

IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

Form 424B5

November 26, 2018

[Table of Contents](#)

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated September 8, 2017)

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)

Registration Statement No. 333-219851

Idera Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

**Up to \$50,000,000
Common Stock**

We have entered into an equity distribution agreement, or Equity Distribution Agreement, with JMP Securities LLC, or JMP Securities, dated November 26, 2018, relating to the sale of shares of our common stock, \$0.001 par value per share, or the Common Stock, offered by this prospectus. In accordance with the terms of the Equity Distribution Agreement, under this prospectus supplement we may offer and sell shares of our Common Stock, having an aggregate offering price of up to \$50,000,000 from time to time through JMP Securities, acting as our agent.

Sales of our Common Stock, if any, under this prospectus supplement may be made in sales deemed to be at the market offerings as defined in Rule 415(a)(4) promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, including sales made directly on or through the Nasdaq Capital Market or any other existing trading market for our Common Stock. JMP Securities will use commercially reasonable efforts to sell on our behalf all of the shares of common stock requested to be sold by us, consistent with its normal trading and sales practices, on mutually agreed terms between JMP Securities and us. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in any escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

JMP Securities will be entitled to compensation at a commission rate of 3.0% of the gross sales price per share sold pursuant to the terms of the Equity Distribution Agreement. See Plan of Distribution beginning on page S-9 for additional information regarding the compensation to be paid to JMP Securities. In connection with the sale of the Common Stock on our behalf, JMP Securities will be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act and the compensation of JMP Securities will be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. We also have agreed to provide indemnification and contribution to JMP Securities with respect to certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Edgar Filing: IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

Our Common Stock is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol IDRA. The last reported sale price of our Common Stock on November 23, 2018 was \$7.30 per share.

Investing in our Common Stock involves significant risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement for a discussion of the factors you should consider before deciding to purchase our Common Stock.

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

JMP Securities

The date of this prospectus is November 26, 2018.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	S-1
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	S-2
<u>PROSPECTUS SUMMARY</u>	S-3
<u>THE OFFERING</u>	S-4
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	S-5
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	S-7
<u>DILUTION</u>	S-8
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	S-9
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	S-10
<u>EXPERTS</u>	S-10
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	S-10
<u>INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE</u>	S-11

Prospectus

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	iii
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	iv
<u>INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE</u>	iv
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	v
<u>SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.</u>	1
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	3
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	14
<u>FORMS OF SECURITIES</u>	15
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	17
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	20

EXPERTS

20

S-i

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus supplement relates to the offering of shares of our Common Stock. Before buying any shares of Common Stock offered hereby, we urge you to read carefully this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering, together with the information incorporated herein by reference as described under the headings *Where You Can Find More Information* and *Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference*. These documents contain important information that you should consider when making your investment decision. This prospectus supplement contains information about the Common Stock offered hereby.

You should rely only on the information that we have provided or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. We have not, and JMP Securities has not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it.

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the terms of this offering and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The second part, the accompanying prospectus dated September 8, 2017, including the documents incorporated by reference therein, provides more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. Generally, when we refer to this prospectus, we are referring to both parts of this document combined. To the extent there is a conflict between (i) the information contained in this prospectus supplement and (ii) the information contained in the accompanying prospectus or in any document incorporated by reference that was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, before the date of this prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement. If any statement in one of these documents is inconsistent with a statement in another document having a later date—for example, a document incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus—the statement in the document having the later date modifies or supersedes the earlier statement. Subsequent to the prospectus dated September 8, 2017, on July 27, 2018, the Company effected a one-for-eight reverse stock split of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock, as authorized at a special meeting of stockholders on June 20, 2018.

We are not making offers to sell or solicitations to buy our Common Stock in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making that offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation. You should assume that the information in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any related free writing prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front of the document and that any information that we have incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus, or any sale of a security.

Unless the context otherwise indicates, references in this prospectus to *we*, *our* and *us* collectively refer to Idera Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Delaware corporation.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included or incorporated by reference herein regarding our strategy, future operations, clinical trials, collaborations, intellectual property, cash resources, financial position, future revenues, projected costs, prospects, plans, and objectives of management are forward-looking statements. The words believes, anticipates, estimates, plans, expects, intends, may, could, should, likely, projects, continue, will, would and similar expressions, and the negatives thereof, are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. These statements are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts and projections about the industry in which we operate and the beliefs and assumptions of our management. We cannot guarantee that we actually will achieve the plans, intentions or expectations disclosed in our forward-looking statements and you should not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements. There are a number of important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those indicated or implied by forward-looking statements. Accordingly, you are cautioned that these forward-looking statements are only predictions and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are referenced in the section of any accompanying prospectus supplement entitled Risk Factors. These risks and uncertainties include, among other matters: (i) our ability to obtain additional funding to complete clinical trials and conduct clinical development; (ii) the cost, timing, and outcome of regulatory review; (iii) the success of our clinical trials; (iv) our ability to commercialize our product candidates; (v) market acceptance of our product candidates; (vi) competition from existing or new products; (vii) regulatory difficulties; (viii) potential product liability claims; (ix) our ability to establish or maintain collaborations, licensing or other agreements; (x) our ability to protect intellectual property rights; and (xi) our ability to attract and retain key personnel.

You should also carefully review the risk factors and cautionary statements described in the other documents we file from time to time with the SEC, specifically our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and our Current Reports on Form 8-K. In addition, any forward-looking statements represent our estimates only as of the date that this prospectus is filed with the SEC, and should not be relied upon as representing our estimates as of any subsequent date.

We do not assume any obligation to update any forward-looking statements. We disclaim any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights certain information about us, this offering, and selected information contained elsewhere in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that you should consider before deciding whether to invest in our Common Stock. For a more complete understanding of our company and this offering, we encourage you to read and consider carefully the more detailed information in this prospectus, including the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and the information included in any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering, including the information under the heading "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-5 and in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Our Business

We are a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company currently focused on the development, and ultimately the commercialization, of therapeutic drug candidates, including our Toll-like receptor, or TLR, agonist, tiltsotolimod (IMO-2125), for oncology. Our business strategy is focused on the clinical development, and ultimately the commercialization, of drug candidates for both oncology and rare disease indications characterized by small, well-defined patient populations with serious unmet medical needs. We believe we can develop and commercialize these targeted therapies on our own. To the extent we seek to develop drug candidates for broader disease indications, we have entered into and may explore additional collaborative alliances to support development and commercialization.

TLRs are key receptors of the immune system and play a role in innate and adaptive immunity. As a result, we believe TLRs are potential therapeutic targets for the treatment of a broad range of diseases. Using our chemistry-based platform, we have designed both TLR agonists and antagonists to act by modulating the activity of targeted TLRs. A TLR agonist is a compound that stimulates an immune response through the targeted TLR. A TLR antagonist is a compound that inhibits an immune response by blocking the targeted TLR.

Our current TLR-targeted clinical-stage drug candidate, tiltsotolimod, is an agonist of TLR9. We are developing tiltsotolimod, via intratumoral injection, for the treatment of anti-PD1 refractory metastatic melanoma in combination with ipilimumab, an anti-CTLA4 antibody marketed as Yervoy® by Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. We are also investigating the combination of intratumoral tiltsotolimod in combination with pembrolizumab, an anti-PD1 antibody marketed as Keytruda® by Merck & Co., Inc. for the treatment of anti-PD1 refractory metastatic melanoma and tiltsotolimod for the treatment of various solid tumors.

Corporate Information

Our principal executive office is located at 505 Eagleview Boulevard, Suite 212, Exton, Pennsylvania 19341, and our telephone number is (484) 348-1600.

