

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **December 11, 2017**

RIGEL PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

0-29889

(Commission File No.)

94-3248524

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

1180 Veterans Boulevard

South San Francisco, CA

(Address of principal executive offices)

94080

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(650) 624-1100**

Not Applicable

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

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

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

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.

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

(b), (e)

On December 11, 2017, Ryan Maynard informed Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (the "Company") of his intention to voluntarily resign from his position as the Company's Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Such resignation is expected to be effective as of December 31, 2017 (the "Separation Date") and is not due to a dispute or disagreement with the Company. The Company has initiated a replacement search and, as discussed below, Mr. Maynard has agreed to provide consulting services following the Separation Date to provide advice regarding the transition of responsibilities.

Subject to Mr. Maynard's continued employment through December 31, 2017 and in exchange for a full general release of claims and continued compliance with the Employee Confidential Information and Inventions Agreement, Mr. Maynard will receive: (i) a lump sum payment equal to nine months of his base salary in 2017; (ii) payments of COBRA premiums for Mr. Maynard and dependents for up to nine months following the Separation Date; (iii) accelerated vesting of any of Mr. Maynard's time-based stock option grants that would have vested through September 30, 2018; (iv) continued eligibility for vesting through September 30, 2018 of any of Mr. Maynard's performance-based stock option grants; (v) extended exercisability of the vested portion of such options until September 30, 2019; and (vi) a consulting agreement with the Company for six months to be used as needed by the Company for advice regarding the transition of responsibilities at a rate to be negotiated in good faith by the parties.

(c)

In connection with Mr. Maynard's resignation, Nelson Cabatuan, age 40, the Company's vice president of finance, will serve as the Interim Principal Accounting Officer, effective December 18, 2017. Mr. Cabatuan has served as the Company's Controller since November 1, 2014 and is a certified public accountant. Mr. Cabatuan joined Rigel in September 2008 as a senior SEC reporting manager.

There are no family relationships between Mr. Cabatuan and any director, executive officer, or any person nominated or chosen by the Company to become a director or executive officer. Mr. Cabatuan is not a party to any current or proposed transaction with the Company for which disclosure is required under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K. The Company has also entered into its standard form of indemnification agreement with Mr. Cabatuan.

A copy of the press release titled "Rigel Announces Departure of Chief Financial Officer" is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this current report on Form 8-K and is incorporated by reference herein.

Forward-Looking Statements

Statements in this report that are not strictly historical in nature constitute "forward-looking statements." Such statements include, but are not limited to the continuation of Mr. Maynard as an employee and future consultant of the Company. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors. More information about the risks the Company faces is included under the headings "Risk Factors" in the Company's most recently filed documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company is providing this information as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this report as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit	Description
99.1	Press Release, dated December 15, 2017, titled "Rigel Announces Departure of Chief Financial Officer."

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SIGNATURES

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

Dated: December 15, 2017

RIGEL PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

By: /s/ Dolly A. Vance
Dolly A. Vance
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

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Rigel Announces Departure of Chief Financial Officer***Launches Search for Chief Financial Officer with Commercial-Stage Expertise***

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., Dec. 15, 2017 /PRNewswire/ — Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: RIGL) today announced the resignation of Ryan Maynard, executive vice president and chief financial officer, effective December 31, 2017. Nelson Cabatuan, Rigel's vice president, finance will serve as the company's interim principal accounting officer.

"On behalf of the entire company, I want to thank Ryan for his significant contributions during his sixteen years at Rigel. We are grateful for his leadership and the opportunity to continue our relationship with him as he serves in a consultancy role during this changeover," stated Raul Rodriguez, president and chief executive officer of Rigel. "Given the recent financing, I believe Rigel has the financial resources to successfully prepare for the potential launch of fostamatinib for ITP, making the timing right for this transition."

The Company has initiated an external search for its next chief financial officer who is expected to have significant commercial experience.

About Rigel (www.rigel.com)

Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a biotechnology company dedicated to discovering, developing and providing novel small molecule drugs that significantly improve the lives of patients with immune and hematological disorders, cancer and rare diseases. Rigel's pioneering research focuses on signaling pathways that are critical to disease mechanisms. The company's current clinical programs include clinical trials of fostamatinib, an oral spleen tyrosine kinase (SYK) inhibitor, in a number of indications. Rigel has submitted and the FDA has accepted for review, an NDA for fostamatinib in patients with chronic or persistent immune thrombocytopenia (ITP). In addition, Rigel has product candidates in development with partners BerGenBio AS, Daiichi Sankyo and Aclaris Therapeutics.

Forward Looking Statements

This release contains forward-looking statements relating to, among other things, Rigel's ability to identify and retain a chief financial officer with significant commercial experience, Rigel's transition into a commercial stage company and its financial position to prepare for launch. Any statements contained in this press release that are not statements of historical fact may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Words such as "believe," "transform," "potential," "expect," and similar expressions are intended to identify these forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based on Rigel's current expectations and inherently involve significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results and the timing of events could differ materially from those anticipated in such forward looking statements as a result of these risks and uncertainties, which include, without limitation, the competitive market for executives in Rigel's industry and geography; the FDA may interpret Rigel's findings differently, which could result in the FDA not approving the NDA; the availability of resources to develop Rigel's product candidates; Rigel's need for additional capital in the future to sufficiently fund Rigel's operations and research; market competition; as well as other risks detailed from time to time in Rigel's reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2017. Rigel does not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking statements and expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein.

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