Viking Therapeutics, Inc.
Form 424B5
December 07, 2017
Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)

Registration No. 333-212134

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus dated July 26, 2016)

5,130,435 Shares

Common Stock

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We are offering 5,130,435 shares of our common stock in this offering.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol “VKTX.” On December 6, 2017, the closing price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market was $2.99 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. See “Risk Factors” beginning on page S-7 of this prospectus supplement and under similar headings in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement for a discussion of certain risks you should consider before investing in shares of our common stock.

| | Per Share | Total |
|---|---|---|
| Public offering price | $ 2.50 | $12,826,087.50 |
| Underwriting discounts and commissions[1] | $ 0.175 | $ 897,826.12 |
| Proceeds to us before expenses | $ 2.325 | $11,928,261.38 |

(1) We have agreed to reimburse the underwriters for certain of their expenses. See “Underwriting” for a description of the compensation to be received by the underwriters.

We have granted the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to 769,565 additional shares of common stock from us at the public offering price, less underwriting discounts and commissions, to cover over-allotments, if any.

As of December 6, 2017, the aggregate market value of our outstanding common stock held by non-affiliates was $64.9 million, based on 28,876,864 shares of outstanding common stock, of which 20,996,901 shares are held by non-affiliates, and a per share price of $3.09, which was the closing bid price of our common stock as quoted on the Nasdaq Capital Market on November 24, 2017. We have offered and sold shares of our common stock for an aggregate sales price of $6,866,785 pursuant to General Instruction I.B.6. of Form S-3 during the 12 calendar months prior to and including the date of this prospectus supplement.

We are an “emerging growth company” as defined by the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012 and, as such, we have elected to comply with certain reduced public company reporting requirements for this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and future filings.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The underwriters expect to deliver the common stock to the investors in book-entry form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company on or about December 11, 2017.

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Sole Book-Running Manager

William Blair

Co-Managers

Maxim Group LLC

Roth Capital Partners

The date of this prospectus supplement is December 6, 2017

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## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus are part of a "shelf" registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using a "shelf" registration process. This prospectus supplement describes the specific terms of this offering. The accompanying base prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference therein, provides general information about us, some of which, such as the section therein entitled "Plan of Distribution," may not apply to this offering. Generally, when we refer to this prospectus, we are referring to both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus, combined.

We urge you to carefully read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying base prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein and the additional information under the heading "Incorporation by Reference; Where You Can Find More Information" before buying any of the securities being offered under this prospectus supplement. These documents contain information you should consider when making your investment decision.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus supplement may add, update or change information contained in the accompanying base prospectus. To the extent any information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying base prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement. The information in this prospectus supplement will be deemed to modify or supersede the information in the accompanying base prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference therein, except for those documents incorporated by reference therein which we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement.

You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus is accurate on any date subsequent to the date set forth on the front cover of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying base prospectus or on any date subsequent to the date of the document incorporated by reference, as applicable. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, the securities described in this prospectus supplement only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the offering of the securities in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons outside the United States who come into possession of this prospectus supplement must inform themselves about, and observe any restrictions relating to, the offering of the securities and the distribution of this prospectus supplement outside the United States. This prospectus supplement does not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities offered by this prospectus supplement by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such an offer or solicitation.

We further note that the representations, warranties and covenants made by us in any agreement that is filed as an exhibit to any document that is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying base prospectus were made solely for the benefit of the parties to such agreement, including, in some cases, for the purpose of allocating risk among the parties to such agreements, and should not be deemed to be a representation, warranty or covenant to you. Moreover, such representations, warranties or covenants were accurate only as of the date when made. Accordingly, such representations, warranties and covenants should not be relied on as accurately representing the current state of our affairs.

In this prospectus supplement, unless otherwise indicated or required by the context, the terms “Viking,” “we,” “our,” “us” and the “Company” refer to Viking Therapeutics, Inc.