Table of Contents

THE OFFERING

Common Stock offered by us:	Shares of Common Stock having an aggregate offering price of up to \$50,000,000.
Common Stock to be outstanding after this offering:	Up to 34,028,411 shares, assuming sales of 6,849,315 shares of Common Stock in this offering at an offering price of \$7.30 per share, which was the last reported sale price of our Common Stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market on November 23, 2018. The actual number of shares issued will vary depending on the sales price under this offering.
Manner of offering:	At the market offering made from time to time through our sales agent, JMP Securities LLC. See Plan of Distribution on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement.
Use of proceeds:	We intend to use the net proceeds received from the sale of our Common Stock for clinical development, general corporate purposes and working capital. See Use of Proceeds on page S-7.
Risk factors:	See Risk Factors beginning on page S-5 of this prospectus and the other information included in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus for a discussion of certain factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in shares of our Common Stock.
Nasdaq Capital Market symbol	IDRA

The number of shares of Common Stock to be outstanding after this offering, as set forth above, is based on 27,179,096 shares of Common Stock outstanding as of September 30, 2018, which amount excludes:

- 2,418,332 shares of our Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding under our 2013 Stock Incentive Plan as of September 30, 2018, at a weighted-average exercise price of \$17.77 per share, 1,111,469 options of which were exercisable as of such date;
- 904,843 shares of our Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options granted to certain senior executives and employees outside our 2013 Stock Incentive Plan as of September 30, 2018, at a weighted-average exercise price of \$23.44 per share, 847,615 options of which were exercisable as of such date;
- 941,192 shares of our Common Stock reserved for issuance of new awards under our 2013 Stock Incentive Plan as of September 30, 2018;
- 38,763 shares of our Common Stock reserved for issuance of new shares under our 2017 Employee Stock Purchase Plan as of September 30, 2018;

- 241 shares of our Common Stock reserved as of September 30, 2018 for issuance upon any conversion of our outstanding Series A convertible preferred stock; and
- 2,768,882 shares of our Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding warrants as of September 30, 2018, at a weighted-average exercise price of \$0.08 per share, all of which were exercisable as of that date.

To the extent outstanding warrants or options are exercised, there will be further dilution to new investors. In addition, to the extent that we issue additional equity securities in connection with future capital raising activities, our then-existing stockholders may experience dilution.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our Common Stock involves a high degree of risk. Before deciding whether to invest in our Common Stock, you should carefully consider the risks described below and discussed under the sections captioned "Risk Factors" contained in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as well as in any of our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety, together with other information in this prospectus, the information and documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and in any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering. If any of these risks actually occurs, our business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flow could be seriously harmed. This could cause the trading price of our Common Stock to decline, resulting in a loss of all or part of your investment.

We have broad discretion in the use of the net proceeds of this offering and, despite our efforts, we may use the proceeds in a manner that does not improve our operating results or increase the value of your investment.

We currently anticipate that the net proceeds from the sale of our Common Stock will be used primarily for funding ongoing clinical development of IMO-2125 and for general corporate and working capital purposes. However, we have not determined the specific allocation of the net proceeds among these potential uses. Our management will have broad discretion over the use and investment of the net proceeds of this offering, and, accordingly, investors in this offering will need to rely upon the judgment of our management with respect to the use of proceeds, with only limited information concerning our specific intentions. These proceeds could be applied in ways that do not improve our operating results or increase the value of your investment. Please see the section entitled "Use of Proceeds" on page S-7 for further information.

If you purchase the Common Stock sold in this offering, you will experience immediate dilution as a result of this offering and future equity issuances. Our existing stockholders may also experience dilution as a result of future issuances of Common Stock or other equity securities.

Because the price per share of our Common Stock being offered may be higher than the book value per share of our Common Stock, you may suffer immediate substantial dilution in the net tangible book value of the Common Stock you purchase in this offering. See the section entitled "Dilution" below for a more detailed discussion of the dilution you will incur if you purchase Common Stock in this offering.

The issuance of additional shares of our Common Stock could be dilutive to stockholders if they do not invest in future offerings. Moreover, to the extent that we issue options or warrants to purchase, or securities convertible into or exchangeable for, shares of our Common Stock in the future and those options, warrants or other securities are exercised, converted or exchanged, stockholders may experience further dilution.

In order to raise additional capital, we may in the future offer, issue or sell additional shares of Common Stock or other securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of our Common Stock. We cannot assure you that we will be able to sell shares or other securities in any other transaction at a price per share or that have an exercise price or conversion price per share that is equal to or greater than the price for the securities purchased by investors in this offering, and investors purchasing shares or other securities in the future could have rights superior to existing stockholders. The price per share at which we sell or issue additional shares of Common Stock or other securities convertible into or exchangeable for our Common Stock in future transactions may be higher or lower than such price.

Sales of a significant number of shares of our Common Stock in the public markets, or the perception that such sales could occur, could depress the market price of our Common Stock.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our Common Stock in the public markets could depress the market price of our Common Stock and impair our ability to raise capital through the sale of additional equity securities. We cannot predict the effect that future sales of our Common Stock would have on the market price of our Common Stock.

S-5

Table of Contents

We do not intend to pay any cash dividends on our Common Stock in the foreseeable future and, therefore, any return on your investment in our Common Stock must come from increases in the fair market value and trading price of our Common Stock.

We do not intend to pay any cash dividends on our Common Stock in the foreseeable future and, therefore, any return on your investment in our Common Stock must come from increases in the fair market value and trading price of our Common Stock.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We may issue and sell shares of our Common Stock having aggregate sales proceeds of up to \$50,000,000 from time to time. Because there is no minimum offering amount required as a condition to close this offering, the actual total public offering amount, commissions and proceeds to us, if any, are not determinable at this time.

We currently estimate that we will use the net proceeds from this offering to advance the development of IMO-2125 in our immuno-oncology program and for general corporate and working capital purposes.

The amounts and timing of our actual expenditures will depend on numerous factors, including the progress of our clinical trials and other development efforts and other factors described under **Risk Factors** in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein, as well as the amount of cash used in our operations. We may find it necessary or advisable to use the net proceeds for other purposes, and we will have broad discretion in the application of the net proceeds. Pending the uses described above, we may invest the net proceeds from this offering in investment-grade, interest-bearing securities.

Table of Contents**DILUTION**

If you invest in our Common Stock, your interest will be diluted to the extent of the difference between the price per share you pay in this offering and the net tangible book value per share of our Common Stock immediately after this offering. Our net tangible book value of our Common Stock as of September 30, 2018 was approximately \$74.9 million, or approximately \$2.75 per share of Common Stock based upon 27,179,096 shares outstanding. Net tangible book value per share is equal to our total tangible assets, less our total liabilities, divided by the total number of shares outstanding as of September 30, 2018.

After giving effect to the sale of our Common Stock in the aggregate amount of \$50,000,000 at an assumed offering price of \$7.30 per share, the last reported sale price of our Common Stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market on November 23, 2018, and after deducting commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us, our as adjusted net tangible book value as of November 23, 2018 would have been \$123.2 million, or \$3.62 per share of Common Stock. This represents an immediate increase in net tangible book value of \$0.87 per share to our existing stockholders and an immediate dilution in net tangible book value of \$3.68 per share to new investors in this offering. The following table illustrates this calculation on a per share basis. The as adjusted information is illustrative only and will adjust based on the actual price to the public, the actual number of shares sold and other terms of the offering determined at the time shares of our Common Stock are sold pursuant to this prospectus. The shares sold in this offering, if any, will be sold from time to time at various prices.

