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

**FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER THE
SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

ARCUTIS BIOTHERAPEUTICS, INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

81-2974255
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

**2945 Townsgate Road, Suite 110
Westlake Village, California 91361
(805) 418-5006**

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

**2017 Equity Incentive Plan
2020 Equity Incentive Plan
2020 Employee Stock Purchase Plan**
(Full title of the plans)

**Todd Franklin Watanabe
Chief Executive Officer
Arcutis Biotherapeutics, Inc.
2945 Townsgate Road, Suite 110
Westlake Village, California 91361
(805) 418-5006**

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

Please send copies of all communications to:

**Matthew S. Rossiter, Esq.
Robert Freedman, Esq.
Julia Forbess, Esq.
Fenwick & West LLP
555 California Street, 12th Floor
San Francisco, California 94104
(415) 875-2300**

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, anon-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definition of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer", "smaller reporting company", and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer

Accelerated filer
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 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share				
— To be issued under the 2020 Equity Incentive Plan	3,646,650(2)	\$17.00(3)	\$61,993,050.00(3)	\$8,047.00
— Outstanding under the 2020 Equity Incentive Plan	37,500(4)	\$17.00(5)	\$637,500.00(5)	\$83.00
— To be issued under the 2020 Employee Stock Purchase Plan	351,000(6)	\$14.45(7)	\$5,071,950.00(7)	\$659.00
— Outstanding under the 2017 Equity Incentive Plan	2,473,911(8)	\$3.47(9)	\$ 8,595,902.00(9)	\$1,116.00
Total	6,509,061		\$76,298,402.00	\$9,905.00

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “*Securities Act*”), this Registration Statement shall also cover any additional shares of the Registrant’s common stock that becomes issuable in respect of the securities identified in the above table by reason of any stock dividend, stock split, recapitalization or other similar transaction effected without the receipt of consideration that increases the number of the Registrant’s outstanding shares of common stock.
- (2) Shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the 2020 Equity Incentive Plan (the “*2020 Plan*”) consists of (a) 2,096,500 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under the 2020 Plan and (b) 1,550,150 shares of common stock previously reserved but unissued under the 2017 Equity Incentive Plan (the “*2017 Plan*”) that are now available for issuance under the 2020 Plan. In addition, any shares of common stock that (i) are subject to options or other awards granted under the 2017 Plan that cease to be subject to such options or other awards by forfeiture or otherwise, (ii) were or are issued under the 2017 Plan pursuant to the exercise of options that are forfeited or repurchased at the original issue price, or (iii) are subject to options under the 2017 Plan and are used to pay the exercise price of an option or withheld to satisfy tax withholding obligations related to any award will be available for future grant and issuance under the 2020 Plan. See footnote 8 below.
- (3) Calculated solely for the purpose of this offering under Rule 457(h) of the Securities Act on the basis of the initial public offering price per share of \$17.00.
- (4) Represents shares of common stock reserved for issuance pursuant to outstanding stock option awards under the 2020 Plan.
- (5) Calculated solely for the purpose of this offering under Rule 457(h) of the Securities Act and based upon the exercise price of \$17.00 per share.
- (6) Represents shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the 2020 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the “*ESPP*”) as of the date of this Registration Statement.
- (7) Calculated solely for the purpose of this offering under Rule 457(h) of the Securities Act on the basis of the initial public offering price per share of the Registrant’s common stock multiplied by 85%, which is the percentage of the price per share applicable to purchases under the ESPP.
- (8) Represents shares of common stock reserved for issuance pursuant to outstanding stock option awards under the 2017 Plan as of the date of this Registration Statement. Any such shares of common stock that (i) are subject to options under the 2017 Plan that cease to be subject to such options by forfeiture or otherwise, (ii) were or are issued under the 2017 Plan pursuant to the exercise of options and are forfeited or repurchased at the original issue price, or (iii) are subject to options under the 2017 Plan and are used to pay the exercise price of an option or withheld to satisfy tax withholding obligations relating to any awards will be available for issuance under the 2020 Plan. See footnote 2 above.
- (9) Calculated solely for the purpose of this offering under Rule 457(h) of the Securities Act on the basis of the weighted average exercise price for outstanding stock option awards of \$3.47 per share (rounded up to the nearest cent) as of the date of this Registration Statement.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The information called for by Part I of Form S-8 is omitted from this Registration Statement in accordance with Rule 428 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and the instructions to Form S-8. In accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") and the instructions to Form S-8, such documents are not being filed with the Commission either as part of this Registration Statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424. The documents containing the information specified in Part I of Form S-8 will be delivered to the participants in the equity benefit plans covered by this Registration Statement as specified by Rule 428(b)(1) under the Securities Act.

