreement in connection with execution of the Manufacturing Technology Transfer Agreement, dated September 26, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE , in consideration of the above premises and the mutual promises set forth below, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree to amend the Agreement as follows:

1. Section 2.2 (f) shall be added as follows:

(f) ATHX is acquired by a non-Affiliated third party, and such license grant shall become effective simultaneously with such acquisition.

Upon execution of this Second Amendment by the Parties, this Second Amendment shall be made a part of and shall be incorporated by reference into the Agreement. All terms and conditions of the Agreement not amended herby shall remain in full force and effect and are hereby ratified by the Parties.

[**SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE**]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF , the Parties have caused this Second Amendment to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

HEALIOS K.K.

Signature: /s/ Hardy TS Kagimoto
Name: Hardy TS Kagimoto
Title: President & CEO
Date: September 25, 2017

ABT HOLDING COMPANY

Signature: /s/ William O. Lehmann
Name: William O. Lehmann, Jr.
Title: President
Date: September 26, 2017

EXHIBIT 31.1

CERTIFICATIONS

I, Gil Van Bokkelen, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Athersys, Inc.;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

   (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

   (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

   (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

   (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

   (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

   (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

November 8, 2017

/s/ Gil Van Bokkelen

Gil Van Bokkelen
Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors

EXHIBIT 31.2

CERTIFICATIONS

I, Laura K. Campbell, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Athersys, Inc.;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

   (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

   (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

   (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

   (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

   (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

   (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

November 8, 2017

/s/ Laura K. Campbell

Laura K. Campbell
Senior Vice President of Finance

EXHIBIT 32.1

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Quarterly Report of Athersys, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2017, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), each of the undersigned officers of the Company certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to such officer's knowledge:

(1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and

(2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company as of the dates and for the periods expressed in the Report.

Date: November 8, 2017

/s/ Gil Van Bokkelen
Name: Gil Van Bokkelen
Title: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Laura K. Campbell
Name: Laura K. Campbell
Title: Senior Vice President of Finance

The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 and is not being filed as part of the Report or as a separate disclosure document.