Assumed offering price per share	\$	7.30
Net tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2018	\$	2.75
Increase in net tangible book value per share attributable to the offering	\$	0.87
As adjusted net tangible book value per share after giving effect to this offering	\$	3.62
Dilution per share to new investors participating in the offering	\$	3.68

The number of shares of Common Stock shown above to be outstanding after this offering is based on 27,179,096 shares of Common Stock outstanding as of September 30, 2018 excludes:

- 2,418,332 shares of our Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options outstanding under our 2013 Stock Incentive Plan as of September 30, 2018, at a weighted-average exercise price of \$17.77 per share, 1,111,469 options of which were exercisable as of such date;
- 904,843 shares of our Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options granted to certain senior executives and employees outside our 2013 Stock Incentive Plan as of September 30, 2018, at a weighted-average exercise price of \$23.44 per share, 847,615 options of which were exercisable as of such date;
- 941,192 shares of our Common Stock reserved for issuance of new awards under our 2013 Stock Incentive Plan as of September 30, 2018;

- 38,763 shares of our Common Stock reserved for issuance of new shares under our 2017 Employee Stock Purchase Plan as of September 30, 2018;
- 241 shares of our Common Stock reserved as of September 30, 2018 for issuance upon any conversion of our outstanding Series A convertible preferred stock; and
- 2,768,882 shares of our Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding warrants as of September 30, 2018, at a weighted-average exercise price of \$0.08 per share, all of which were exercisable as of that date.

To the extent outstanding warrants or options are exercised, there will be further dilution to new investors. In addition, to the extent that we issue additional equity securities in connection with future capital raising activities, our then-existing stockholders may experience dilution.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We have entered into an Equity Distribution Agreement with JMP Securities, under which we may issue and sell from time to time shares of our Common Stock having an aggregate offering price of up to \$50,000,000 through JMP Securities as our sales agent. The form of Equity Distribution Agreement will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Sales of our Common Stock, if any, under this prospectus may be made in transactions that are deemed to be an at the market offering as defined in Rule 415(a)(4) under the Securities Act, including sales made directly on or through the Nasdaq Capital Market or any other existing trading market for our Common Stock.

Each time we wish to issue and sell Common Stock under the Equity Distribution Agreement, we will notify JMP Securities of the number of shares to be issued, the dates on which such sales are anticipated to be made, any minimum price below which sales may not be made and other sales parameters as we deem appropriate. Once we have so instructed JMP Securities, unless JMP Securities declines to accept the terms of the notice, JMP Securities has agreed to use its commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices to sell such shares of Common Stock up to the amount specified on such terms. The obligations of JMP Securities under the Equity Distribution Agreement to sell our Common Stock is subject to a number of conditions that we must meet.

JMP Securities will provide written confirmation to us no later than the opening of the trading day on Nasdaq following the trading day in which our Common Stock is sold under the Equity Distribution Agreement. Each confirmation will include the number of shares of Common Stock sold on the preceding day, the net proceeds to us and the compensation payable by us to JMP Securities in connection with the sales.

We will pay JMP Securities commissions for their services in acting as agents in the sale of our shares. JMP Securities will be entitled to compensation at a commission rate of 3.0% of the gross sales price per share of Common Stock sold under the Equity Distribution Agreement. Because there is no minimum offering amount required as a condition to closing this offering, the actual total public offering amount, commissions and proceeds to us, if any, are not determinable at this time. We have also agreed to reimburse JMP Securities for certain specified expenses, including the fees and disbursements of their legal counsel in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

We estimate that the total expenses for the offering, excluding compensation and reimbursements payable to JMP Securities under the terms of the Equity Distribution Agreement, will be approximately \$125,000.

Settlement for sales of Common Stock will occur on the second trading day following the date on which any sales are made, or on such earlier day as is industry practice for regular-way trading, some other date that is agreed upon by us and JMP Securities in connection with a particular transaction, in return for payment of the net proceeds to us. Sales of our shares of Common Stock as contemplated in this prospectus will be settled through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company or by such other means as we and JMP Securities agree upon. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in an escrow, trust or similar arrangement.

In connection with the sale of Common Stock on our behalf, JMP Securities will be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act, and the compensation of JMP Securities will be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. We have agreed to provide indemnification and contribution to JMP Securities against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Edgar Filing: IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

The offering pursuant to the Equity Distribution Agreement will terminate upon the termination of the Equity Distribution Agreement as permitted therein.

JMP Securities and its affiliates may in the future provide various investment banking and other financial services for us and our affiliates, for which services they may in the future receive customary fees. To the extent required by Regulation M, JMP Securities will not engage in any market making activities involving our Common Stock while the offering is ongoing under this prospectus.

S-9

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon by Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP. JMP Securities LLC is being represented in connection with this offering by Cooley LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement. Our financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's reports, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the internet at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. Copies of certain information filed by us with the SEC are also available on our website at www.iderapharma.com. Our website is not a part of this prospectus and is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

This prospectus omits some information contained in our registration statement in accordance with the SEC's rules and regulations. You should review the information contained in any exhibits filed to the registration statement for further information on us and the securities we are offering. Statements in this prospectus concerning any document we filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or that we otherwise filed with the SEC are not intended to be comprehensive and are qualified by reference to those filings. You should review the complete document to evaluate these statements.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus much of the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those publicly available documents. The information that we incorporate by reference into this prospectus is considered to be part of this prospectus. Because we are incorporating by reference future filings with the SEC, this prospectus is continually updated and those future filings may modify or supersede some of the information included or incorporated in this prospectus. This means that you must look at all of the SEC filings that we incorporate by reference to determine if any of the statements in this prospectus or in any document previously incorporated by reference have been modified or superseded. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below (File No. 001-31918) and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (in each case, other than those documents or the portions of those documents deemed to be furnished and not filed) until the offering of the securities under the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part is terminated or completed:

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, filed with the SEC on March 7, 2018;
- Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2018, filed with the SEC on May 9, 2018; June 30, 2018, filed with the SEC on August 2, 2018; and September 30, 2018, filed with the SEC on November 6, 2018;
- Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 5, 2018 (with respect to Item 5.07), January 5, 2018 (with respect to Item 5.02), January 17, 2018, January 22, 2018, May 24, 2018, June 21, 2018, July 10, 2018, September 13, 2018 (with respect to Item 5.02 only), September 19, 2018 (with respect to Item 5.02 only), and November 2, 2018; and
- The description of our Common Stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on December 4, 2003, as amended on August 17, 2007 and as further amended on December 7, 2007, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We will provide without charge to each person to whom a prospectus is delivered a copy of any or all of the information that has been incorporated by reference into but not delivered with this prospectus supplement. You may request a copy of these filings by writing or telephoning us at the following address or telephone number:

505 Eagleview Boulevard, Suite 212

Exton, Pennsylvania 19341

Attn: Investor Relations

Phone: (484) 348-1600

S-11

Table of Contents

\$250,000,000

Idera Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Depository Shares

Warrants

We may offer and sell securities from time to time in one or more offerings of up to \$250,000,000 in aggregate offering price. This prospectus describes the general terms of these securities and the general manner in which these securities will be offered. We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. The prospectus supplements will also describe the specific manner in which these securities will be offered and may also supplement, update or amend information contained in this document. You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement before you invest.

We may offer these securities in amounts, at prices and on terms determined at the time of offering. The securities may be sold directly to you, through agents, or through underwriters and dealers. If agents, underwriters or dealers are used to sell the securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol IDRA.

Investing in these securities involves significant risks. See **Risk Factors** included in any accompanying prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus for a discussion of the factors you should carefully consider before deciding to purchase these securities.

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

The date of this prospectus is September 8, 2017

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	iii
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	iv
<u>INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE</u>	iv
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	v
<u>SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.</u>	1
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	3
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	14
<u>FORMS OF SECURITIES</u>	15
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	17
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	20
<u>EXPERTS</u>	20

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may from time to time sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings for an aggregate initial offering price of up to \$250,000,000.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide one or more prospectus supplements that will contain specific information about the terms of the offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information" beginning on page 2 of this prospectus.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or in any related free writing prospectus filed by us with the SEC. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the securities described in this prospectus or such accompanying prospectus supplement or an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy such securities in any circumstances in which such offer or solicitation is unlawful. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, the documents incorporated by reference and any related free writing prospectus is accurate only as of their respective dates. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed materially since those dates.