PART II
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents filed by the Registrant with the Commission pursuant to the Securities Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act") are incorporated herein by reference:

- (a) the Registrant's prospectus to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act relating to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-235806), which contains audited financial statements for the Registrant's latest fiscal year for which such statements have been filed; and
- (b) The description of the Registrant's common stock contained in the Registrant's registration statement on [Form 8-A](#) (File No. 001-39186) filed on January 21, 2020 under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents filed by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act subsequent to the filing of this Registration Statement and prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing such documents, except as to specific sections of such documents as set forth therein. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained in any subsequently filed document which also is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

The Registrant is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law authorizes a court to award, or a corporation's board of directors to grant, indemnity to directors and officers under certain circumstances and subject to certain limitations. The terms of Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law are sufficiently broad to permit indemnification under certain circumstances for liabilities, including reimbursement of expenses incurred, arising under the Securities Act.

As permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Registrant's restated certificate of incorporation includes a provision that eliminates, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the personal liability of a director for monetary damages resulting from breach of his or her fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability:

- for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Registrant or its stockholders;
- for acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (regarding unlawful dividends, stock purchases or redemptions); or
- for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

As permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Registrant's restated bylaws provide that:

- the Registrant is required to indemnify its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, subject to certain very limited exceptions;
- the Registrant may indemnify its other employees and agents as set forth in the Delaware General Corporation Law;
- the Registrant is required to advance expenses, as incurred, to its directors and officers in connection with a legal proceeding to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, subject to certain very limited exceptions; and
- the rights conferred in the Registrant's restated bylaws are not exclusive.

In addition, the Registrant intends to enter into indemnification agreements with each of its current directors and executive officers. These agreements will provide for the indemnification of directors and executive officers for all reasonable expenses and liabilities incurred in connection with any action or proceeding brought against them by reason of the fact that they are or were agents of the Registrant.

The Registrant currently carries liability insurance for its directors and executive officers for securities matters.

The indemnification provisions in the Registrant's restated certificate of incorporation and restated bylaws and the indemnification agreements to be entered into between the Registrant and each of its directors and executive officers is sufficiently broad to permit indemnification of the Registrant's directors and executive officers for liabilities arising under the Securities Act.

See also the undertakings set out in response to Item 9 hereof.

Item 7. Exemption From Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

The following exhibits are filed herewith:

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Incorporated by Reference				Filed Herewith
		Form	File No.	Exhibit	Filing Date	
4.1	Form of Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant	S-1	333-235806	3.2	1/6/2020	
4.2	Form of Restated Bylaws of the Registrant	S-1	333-235806	3.4	1/6/2020	
4.3	Form of Registrant's Common Stock certificate	S-1/A	333-235806	4.1	1/21/2020	
5.1	Opinion of Fenwick & West LLP					X
23.1	Consent of Fenwick & West LLP (contained in Exhibit 5.1)					X
23.2	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm					X
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page to this Registration Statement)					X
99.1	2017 Stock Incentive Plan, and forms of award agreements thereunder	S-1	333-235806	10.2	1/6/2020	
99.2	2020 Equity Incentive Plan and forms of award agreements thereunder	S-1/A	333-235806	10.3	1/21/2020	
99.3	2020 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and forms of award agreements thereunder	S-1/A	333-235806	10.4	1/21/2020	

Item 9. Undertakings.

A. The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

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

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a

fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in the volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective Registration Statement;

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

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

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

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

B. The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

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

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Westlake Village, State of California, on this 30th day of January, 2020.

ARCUTIS BIOTHERAPEUTICS, INC.

By: /s/ Todd Franklin Watanabe
Todd Franklin Watanabe
President and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Todd Franklin Watanabe and John W. Smither, and each of them, as his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent with full power of substitution, for him or her in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-8, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully for all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agent, or his or her substitute, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ Todd Franklin Watanabe</u> Todd Franklin Watanabe	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	January 30, 2020
<u>/s/ John W. Smither</u> John W. Smither	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	January 30, 2020
<u>/s/ Patrick J. Heron</u> Patrick J. Heron	Director	January 30, 2020
<u>/s/ Alexander G. Asam, Ph.D</u> Alexander G. Asam, Ph.D	Director	January 30, 2020
<u>/s/ Bhaskar Chaudhuri, Ph.D.</u> Bhaskar Chaudhuri, Ph.D.	Director	January 30, 2020
<u>/s/ Daniel J. Estes, Ph.D.</u> Daniel J. Estes, Ph.D.	Director	January 30, 2020
<u>/s/ Jonathan T. Silverstein, J.D.</u> Jonathan T. Silverstein, J.D.	Director	January 30, 2020
<u>/s/ Ricky Sun, Ph.D.</u> Ricky Sun, Ph.D.	Director	January 30, 2020



555 CALIFORNIA STREET, 12TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104
TEL 415.875.2300 FAX 415.281.1350 WWW.FENWICK.COM

January 30, 2020

Arcutis Biotherapeutics, Inc.
2945 Townsgate Road, Suite 110
Westlake Village, CA 91361