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary contains basic information about us and this offering. This summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus supplement. This summary is not complete and may not contain all of the information that may be important to you and that you should consider before deciding whether or not to invest in our securities. For a more complete understanding of Viking and this offering, you should carefully read this prospectus supplement, including the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, in its entirety. Investing in our securities involves risks that are described in this prospectus supplement under the heading "Risk Factors," under the heading "Item 1A. Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2017 and in our other filings with the SEC.

The Company

Overview

We are a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of novel, first-in-class or best-in-class therapies for metabolic and endocrine disorders. We have exclusive worldwide rights to a portfolio of five drug candidates in clinical trials or preclinical studies, which are based on small molecules licensed from Ligand Pharmaceuticals Incorporated, or Ligand.

Our lead clinical program is VK5211, an orally available drug candidate, currently in a Phase 2 clinical trial for acute rehabilitation following non-elective hip fracture surgery. VK5211 is a non-steroidal selective androgen receptor modulator, or SARM. A SARM is designed to selectively interact with a subset of receptors that have a normal physiologic role of interacting with naturally-occurring hormones called androgens. Broad activation of androgen receptors with drugs, such as exogenous testosterone, can stimulate muscle growth and improve bone mineral density, but often results in unwanted side effects such as prostate growth, hair growth and acne. VK5211 is expected to selectively produce the therapeutic benefits of testosterone in muscle and bone tissue, potentially accelerating rehabilitation and improving patient outcomes. VK5211 is also expected to have improved safety, tolerability and patient acceptance relative to testosterone. We believe that VK5211 may also have potential benefits to patients suffering from muscle loss in other settings, such as joint replacements or muscle wasting disorders. We reported positive top-line results from this Phase 2 trial in November 2017. See "—Recent Developments—VK5211 Phase 2 Clinical Trial" below.

Our second clinical program is VK2809, an orally available, tissue and receptor-subtype selective agonist of the thyroid hormone receptor beta, or TRß, that is in a Phase 2 clinical trial for the treatment of patients with hypercholesterolemia and fatty liver disease. Selective activation of the TRß receptor in liver tissue is believed to favorably affect cholesterol and lipoprotein levels via multiple mechanisms, including increasing the expression of low-density lipoprotein receptors and increasing mitochondrial fatty acid oxidation. We are currently conducting a Phase 2 clinical trial of VK2809 in patients with hypercholesterolemia and fatty liver disease and expect to report initial results from this Phase 2 trial in the first half of 2018. In October 2017, we announced positive final results from an eight-week study of VK2809 in an in vivo model of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). See "—Recent Developments—VK2809 In Vivo Study of NASH" below.

In February 2017, we announced that we are commencing efforts to utilize VK2809 to potentially help patients who suffer from Glycogen Storage Disease type Ia, or GSD Ia. GSD Ia is a rare, orphan genetic disease caused by a deficiency of glucose-6-phosphatase (G6PC), an enzyme responsible for the liver's production of free glucose from glycogen and gluconeogenesis. Approximately 2,000 patients in the U.S. suffer from GSD Ia. We have conducted a proof-of-concept study utilizing VK2809 in an in vivo model of GSD Ia. Data demonstrated that treatment with

VK2809 led to statistically significant reductions in key metabolic markers of GSD Ia. VK2809's potential to rapidly reduce hepatic triglyceride levels, as demonstrated in this initial evaluation in a GSD Ia model, provides support for the continued investigation of the compound in this indication. We expect to file an Investigational New Drug Application, or IND, and then initiate a Phase 1 human proof-of-concept clinical trial to evaluate VK2809 in patients with GSD Ia in the first quarter of 2018 and to announce initial results from the trial in the second half of 2018.

We are also developing VK0214 for X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy, or X-ALD, a rare X-linked, inherited neurological disorder characterized by a breakdown in the protective barriers surrounding brain and nerve cells. The disease, for which there is no approved treatment, is caused by mutations in a peroxisomal transporter of very long chain fatty acids, or VLCFA, known as ABCD1. As a result, transporter function is impaired and patients are unable to efficiently metabolize VLCFA. The TRß receptor is known to regulate expression of an alternative VLCFA transporter, known as ABCD2. Various preclinical models have demonstrated that increased expression of ABCD2 can lead to normalization of VLCFA metabolism. Preliminary data suggest that VK0214 stimulates ABCD2 expression in an in vitro model and reduces VLCFA levels in an in vivo model of X-ALD. Pending completion of certain toxicology studies, we expect to file an IND and then initiate a proof-of-concept clinical trial in the second half of 2018.