Unless the context otherwise indicates, references in this prospectus to we, our and us collectively refer to Idera Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Delaware corporation.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of certain information filed by us with the SEC are also available on our website at <http://www.iderapharma.com>. Our website is not a part of this prospectus and is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the Public Reference Room.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the SEC. This prospectus omits some information contained in the registration statement in accordance with SEC rules and regulations. You should review the information and exhibits in the registration statement for further information about us and the securities we are offering. Statements in this prospectus concerning any document we filed as an exhibit to the registration statement or that we otherwise filed with the SEC are not intended to be comprehensive and are qualified by reference to these filings. You should review the complete document to evaluate these statements.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference much of the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those publicly available documents. The information that we incorporate by reference in this prospectus is considered to be part of this prospectus. Because we are incorporating by reference future filings with the SEC, this prospectus is continually updated and those future filings may modify or supersede some of the information included or incorporated in this prospectus. This means that you must look at all of the SEC filings that we incorporate by reference to determine if any of the statements in this prospectus or in any document previously incorporated by reference have been modified or superseded. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below (File No. 001-31918) and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act (in each case, other than those documents or the portions of those documents not deemed to be filed) between the date of the initial registration statement and the effectiveness of the registration statement and following the effectiveness of the registration statement until the offering of the securities under the registration statement is terminated or completed:

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, including the information specifically incorporated by reference into the Annual Report on Form 10-K from our definitive proxy statement for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders;
- Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2017 and June 30, 2017;
- Current Reports on Form 8-K filed January 6, 2017, March 13, 2017, April 18, 2017 (solely with respect to Item 5.02) and June 9, 2017; and

Edgar Filing: IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

- The description of our Common Stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on December 4, 2003, as amended on August 17, 2007 and as further amended on December 7, 2007, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address or telephone number:

167 Sidney Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Attn: Investor Relations
Phone: (617) 679-5500

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included or incorporated by reference herein regarding our strategy, future operations, clinical trials, collaborations, intellectual property, cash resources, financial position, future revenues, projected costs, prospects, plans, and objectives of management are forward-looking statements. The words believes, anticipates, estimates, plans, expects, intends, may, could, should, potential, continue, will, would and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. These statements are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts and projections about the industry in which we operate and the beliefs and assumptions of our management. We cannot guarantee that we actually will achieve the plans, intentions or expectations disclosed in our forward-looking statements and you should not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements. You are cautioned that these forward-looking statements are only predictions and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are referenced in the section of any accompanying prospectus supplement entitled Risk Factors. You should also carefully review the risk factors and cautionary statements described in the other documents we file from time to time with the SEC, specifically our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and our Current Reports on Form 8-K. In addition, any forward-looking statements represent our estimates only as of the date that this prospectus is filed with the SEC and should not be relied upon as representing our estimates as of any subsequent date. We do not assume any obligation to update any forward-looking statements. We disclaim any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information from this prospectus and does not contain all of the information that you need to consider in making your investment decision. You should carefully read the entire prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, including the risks of investing in our securities discussed under the heading **Risk Factors** contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and under similar headings in the other documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You should also carefully read the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, including our financial statements, and the exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

We are a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of novel oligonucleotide therapeutics for oncology and rare diseases. We use two distinct proprietary drug discovery technology platforms to design and develop drug candidates: our Toll-like receptor, or TLR, targeting technology and our third-generation antisense, or 3GA, technology. We developed these platforms based on our scientific expertise and pioneering work with synthetic oligonucleotides as therapeutic agents. Using our TLR targeting technology, we design synthetic oligonucleotide-based drug candidates to modulate the activity of specific TLRs. In addition, using our 3GA technology, we are developing drug candidates to turn off the messenger RNA, or mRNA, associated with disease causing genes. We believe our 3GA technology may potentially reduce the immunotoxicity and increase the potency of earlier generation antisense and RNA interference, or RNAi, technologies.

Our business strategy is focused on the clinical development of drug candidates for oncology and rare diseases characterized by small, well-defined patient populations with serious unmet medical needs. We believe we can develop and commercialize these targeted therapies on our own. To the extent we seek to develop drug candidates for broader disease indications, we have entered into and may explore additional collaborative alliances to support development and commercialization.

Our TLR agonist lead drug candidate IMO-2125 is an agonist of TLR9. Our TLR antagonist lead drug candidate is IMO-8400, which is an antagonist of TLR7, TLR8 and TLR9. We are evaluating IMO-2125 for the treatment by intra-tumoral injection of multiple oncology indications both in combination with checkpoint inhibitors and as monotherapy. We are initially developing IMO-2125 for use in combination with checkpoint inhibitors for the treatment of patients with anti-PD1 refractory metastatic melanoma. We are developing IMO-8400 for the treatment of a rare disease called dermatomyositis.

We have designed 3GA oligonucleotides to specifically address challenges associated with earlier generation antisense and RNAi technologies. Our focus is on creating 3GA candidates targeted to specific genes to treat cancer and rare diseases. In January 2017, we announced that we had selected IDRA-008 as our first candidate to enter clinical development.

In addition to our current alliances, we may explore potential collaborative alliances to support development and commercialization of our TLR agonists and antagonists. We may also seek to enter into additional collaborative alliances with pharmaceutical companies with respect to applications of our 3GA program.

Edgar Filing: IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

Our principal executive offices are located at 167 Sidney Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 and 505 Eagleview Boulevard, Suite 212, Exton, Pennsylvania 19341, and our telephone number is (617) 679-5500.

Table of Contents**RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS**

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends and any deficiency of earnings for each of the periods indicated. You should read this table in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

	Fiscal Year Ended					
	Six Months Ended June 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013	December 31, 2012
Ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Deficiency of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	\$ (36,528)	\$ (38,390)	\$ (48,556)	\$ (39,161)	\$ (19,341)	\$ (19,950)

Our earnings were inadequate to cover fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the periods indicated above. The amount of the deficiency by which our earnings did not cover our fixed charges for each such period is disclosed in the second line of the above table, in thousands of dollars.

For purposes of calculating the ratios above, earnings consist of pre-tax net income (loss) from continuing operations and fixed charges. Fixed charges include interest expense, the interest portion of rent expense which is deemed to be representative of the interest factor and preference security dividend requirements. Preferred stock dividends are equal to the amount of pre-tax income required to cover dividends paid on our preferred stock.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of any securities offered under this prospectus for general corporate purposes unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. General corporate purposes may include research and development costs, the acquisition or licensing of complementary products, technologies or businesses, working capital and capital expenditures. We may temporarily invest the net proceeds in investment-grade, interest-bearing securities until they are used for their stated purpose. We have not determined the amount of net proceeds to be used specifically for such purposes. As a result, management will retain broad discretion over the allocation of net proceeds.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following description of our capital stock is intended as a summary only and therefore is not a complete description of our capital stock. This description is based upon, and is qualified by reference to, our certificate of incorporation, our by-laws and applicable provisions of Delaware corporate law. You should read our certificate of incorporation and by-laws, which are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, for the provisions that are important to you.

Our authorized capital stock consists of 280,000,000 shares of Common Stock and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, of which 1,500,000 shares have been designated Series A convertible preferred stock. As of June 30, 2017, 149,606,131 shares of Common Stock were outstanding and 655 shares of Series A convertible preferred stock were outstanding. No other shares of preferred stock were outstanding.