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At your request, as your counsel, we have examined the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "**Registration Statement**") to be filed by Arcutis Biotherapeutics, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "**Company**") with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "**Commission**") on or about January 30, 2020 in connection with the registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "**Securities Act**"), of an aggregate of 6,509,061 shares (the "**Shares**") of the Company's Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share (the "**Common Stock**"), subject to issuance by the Company (a) upon the exercise or settlement of awards granted or to be granted under the 2020 Equity Incentive Plan (the "**2020 Plan**"), (b) upon the exercise of outstanding stock options granted under the 2017 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended to date (the "**2017 Plan**") and (c) pursuant to purchase rights to acquire shares of Common Stock to be granted under the Company's 2020 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "**Purchase Plan**"). The plans referred to in clauses (a) through (c) above are collectively referred to in this letter as the ("**Plans**").

At your request we are providing this letter to express our opinion on the matters set forth below in this letter (*our opinion*).

In connection with our opinion, we have examined such matters of fact as we have deemed necessary, which included examination of originals or copies of: (a) the Company's current Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws, as amended (collectively, the "**Charter Documents**"), the Plans, the Registration Statement and the exhibits thereto, (b) certain corporate proceedings of the Company's Board of Directors (the "**Board**") and the Company's stockholders relating to adoption or approval of the Company Charter Documents, the Plans, the reservation of the Shares for sale and issuance, the filing of the Registration Statement and the registration of the Shares under the Securities Act and documents regarding the Company's outstanding and reserved capital stock and other securities and (c) such other documents as we have deemed advisable, and we have examined such questions of law as we have considered necessary.

In our examination of documents for purposes of this opinion, we have assumed, and express no opinion as to, the authenticity and completeness of all documents submitted to us as originals, the genuineness of signatures on documents reviewed by us, the conformity to originals and the completeness of all documents submitted to us as copies, the legal capacity of all parties executing any documents (other than the Company), the lack of any undisclosed termination or modification or waiver of any document, the absence of any extrinsic agreements or documents that might change or affect the interpretation or terms of documents, and the due authorization, execution and delivery of all documents by each party thereto other than the Company. We have also assumed that any certificates or instruments representing the Shares, when issued, will be executed by the Company and by officers of the Company duly authorized to do so. In rendering our opinion, we have also relied upon a Certificate of Good

Standing dated January 27, 2020 issued by the Delaware Secretary of State with respect to the Company and representations and certifications made to us by the Company, including without limitation representations in a Management Certificate addressed to us of even date herewith that the Company has available a sufficient number of authorized shares of Common Stock that are not currently outstanding or reserved for issuance under other outstanding securities or plans of the Company, to enable the Company to issue and deliver all of the Shares as of the date of this letter.

We render this opinion only with respect to, and we express no opinion herein concerning the application or effect of the laws of any jurisdiction other than, the existing Delaware General Corporation Law now in effect. We express no opinion with respect to the securities or "blue sky" laws of any state.

Based upon, and subject to, the foregoing, it is our opinion that when the 6,509,061 Shares of Common Stock that may be issued and sold by the Company (a) upon the exercise or settlement of awards granted or to be granted under the 2020 Plan, (b) upon the exercise of outstanding stock options granted under the 2017 Plan and (c) pursuant to purchase rights to acquire shares of Common Stock to be granted under the Purchase Plan, have been issued and sold by the Company against the Company's receipt of payment therefor (in an amount and type of consideration not less than the par value per Share) in accordance with the terms (including, without limitation, payment and authorization provisions) of the applicable Plan, and have been duly registered on the books of the transfer agent and registrar for the Shares in the name or on behalf of the holders thereof, such Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

We consent to the use of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and further consent to all references to us, if any, in the Registration Statement, the prospectuses constituting a part thereof and any amendments thereto. We do not thereby admit that we are within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder. This opinion is intended solely for use in connection with issuance and sale of the Shares subject to the Registration Statement and is not to be relied upon for any other purpose. In providing this letter, we are opining only as to the specific legal issues expressly set forth above, and no opinion shall be inferred as to any other matter or matters. This opinion is rendered on, and speaks only as of, the date of this letter first written above, and does not address any potential change in facts or law that may occur after the date of this opinion letter. We assume no obligation to advise you of any fact, circumstance, event or change in the law or the facts that may hereafter be brought to our attention, whether or not such occurrence would affect or modify any of the opinions expressed herein.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Fenwick & West LLP

FENWICK & WEST LLP

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (FormS-8) pertaining to the 2017 Equity Incentive Plan, the 2020 Equity Incentive Plan, and the 2020 Employee Stock Purchase Plan of Arcutis Biotherapeutics, Inc. of our report dated September 9, 2019 (except for the retroactive effect of the 1-for-2 reverse stock split as described in Note 1, as to which the date is January 21, 2020), with respect to the financial statements of Arcutis Biotherapeutics, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2018 included in its Registration Statement on Form S-1, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Los Angeles, California
January 30, 2020