We were incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware on September 24, 2012. Since our incorporation, we have devoted most of our efforts towards conducting certain clinical trials and preclinical studies related to our VK5211, VK2809 and VK0214 programs, as well as efforts towards raising capital and building infrastructure. We obtained worldwide rights to our VK5211, VK2809 and VK0214 programs and certain other assets pursuant to an exclusive license agreement with Ligand. The terms of this license agreement are detailed in the Master License Agreement, which we entered into on May 21, 2014 with Ligand, as amended, or the Master License Agreement. A summary of the Master License Agreement can be found in the section entitled “Business —Agreements with Ligand —Master License Agreement” in Part I, Item 1 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 21, 2017.

For a complete description of our business, financial condition, results of operations and other important information, we refer you to our filings with the SEC that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2017. For instructions on how to find copies of these documents, see the section of this prospectus supplement entitled “Information Incorporated by Reference; Where You Can Find More Information.”

Recent Developments

VK2809 In Vivo Study of NASH

In October 2017, we announced positive final results from an eight-week study of VK2809 in an in vivo model of NASH. Treatment with VK2809 resulted in: (1) statistically significant reductions in several key measures of steatosis, including liver triglyceride content and total liver lipid content, (2) fibrotic activity, including total liver fibrosis, type I collagen and hydroxyproline, relative to vehicle controls, and (3) statistically significant changes in the expression of key genes associated with NASH development and progression, relative to vehicle control, suggesting improved lipid and cholesterol metabolism, improved lipid metabolism and insulin sensitivity and reduced fibrotic activity.

VK5211 Phase 2 Clinical Trial

On November 28, 2017, we announced positive top-line results from our 12-week, Phase 2 clinical trial of VK5211 in patients who recently suffered a hip fracture. Top-line data showed that the trial achieved its primary endpoint, demonstrating statistically significant, dose dependent increases in lean body mass, less head, following treatment with VK5211 as compared to placebo. The study also achieved certain secondary endpoints, demonstrating statistically significant increases in appendicular lean body mass and total lean body mass for all doses of VK5211, compared to placebo. VK5211 demonstrated encouraging safety and tolerability in this study, with no drug-related serious adverse events (SAEs) reported.

The Phase 2 clinical trial was a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group, international study designed to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of VK5211 in patients recovering from hip fracture surgery. A total of 108 patients were randomized to receive once-daily VK5211 doses of 0.5 mg, 1.0 mg, 2.0 mg, or placebo for 12 weeks. Top-line results include:

- All doses of VK5211 demonstrated statistically significant increases in total lean body mass, less head, the study's primary endpoint. Placebo-adjusted increases in lean body mass were 4.8% at 0.5 mg ($p < 0.005$), 7.2% at 1.0 mg ($p < 0.001$), and 9.1% at 2.0 mg ($p < 0.001$). These corresponded to placebo-adjusted increases of 1.6 kg at 0.5 mg ($p < 0.005$), 2.5 kg at 1.0 mg ($p < 0.001$), and 3.1 kg at 2.0 mg ($p < 0.001$).
- The proportion of patients experiencing at least a 5% increase in total lean body mass, less head, were 19% with placebo, 61% at 0.5 mg, 65% at 1.0 mg, and 75% at 2.0 mg ($p < 0.01$ for each). The proportion of patients demonstrating at least a 2.0 kg gain in total lean body mass, less head, were 14% with placebo, 57% at 0.5 mg, 65% at 1.0 mg, and 81% at 2.0 mg ($p < 0.01$ for each).
- All doses of VK5211 produced statistically significant increases in appendicular lean body mass, a secondary efficacy endpoint. Placebo-adjusted increases in appendicular lean body mass were 6.1% at 0.5 mg ($p < 0.01$), 9.0% at 1.0 mg ($p < 0.001$), and 10.2% at 2.0 mg ($p < 0.001$). These corresponded to placebo-adjusted increases of 0.8 kg at 0.5 mg ($p < 0.05$), 1.3 kg at 1.0 mg ($p < 0.001$), and 1.4 kg at 2.0 mg ($p < 0.001$).
- All doses of VK5211 produced statistically significant increases in total lean body mass, including head, a secondary efficacy endpoint. Increases in total lean body mass were 6.3% ($p < 0.005$), 8.2% ($p < 0.001$), and 9.9% ($p < 0.001$) from baseline, corresponding to placebo-adjusted increases of 4.7% at 0.5 mg ($p < 0.005$), 6.8% at 1.0 mg ($p < 0.001$), and 8.3% at 2.0 mg ($p < 0.001$). These corresponded to placebo-adjusted increases of 1.7 kg at 0.5 mg ($p < 0.005$), 2.6 kg at 1.0 mg ($p < 0.001$), and 3.1 kg at 2.0 mg ($p < 0.001$).
- Patients receiving VK5211 demonstrated numerical improvements in certain exploratory assessments of functional performance, including the 6-minute walk test and short physical performance battery, compared with placebo. These endpoints were not powered for significance. Further evaluation of exploratory functional endpoints is underway.
- There were no significant differences in the rates of adverse events reported among patients receiving VK5211 compared with placebo. There were no dose-related differences in reported adverse events among various VK5211 treatment groups. No drug-related SAEs were observed in patients receiving VK521.

We expect to receive follow-up data for the Phase 2 clinical trial in the first half of 2018.

Corporate Information

We were incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware on September 24, 2012. Our principal executive offices are located at 12340 El Camino Real, Suite 250, San Diego, CA 92130, and our telephone number is (858) 704-4660. Our website address is www.vikingtherapeutics.com. We do not incorporate the information on, or accessible through, our website into this prospectus supplement, and you should not consider any information on, or accessible through, our website as part of this prospectus supplement. We have included our website address in this prospectus supplement solely as an inactive textual reference.

Emerging Growth Company Status

We qualify as an "emerging growth company," as that term is defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012, or the JOBS Act. For as long as we qualify as an emerging growth company, we may take advantage of certain exemptions from various reporting requirements that are applicable to other public companies that do not qualify as emerging growth companies, including, without limitation, not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as amended, reduced disclosure obligations relating to executive compensation and exemptions from the requirements of holding advisory "say-on-pay," "say-when-on-pay" and "golden parachute" executive compensation votes.

Under the JOBS Act, we will remain an emerging growth company until the earliest of:

- the last day of the fiscal year during which we have total annual gross revenues of $1.07 billion or more;
- the last day of the fiscal year following the fifth anniversary of the completion of our initial public offering, or December 31, 2020;
- the date on which we have, during the previous three-year period, issued more than $1.0 billion in non-convertible debt; and
- the date on which we are deemed to be a "large accelerated filer" under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act (i.e., the first day of the fiscal year after we have (1) more than $700.0 million in outstanding common equity held by our non-affiliates, measured each year on the last day of our second fiscal quarter, and (2) been public for at least 12 months).

We have elected to take advantage of certain of the reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in this prospectus supplement and may elect to take advantage of other reduced reporting requirements in future filings with the SEC. As a result, the information that we provide to our stockholders may be different than the information you receive from other public reporting companies.

The Offering

| | |
|---|---|
| Common stock offered by us | 5,130,435 shares |
| Common stock to be outstanding immediately after this offering | 33,629,282 shares |
| Option to purchase additional shares | We have granted the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to 769,565 additional shares of common stock from us at the public offering price, less underwriting discounts and commissions, to cover over-allotments, if any. |
| Use of proceeds | We estimate the net proceeds from this offering will be approximately $11.7 million, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for continued development of our VK5211, VK2809 and VK0214 programs and for general research and development, working capital and general corporate purposes. See "Use of Proceeds" beginning on page S-11 of this prospectus supplement for additional detail. |
| Trading symbol | Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol "VKTX." |
| Risk factors | Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-7 and other information included or incorporated in this prospectus supplement for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before investing in our securities. |