Common Stock

Annual Meeting. Annual meetings of our stockholders are held on the date designated in accordance with our bylaws. Written notice must be mailed to each stockholder entitled to vote not less than ten nor more than 60 days before the date of the meeting. The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of record of a majority of our issued and outstanding shares entitled to vote at such meeting constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings of the stockholders. Special meetings of the stockholders may be called for any purpose by the board of directors or the chief executive officer or, if the office of chief executive officer is vacant, our president.

Voting Rights. For all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, each holder of Common Stock is entitled to one vote for each share held. Our Common Stock does not have cumulative voting rights.

Dividends. If our board of directors declares a dividend, holders of Common Stock will receive payments from our funds that are legally available to pay dividends. However, this dividend right is subject to any preferential dividend rights that we have granted or may grant with respect to our preferred stock.

Liquidation, Dissolution or Winding-Up. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, the holders of the Common Stock will be entitled to share equally in all assets available for distribution to stockholders, subject to preferences that may apply to shares of preferred stock outstanding at that time. The amount available for Common Stockholders is calculated after payment of liabilities.

Other Rights and Restrictions. Holders of our Common Stock do not have preemptive rights, and they have no right to convert their Common Stock into any other securities. Our Common Stock is not subject to redemption by us. The

rights, preferences and privileges of Common Stockholders are subject to the rights of the stockholders of any series of preferred stock that are issued and outstanding or that we may issue in the future. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws do not restrict the ability of a holder of Common Stock to transfer his or her shares of Common Stock.

Put Right. Pursuant to the terms of a unit purchase agreement dated as of May 5, 1998, we issued and sold a total of 1,199,684 shares of Common Stock, which we refer to as the put shares, at a price of \$16.00 per share. Under the terms of the unit purchase agreement, the initial purchasers, which we refer to as the put holders, of the put shares have the right, which we refer to as the put right, to require us to repurchase the put shares. The put right may not be exercised by any put holder unless all of the following occur:

- we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs pursuant to applicable bankruptcy law, whether voluntarily or involuntarily,
- all of our indebtedness and obligations, including without limitation the indebtedness under our outstanding notes, has been paid in full, and
- all rights of the holders of any series or class of capital stock ranking prior and senior to the Common Stock with respect to liquidation, including without limitation the series A convertible preferred stock, have been satisfied in full.

We may terminate the put right upon written notice to the put holders if the closing sales price of our Common Stock exceeds \$32.00 per share for the 20 consecutive trading days prior to the date of notice of termination. Because the put right is

Table of Contents

not transferable, in the event that a put holder has transferred put shares since May 5, 1998, the put right with respect to those shares has terminated. As a consequence of the put right, in the event we are liquidated, holders of shares of Common Stock that do not have put rights with respect to such shares may receive smaller distributions per share upon our liquidation than if there were no put rights outstanding.

As of June 30, 2017, we had repurchased or received documentation of the transfer of 399,950 put shares and 35,780 of the put shares continued to be held in the name of put holders. We cannot determine at this time what portion of the put rights of the remaining 763,954 put shares have terminated.

Transfer Agent and Registrar. Computershare Trust Company, N.A. is transfer agent and registrar for the Common Stock.

The Nasdaq Capital Market. Our Common Stock is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol IDRA.

Preferred Stock

The terms of any series of preferred stock that are offered pursuant to this prospectus will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to that series of preferred stock. The terms of any series of preferred stock may differ from the terms described below. Certain provisions of the preferred stock that may be offered by us pursuant to this prospectus as described below and in any applicable prospectus supplement are not complete.

We are authorized to issue blank check preferred stock, which may be issued in one or more series upon authorization of our board of directors. Our board of directors is authorized to fix the designation of the series, the number of authorized shares of the series, dividend rights and terms, conversion rights, voting rights, redemption rights and terms, liquidation preferences and any other rights, powers, preferences and limitations applicable to each series of preferred stock. The authorized shares of our preferred stock are available for issuance without further action by our stockholders, unless such action is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange on which our securities may be listed. If the approval of our stockholders is not required for the issuance of shares of our preferred stock, our board may determine not to seek stockholder approval.

A series of our preferred stock could, depending on the terms of such series, impede the completion of a merger, tender offer or other takeover attempt. Our board of directors will make any determination to issue such preferred shares based upon its judgment as to the best interests of our stockholders. Our directors, in so acting, could issue preferred stock having terms that could discourage an acquisition attempt through which an acquirer may be able to change the composition of our board of directors, including a tender offer or other transaction that some, or a majority, of our stockholders might believe to be in their best interests or in which stockholders might receive a premium for their stock over the then-current market price of the stock.

The preferred stock that is offered pursuant to this prospectus has the terms described below unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock being offered. You should read the prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of preferred stock being offered for specific terms, including:

- the designation and stated value per share of the preferred stock and the number of shares offered;
- the amount of liquidation preference per share, if any;
- the price at which the preferred stock will be issued;
- the dividend rate, or method of calculation of dividends, the dates on which dividends will be payable, whether dividends will be cumulative or noncumulative and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends will commence to accumulate;
- any redemption or sinking fund provisions;
- if other than the currency of the United States, the currency or currencies including composite currencies in which the preferred stock is denominated and/or in which payments will or may be payable;
- any conversion provisions;

Table of Contents

- whether we have elected to offer depositary shares as described under Description of Depositary Shares; and
- any other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions on the preferred stock.

The preferred stock will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, each series of preferred stock will rank equally as to dividends and liquidation rights in all respects with each other series of preferred stock that may be issued pursuant to this prospectus. The rights of holders of shares of each series of preferred stock will be subordinate to those of our general creditors.

As described under Description of Depositary Shares, we may, at our option, with respect to any series of preferred stock, elect to offer fractional interests in shares of preferred stock, and provide for the issuance of depositary receipts representing depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest in a share of the series of preferred stock. The fractional interest will be specified in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock.

Rank. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, the preferred stock will, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, rank:

- senior to our Common Stock and to all equity securities ranking junior to such preferred stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;
- on a parity with all equity securities issued by us, the terms of which specifically provide that such equity securities rank on a parity with the preferred stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs; and
- junior to all equity securities issued by us, the terms of which specifically provide that such equity securities rank senior to the preferred stock with respect to dividend rights or rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs.

The term equity securities does not include convertible debt securities.

Dividends. Holders of the preferred stock of each series will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by our board of directors, cash dividends at such rates and on such dates described in the prospectus supplement. Different series of preferred stock may be entitled to dividends at different rates or based on different methods of calculation.

The dividend rate may be fixed or variable or both. Dividends will be payable to the holders of record as they appear on our stock books on record dates fixed by our board of directors, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Dividends on any series of preferred stock may be cumulative or noncumulative, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If our board of directors does not declare a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any series of noncumulative preferred stock, then the holders of that noncumulative preferred stock will have no right to receive a dividend for that dividend payment date, and we will have no obligation to pay the dividend accrued for that period, whether or not dividends on that series are declared payable on any future dividend payment dates. Dividends on any series of cumulative preferred stock will accrue from the date we initially issue shares of such series or such other date specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

No dividends may be declared or paid or funds set apart for the payment of any dividends on any parity securities unless full dividends have been paid or set apart for payment on the preferred stock. If full dividends are not paid, the preferred stock will share dividends pro rata with the parity securities.

No dividends may be declared or paid or funds set apart for the payment of dividends on any junior securities unless full dividends for all dividend periods terminating on or prior to the date of the declaration or payment will have been paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment set apart for payment on the preferred stock.

Liquidation Preference. Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, before we make any distribution or payment to the holders of any Common Stock or any other class or series of our capital stock ranking junior to the preferred stock in the distribution of assets upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, the holders of each series of preferred stock shall be entitled to receive out of assets legally available for distribution to stockholders, liquidating distributions in the amount of the liquidation preference per share set forth in the prospectus

Table of Contents

supplement, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends thereon. Such dividends will not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid noncumulative dividends for prior dividend periods. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, after payment of the full amount of their liquidating distributions, the holders of preferred stock will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. Upon any such voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, if our available assets are insufficient to pay the amount of the liquidating distributions on all outstanding preferred stock and the corresponding amounts payable on all other classes or series of our capital stock ranking on parity with the preferred stock and all other such classes or series of shares of capital stock ranking on parity with the preferred stock in the distribution of assets, then the holders of the preferred stock and all other such classes or series of capital stock will share ratably in any such distribution of assets in proportion to the full liquidating distributions to which they would otherwise be entitled.

Upon any such liquidation, dissolution or winding up and if we have made liquidating distributions in full to all holders of preferred stock, we will distribute our remaining assets among the holders of any other classes or series of capital stock ranking junior to the preferred stock according to their respective rights and preferences and, in each case, according to their respective number of shares. For such purposes, our consolidation or merger with or into any other corporation, trust or entity, or the sale, lease or conveyance of all or substantially all of our property or assets will not be deemed to constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs.

Redemption. If so provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the preferred stock will be subject to mandatory redemption or redemption at our option, as a whole or in part, in each case upon the terms, at the times and at the redemption prices set forth in such prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of preferred stock that is subject to mandatory redemption will specify the number of shares of preferred stock that shall be redeemed by us in each year commencing after a date to be specified, at a redemption price per share to be specified, together with an amount equal to all accrued and unpaid dividends thereon to the date of redemption. Unless the shares have a cumulative dividend, such accrued dividends will not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods. We may pay the redemption price in cash or other property, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. If the redemption price for preferred stock of any series is payable only from the net proceeds of the issuance of shares of our capital stock, the terms of such preferred stock may provide that, if no such shares of our capital stock shall have been issued or to the extent the net proceeds from any issuance are insufficient to pay in full the aggregate redemption price then due, such preferred stock shall automatically and mandatorily be converted into the applicable shares of our capital stock pursuant to conversion provisions specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we will not redeem any preferred stock of a series unless:

- if that series of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, we have declared and paid or contemporaneously declare and pay or set aside funds to pay full cumulative dividends on the preferred stock for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period; or
- if such series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, we have declared and paid or contemporaneously declare and pay or set aside funds to pay full dividends for the then current dividend period.

In addition, we will not acquire any preferred stock of a series unless:

- if that series of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, we have declared and paid or contemporaneously declare and pay or set aside funds to pay full cumulative dividends on all outstanding shares of such series of preferred stock for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period; or
- if that series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, we have declared and paid or contemporaneously declare and pay or set aside funds to pay full dividends on the preferred stock of such series for the then current dividend period.

However, at any time we may purchase or acquire preferred stock of that series (1) pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all outstanding preferred stock of such series or (2) by conversion into or exchange for shares of our capital stock ranking junior to the preferred stock of such series as to dividends and upon liquidation.

If fewer than all of the outstanding shares of preferred stock of any series are to be redeemed, we will determine the number of shares that may be redeemed pro rata from the holders of record of such shares in proportion to the number of such

Table of Contents

shares held or for which redemption is requested by such holder or by any other equitable manner that we determine. Such determination will reflect adjustments to avoid redemption of fractional shares.

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, we will mail notice of redemption at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of record of preferred stock to be redeemed at the address shown on our stock transfer books. Each notice shall state:

- the redemption date;
- the number of shares and series of preferred stock to be redeemed;
- the redemption price;
- the place or places where certificates for such preferred stock are to be surrendered for payment of the redemption price;
- that dividends on the shares to be redeemed will cease to accrue on such redemption date;
- the date on which the holder's conversion rights, if any, as to such shares shall terminate; and
- the specific number of shares to be redeemed from each such holder if fewer than all the shares of any series are to be redeemed.

If notice of redemption has been given and we have set aside the funds necessary for such redemption in trust for the benefit of the holders of any shares called for redemption, then from and after the redemption date, dividends will cease to accrue on such shares, and all rights of the holders of such shares will terminate, except the right to receive the redemption price.

Voting Rights. Holders of preferred stock will not have any voting rights, except as required by law or as indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Edgar Filing: IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

Unless otherwise provided for under the terms of any series of preferred stock, no consent or vote of the holders of shares of preferred stock or any series thereof shall be required for any amendment to our certificate of incorporation that would increase the number of authorized shares of preferred stock or the number of authorized shares of any series thereof or decrease the number of authorized shares of preferred stock or the number of authorized shares of any series thereof (but not below the number of authorized shares of preferred stock or such series, as the case may be, then outstanding).

Conversion Rights. The terms and conditions, if any, upon which any series of preferred stock is convertible into our Common Stock will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating thereto. Such terms will include the number of shares of Common Stock into which the shares of preferred stock are convertible, the conversion price, rate or manner of calculation thereof, the conversion period, provisions as to whether conversion will be at our option or at the option of the holders of the preferred stock, the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price and provisions affecting conversion in the event of the redemption.

Transfer Agent and Registrar. We serve as the transfer agent and registrar for our outstanding preferred stock.

Effects of Authorized but Unissued Stock

We have shares of Common Stock and preferred stock available for future issuance without stockholder approval, subject to any limitations imposed by the listing standards of the Nasdaq Capital Market. We may utilize these additional shares for a variety of corporate purposes, including for future public offerings to raise additional capital, or facilitate corporate acquisitions or for payment as a dividend on our capital stock. The existence of unissued and unreserved Common Stock and preferred stock may enable our board of directors to issue shares to persons friendly to current management or to issue preferred stock with terms that could have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or could discourage a third party from seeking to acquire, a controlling interest in our company by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise. In addition, if we issue preferred stock, the issuance could adversely affect the voting power of holders of Common Stock, and the likelihood that such holders will receive dividend payments and payments upon liquidation.

Table of Contents

Delaware Law and Specified Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaw Provisions

Staggered Board. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide for the division of our board of directors into three classes as nearly equal in size as possible with staggered three-year terms. In addition, our certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that directors may only be removed for cause and then only by the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the shares of our capital stock entitled to vote. Under our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, any vacancy on the board of directors, however occurring, including a vacancy resulting from an enlargement of the board, may only be filled by vote of a majority of the directors then in office. The classification of the board of directors and the limitations on the removal of directors and filling of vacancies could have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or of discouraging a third party from acquiring, control of us.

Stockholder Action; Special Meeting of Stockholders. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that stockholders may take action only at a duly called annual or special meeting of stockholders and may not take action by written consent. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws further provide that special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by a majority of the board of directors or by our chief executive officer or, if the office of chief executive officer is vacant, our president. In no event may our stockholders call a special meeting of stockholders.

Advance Notice Requirements for Stockholder Proposals and Director Nominations. Our bylaws provide that stockholders seeking to bring business before an annual meeting of stockholders, or to nominate candidates for election as directors at an annual meeting of stockholders, must meet specified procedural requirements. These provisions may preclude stockholders from bringing matters before an annual meeting of stockholders or from making nominations for directors at an annual or special meeting of stockholders.

Supermajority Votes Required. The Delaware General Corporation Law provides generally that the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares entitled to vote on any matter is required to amend a corporation's certificate of incorporation or bylaws, unless a corporation's certificate of incorporation or bylaws, as the case may be, requires a greater percentage. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws require the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 75% of the shares of our capital stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote to amend or repeal any of the provisions described in the prior three paragraphs.

Business Combinations. We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. Subject to certain exceptions, Section 203 prevents a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with any interested stockholder for three years following the date that such person became an interested stockholder, unless either the interested stockholder attained such status with the approval of our board of directors, the business combination is approved by our board of directors and stockholders in a prescribed manner or the interested stockholder acquired at least 85% of our outstanding voting stock in the transaction in which such person became an interested stockholder. A business combination includes, among other things, a merger or consolidation involving us and the interested stockholder and the sale of more than 10% of our assets. In general, an interested stockholder is any

entity or person beneficially owning 15% or more of our outstanding voting stock and any entity or person affiliated with or controlling or controlled by such entity or person.