The number of shares of our common stock that will be outstanding immediately after this offering is based on 28,498,847 shares of common stock outstanding as of September 30, 2017, and excludes:

- 1,589,894 shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of options outstanding as of September 30, 2017 with a weighted-average exercise price of $2.67 per share;
- 56,250 shares of our common stock reserved for future issuance in connection with service-based restricted stock units outstanding as of September 30, 2017 with a weighted-average grant date fair value of $4.73 per share;
- 675,819 shares of our common stock reserved as of September 30, 2017 for future issuance under our 2014 Equity Incentive Plan, which contains provisions that may increase its share reserve each year;
- 716,192 shares of our common stock reserved as of September 30, 2017 for future issuance under our 2014 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, which contains provisions that may increase its share reserve each year; and
- 12,479,837 shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding warrants as of September 30, 2017, at a weighted-average exercise price of $1.51 per share.

Except as otherwise indicated, all information in this prospectus supplement assumes no exercise by the underwriters of their option to purchase additional shares to cover over-allotments, if any, and that the secured convertible promissory note previously issued by us to Ligand is not converted into any shares of our common stock.

RISK FACTORS

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2017, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, as well as our other filings with the SEC, include material risk factors relating to our business. Those risks and uncertainties and the risks and uncertainties described below are not the only risks and uncertainties that we face. Additional risks and uncertainties that are not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial or that are not specific to us, such as general economic conditions, may also materially and adversely affect our business and operations. If any of those risks and uncertainties or the risks and uncertainties described below actually occurs, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be harmed substantially. In such a case, you may lose all or part of your investment. You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below and those risks and uncertainties incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement, as well as the other information included in this prospectus supplement, before making an investment decision with respect to our common stock.

Risks Related to this Offering

Purchasers of common stock in this offering will experience immediate and substantial dilution in the book value of their investment. You may experience further dilution upon exercise of our outstanding options and warrants.

The public offering price per share of common stock in this offering is substantially higher than the net tangible book value per share of our common stock before giving effect to this offering. Accordingly, if you purchase common stock in this offering, you will incur immediate substantial dilution of approximately $2.09 per share, representing the difference between the public offering price per share of common stock and our as adjusted net tangible book value as of September 30, 2017. In addition, if our outstanding options or warrants are exercised, you could experience further dilution. For a further description of the dilution that you will experience immediately after this offering, see the section in this prospectus supplement entitled “Dilution.”

Future sales of our common stock, or the perception that such future sales may occur, may cause our stock price to decline.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public market, or the perception that these sales could occur, following this offering could cause the market price of our common stock to decline. A substantial majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock are, and the shares of common stock sold in this offering upon issuance will be, freely tradable without restriction or further registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

We have broad discretion to determine how to use the funds raised in this offering, and may use them in ways that may not enhance our operating results or the price of our common stock.

Our management will have broad discretion over the use of proceeds from this offering, and we could spend the proceeds from this offering in ways our stockholders may not agree with or that do not yield a favorable return, if at all. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering for continued development of our VK5211, VK2809 and VK0214 programs and for general research and development, working capital and general corporate purposes. See “Use of Proceeds” beginning on page S-11 of this prospectus supplement for additional detail. However, our use of these proceeds may differ substantially from our current plans. If we do not invest or apply the proceeds from this offering in ways that improve our operating results, we may fail to achieve expected financial results, which could cause our stock price to decline.

DISCLOSURE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which statements involve substantial risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements generally relate to future events or our future financial or operating performance. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements because they contain words such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “expects,” “plans,” “anticipates,” “could,” “intends,” “target,” “projects,” “contemplates,” “believes,” “estimates,” “predicts,” “potential” the negative of these words or other similar terms or expressions that concern our expectations, strategy, plans or intentions. Forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement include, but are not limited to, statements about:

- risks and uncertainties associated with our research and development activities, including our clinical trials and preclinical studies;
- the timing or likelihood of regulatory filings and approvals or of alternative regulatory pathways for our drug candidates;