Directors' Liability. Our certificate of incorporation limits the personal liability of directors for breach of fiduciary duty to the maximum extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law and provides that no director will have personal liability to us or to our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director. However, these provisions do not eliminate or limit the liability of any of our directors:

- for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders;
- for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- for voting or assenting to unlawful payments of dividends, stock repurchases or other distributions; or
- for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

Any amendment to or repeal of these provisions will not eliminate or reduce the effect of these provisions in respect of any act, omission or claim that occurred or arose prior to such amendment or repeal. If the Delaware General Corporation Law is amended to provide for further limitations on the personal liability of directors of corporations, then the personal liability of our directors will be further limited to the greatest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law.

Table of Contents

Our certificate of incorporation provides that we must indemnify our directors and officers and we must advance expenses, including attorneys fees, to our directors and officers in connection with legal proceedings, subject to very limited exceptions.

We maintain a general liability insurance policy that covers certain liabilities of our directors and officers arising out of claims based on acts or omissions in their capacities as directors or officers.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

General

We may, at our option, elect to offer fractional shares of preferred stock, which we call depositary shares, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we do, we will issue to the public receipts, called depositary receipts, for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fraction, to be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, of a share of a particular series of preferred stock. Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fractional interest in a share of preferred stock represented by the depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock represented by the depositary share. Those rights include dividend, voting, redemption, conversion and liquidation rights.

The shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited with a bank or trust company selected by us to act as depositary under a deposit agreement between us, the depositary and the holders of the depositary receipts. The depositary will be the transfer agent, registrar and dividend disbursing agent for the depositary shares.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the deposit agreement. Holders of depositary receipts agree to be bound by the deposit agreement, which requires holders to take certain actions such as filing proof of residence and paying certain charges.

The summary of terms of the depositary shares contained in this prospectus is not a complete description of the terms of the depositary shares. You should refer to the form of the deposit agreement, our certificate of incorporation and the certificate of designation for the applicable series of preferred stock that are, or will be, filed with the SEC.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions, if any, received in respect of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares to the record holders of depositary shares in proportion to the numbers of depositary shares owned by those holders on the relevant record date. The relevant record date for depositary shares will be the same date as the record date for the underlying preferred stock.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property (including securities) received by it to the record holders of depositary shares, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution. If this occurs, the depositary may, with our approval, adopt another method for the distribution, including selling the property and distributing the net proceeds from the sale to the holders.

Liquidation Preference

If a series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares has a liquidation preference, in the event of the voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of us, holders of depositary shares will be entitled to receive the fraction of the liquidation preference accorded each share of the applicable series of preferred stock, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Withdrawal of Stock

Unless the related depositary shares have been previously called for redemption, upon surrender of the depositary receipts at the office of the depositary, the holder of the depositary shares will be entitled to delivery, at the office of the depositary to or upon his or her order, of the number of whole shares of the preferred stock and any money or other property represented by the depositary shares. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the depositary will deliver to the holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. In no event will the depositary deliver fractional shares of preferred stock upon surrender of depositary receipts. Holders of preferred stock thus withdrawn may not thereafter deposit those shares under the deposit agreement or receive depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares therefor.

Table of Contents

Redemption of Depositary Shares

Whenever we redeem shares of preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depositary shares representing shares of the preferred stock so redeemed, so long as we have paid in full to the depositary the redemption price of the preferred stock to be redeemed plus an amount equal to any accumulated and unpaid dividends on the preferred stock to the date fixed for redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the redemption price and any other amounts per share payable on the preferred stock multiplied by the fraction of a share of preferred stock represented by one depositary share. If less than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata or by any other equitable method as may be determined by the depositary.

After the date fixed for redemption, depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding and all rights of the holders of depositary shares will cease, except the right to receive the monies payable upon redemption and any money or other property to which the holders of the depositary shares were entitled upon redemption upon surrender to the depositary of the depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares.

Voting the Preferred Stock

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in the notice of meeting to the record holders of the depositary receipts relating to that preferred stock. The record date for the depositary receipts relating to the preferred stock will be the same date as the record date for the preferred stock. Each record holder of the depositary shares on the record date will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the number of shares of preferred stock represented by that holder's depositary shares. The depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the number of shares of preferred stock represented by the depositary shares in accordance with those instructions, and we will agree to take all action that may be deemed necessary by the depositary in order to enable the depositary to do so. The depositary will not vote any shares of preferred stock except to the extent it receives specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares representing that number of shares of preferred stock.

Charges of Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay transfer, income and other taxes and governmental charges and such other charges (including those in connection with the receipt and distribution of dividends, the sale or exercise of rights, the withdrawal of the preferred stock and the transferring, splitting or grouping of depositary receipts) as are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts. If these charges have not been paid by the holders of depositary receipts, the depositary may refuse to transfer depositary shares, withhold dividends and distributions and sell the depositary shares evidenced by the depositary receipt.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

Edgar Filing: IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may be amended by agreement between us and the depositary. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary shares, other than fee changes, will not be effective unless the amendment has been approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding depositary shares. The deposit agreement may be terminated by the depositary or us only if:

- all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed; or
- there has been a final distribution of the preferred stock in connection with our dissolution and such distribution has been made to all the holders of depositary shares.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may remove the depositary at any time. Any resignation or removal of the depositary will take effect upon our appointment of a successor

Table of Contents

depository and its acceptance of such appointment. The successor depository must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having the requisite combined capital and surplus as set forth in the applicable agreement.

Notices

The depository will forward to holders of depository receipts all notices, reports and other communications, including proxy solicitation materials received from us, that are delivered to the depository and that we are required to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock. In addition, the depository will make available for inspection by holders of depository receipts at the principal office of the depository, and at such other places as it may from time to time deem advisable, any reports and communications we deliver to the depository as the holder of preferred stock.

Limitation of Liability

Neither we nor the depository will be liable if we or it is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond its control in performing its obligations. Our obligations and those of the depository will be limited to performance in good faith of our and their duties thereunder. We and the depository will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depository shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the depository may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, on information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depository receipts or other persons believed to be competent to give such information and on documents believed to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants to purchase Common Stock, preferred stock or depositary shares. We may offer warrants separately or together with one or more additional warrants, Common Stock, preferred stock or depositary shares, or any combination of those securities in the form of units, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If we issue warrants as part of a unit, the accompanying prospectus supplement will specify whether those warrants may be separated from the other securities in the unit prior to the expiration date of the warrants. The applicable prospectus supplement will also describe the following terms of any warrants:

- the specific designation and aggregate number of, and the offering price at which we will issue, the warrants;
- the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;
- the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will begin and the date on which that right will expire or, if you may not continuously exercise the warrants throughout that period, the specific date or dates on which you may exercise the warrants;
- whether the warrants are to be sold separately or with other securities as parts of units;
- whether the warrants will be issued in definitive or global form or in any combination of these forms, although, in any case, the form of a warrant included in a unit will correspond to the form of the unit and of any security included in that unit;
- any applicable material U.S. federal income tax consequences;
- the identity of the warrant agent for the warrants and of any other depositaries, execution or paying agents, transfer agents, registrars or other agents;
- the proposed listing, if any, of the warrants or any securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants on any securities exchange;

- the designation and terms of any equity securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;
- if applicable, the designation and terms of the preferred stock or depositary shares with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each security;
- if applicable, the date from and after which any warrants issued as part of a unit and the related Common Stock, preferred stock or depositary shares will be separately transferable;
- the number of shares of Common Stock, the number of shares of preferred stock or the number of depositary shares purchasable upon exercise of a warrant and the price at which those shares may be purchased;
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;
- the anti-dilution provisions of, and other provisions for changes to or adjustment in the exercise price of, the warrants, if any;
- any redemption or call provisions; and
- any additional terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange or exercise of the warrants.

Table of Contents

FORMS OF SECURITIES

Each depositary share and warrant will be represented either by a certificate issued in definitive form to a particular investor or by one or more global securities representing the entire issuance of securities. Unless the applicable prospectus supplement provides otherwise, certificated securities in definitive form and global securities will be issued in registered form. Definitive securities name you or your nominee as the owner of the security, and in order to transfer or exchange these securities or to receive payments other than interest or other interim payments, you or your nominee must physically deliver the securities to the registrar or other agent, as applicable. Global securities name a depositary or its nominee as the owner of the depositary shares or warrants represented by these global securities. The depositary maintains a computerized system that will reflect each investor's beneficial ownership of the securities through an account maintained by the investor with its broker/dealer, bank, trust company or other representative, as we explain more fully below.

Global Securities

We may issue the depositary shares and warrants in the form of one or more fully registered global securities that will be deposited with a depositary or its nominee identified in the applicable prospectus supplement and registered in the name of that depositary or nominee. In those cases, one or more global securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal or face amount of the securities to be represented by global securities. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole for securities in definitive registered form, a global security may not be transferred except as a whole by and among the depositary for the global security, the nominees of the depositary or any successors of the depositary or those nominees.

If not described below, any specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to any securities to be represented by a global security will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to those securities. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depositary arrangements.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to persons, called participants, that have accounts with the depositary or persons that may hold interests through participants. Upon the issuance of a global security, the depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants' accounts with the respective principal or face amounts of the securities beneficially owned by the participants. Any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the securities will designate the accounts to be credited. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depositary, with respect to interests of participants, and on the records of participants, with respect to interests of persons holding through participants. The laws of some states may require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of these securities in definitive form. These laws may impair your ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in global securities.

So long as the depositary, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a global security, that depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the securities represented by the global security for all purposes under the applicable deposit agreement or warrant agreement. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have the securities represented by the global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the securities under the applicable deposit agreement or warrant agreement. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a global security must rely on the procedures of the depositary for that global security and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the applicable deposit agreement or warrant agreement. We understand that under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a global security desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the applicable deposit agreement or warrant agreement, the depositary for the global security would authorize the participants holding

Edgar Filing: IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

the relevant beneficial interests to give or take that action, and the participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through them to give or take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

Any payments to holders with respect to depositary shares or warrants represented by a global security registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee will be made to the depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the global security. None of us, or any warrant agent, unit agent or other agent of ours, or any agent of any warrant agent or unit agent will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

Table of Contents

We expect that the depositary for any of the securities represented by a global security, upon receipt of any payment to holders or other distribution of underlying securities or other property on that registered global security, will immediately credit participants' accounts in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in that global security as shown on the records of the depositary. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a global security held through participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of those participants.

If the depositary for any of the securities represented by a global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor depositary registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act is not appointed by us within 90 days, we will issue securities in definitive form in exchange for the global security that had been held by the depositary. Any securities issued in definitive form in exchange for a global security will be registered in the name or names that the depositary gives to the relevant warrant agent, unit agent or other relevant agent of ours or theirs. It is expected that the depositary's instructions will be based upon directions received by the depositary from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the global security that had been held by the depositary.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell securities:

- through underwriters;
- through dealers;
- through agents;
- directly to purchasers; or
- through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

In addition, we may issue the securities as a dividend or distribution or in a subscription rights offering to our existing security holders. This prospectus may be used in connection with any offering of our securities through any of these methods or other methods described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

We may directly solicit offers to purchase securities, or agents may be designated to solicit such offers. We will, in the prospectus supplement relating to such offering, name any agent that could be viewed as an underwriter under the Securities Act, and describe any commissions that we must pay. Any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment or, if indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, on a firm commitment basis.

The distribution of the securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions:

- at a fixed price, or prices, which may be changed from time to time;
- at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

- at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or
- at negotiated prices.

Each prospectus supplement will describe the method of distribution of the securities and any applicable restrictions.

The prospectus supplement with respect to the securities of a particular series will describe the terms of the offering of the securities, including the following:

- the name of the agent or any underwriters;
- the public offering or purchase price and the proceeds we will receive from the sale of the securities;
- any discounts and commissions to be allowed or re-allowed or paid to the agent or underwriters;
- all other items constituting underwriting compensation;
- any discounts and commissions to be allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers; and
- any exchanges on which the securities will be listed.

If any underwriters or agents are utilized in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will enter into an underwriting agreement or other agreement with them at the time of sale to them, and we will set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such offering the names of the underwriters or agents and the terms of the related agreement with them.

Table of Contents

If a dealer is utilized in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will sell such securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell such securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealer at the time of resale.

If we offer securities in a subscription rights offering to our existing security holders, we may enter into a standby underwriting agreement with dealers, acting as standby underwriters. We may pay the standby underwriters a commitment fee for the securities they commit to purchase on a standby basis. If we do not enter into a standby underwriting arrangement, we may retain a dealer-manager to manage a subscription rights offering for us.

Remarketing firms, agents, underwriters, dealers and other persons may be entitled under agreements which they may enter into with us to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and may be customers of, engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

If so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will authorize underwriters or other persons acting as our agents to solicit offers by certain institutions to purchase securities from us pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on the date stated in the prospectus supplement. Each contract will be for an amount not less than, and the aggregate amount of securities sold pursuant to such contracts shall not be less nor more than, the respective amounts stated in the prospectus supplement. Institutions with whom the contracts, when authorized, may be made include commercial and savings banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies, educational and charitable institutions and other institutions, but shall in all cases be subject to our approval. Delayed delivery contracts will not be subject to any conditions except that:

- the purchase by an institution of the securities covered under that contract shall not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of the jurisdiction to which that institution is subject; and
- if the securities are also being sold to underwriters acting as principals for their own account, the underwriters shall have purchased such securities not sold for delayed delivery. The underwriters and other persons acting as our agents will not have any responsibility in respect of the validity or performance of delayed delivery contracts.

Certain agents, underwriters and dealers, and their associates and affiliates may be customers of, have borrowing relationships with, engage in other transactions with, and/or perform services, including investment banking services, for us or one or more of our respective affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

In order to facilitate the offering of the securities, any underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the securities or any other securities the prices of which may be used to determine payments on such securities. Specifically, any underwriters may overallocate in connection with the offering, creating a short position for their own accounts. In addition, to cover overallocations or to stabilize the price of the securities or of any such other securities, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, the securities or any such other securities in the open market. Finally, in any offering of the securities through a syndicate of underwriters, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing the securities in the offering if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed securities in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these

Edgar Filing: IDERA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities above independent market levels. Any such underwriters are not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time.

Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Exchange Act, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. The applicable prospectus supplement may provide that the original issue date for your securities may be more than three scheduled business days after the trade date for your securities. Accordingly, in such a case, if you wish to trade securities on any date prior to the third business day before the original issue date for your securities, you will be required, by virtue of the fact that your securities initially are expected to settle more than three scheduled business days after the trade date for your securities, to make alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

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

Table of Contents

In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, the aggregate maximum discount, commission or agency fees or other items constituting underwriting compensation to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer will not exceed 8% of the proceeds from any offering pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement indicates otherwise, the validity of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered will be passed upon by Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP.

EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016, as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement. Our financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's reports, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

Up to \$50,000,000

Common Stock

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

JMP Securities

November 26, 2018
