

CYTRX CORP
Form 424B5
July 26, 2011
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-170437

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relate to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, but the information in this prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities, and we are not soliciting offers to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JULY 26, 2011

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated December 13, 2010)

Shares of Common Stock

Warrants to Purchase up to

Shares of Common Stock

We are offering _____ shares of our common stock and warrants to purchase up to _____ shares of our common stock in this offering (and the shares of common stock issuable from time to time upon exercise of these warrants) pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Each share of common stock is being sold together with a five-year warrant to purchase one share of common stock at an exercise price of \$ _____ per share. The shares of common stock and warrants will be issued separately.

Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol CYTR. On July 25, 2011, the last reported sale price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Capital Market was \$0.69 per share. There is no established public trading market for the warrants, and we do not expect a market to develop. In addition, we do not intend to apply for listing of the warrants on any national securities exchange or other nationally recognized trading system.

Our business and an investment in our securities include significant risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement and on page 14 of the accompanying prospectus and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, which has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus.

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 supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	<i>Per Share</i>	<i>Per Warrant</i>	<i>Total</i>
Public offering price	\$	\$	\$
Underwriting discount¹	\$	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$	\$	\$

¹ In addition, we have agreed to reimburse the underwriters for certain out-of-pocket expenses. See the section captioned "Underwriting" in this prospectus supplement for additional information.

The underwriters may also purchase up to an additional _____ shares and/or additional warrants to purchase up to _____ shares of common stock from us at the public offering price for each security, less the underwriting discount, within 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement to cover overallocments, if any. If the underwriters exercise the option in full, the total discount will be \$ _____ and the total proceeds, before expenses, to us will be \$ _____.

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares and warrants against payment on or about _____, 2011.

Cowen and Company

Prospectus Supplement dated _____, 2011.

Roth Capital Partners

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT</u>	S-1
<u>SUMMARY</u>	S-2
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	S-5
<u>NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	S-9
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	S-10
<u>DILUTION</u>	S-11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES</u>	S-12
<u>UNDERWRITING</u>	S-17
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	S-21
<u>EXPERTS</u>	S-21
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	S-21
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	S-21

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROSPECTUS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	1
<u>ABOUT CYTRX</u>	2
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	3
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	16
<u>THE SECURITIES THAT WE MAY OFFER</u>	16
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	17
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	21
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	23
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	24
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	26
<u>INCORPORATION OF INFORMATION FILED WITH THE SEC</u>	26
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	27
<u>EXPERTS</u>	27

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is part of the registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) using a shelf registration process and consists of two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, including the documents incorporated by reference, which describes the specific terms of this offering. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference, gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. Generally, when we refer only to the prospectus, we are referring to both parts of this document combined. This prospectus supplement may add to, update or change information in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

If information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying prospectus or with any document incorporated by reference that was filed with the SEC before the date of this prospectus supplement, you should rely on this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated into each by reference include important information about us, the securities being offered and other information you should know before investing in our securities. You should also read and consider information in the documents we have referred you to in the section of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus entitled *Where You Can Find More Information*.

You should rely only on this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus we may provide to you in connection with this offering and the information incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference therein. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is in addition to or different from that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not offering to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is accurate as of any date other than as of the date of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, as the case may be, or in the case of the documents incorporated by reference, the date of such documents regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or any sale of our securities. Our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

No action has been or will be taken in any jurisdiction by us or the underwriters that would permit a public offering of the securities or the possession or distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in any jurisdiction, other than in the United States. Persons outside the United States who come into possession of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus must inform themselves about, and observe any restrictions relating to, the offering of the securities and the distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus outside the United States. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do 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 and the accompanying prospectus by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such an offer or solicitation.

In this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus, we sometimes refer to CytRx Corporation as CytRx, to our former subsidiary, RXi Pharmaceuticals Corporation, as RXi, and to Innovive Pharmaceuticals, Inc., which we acquired in September 2008, as Innovive. References in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus to we, us, our or the company refer to CytRx, alone

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information about us, this offering and information appearing elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or in the accompanying prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that may be important to you and that you should consider before purchasing our securities. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus include or incorporate by reference information about our securities, as well as information regarding our business and detailed financial data. Before making an investment decision, to fully understand this offering and its consequences to you, you should carefully read this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including Risk Factors beginning on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement and beginning on page 14 of the accompanying prospectus and the financial statements, related notes and other information that we incorporated by reference herein, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010.

The Company

Overview

We are a biopharmaceutical research and development company engaged in the development of high-value human therapeutics, specializing in oncology. Our drug development pipeline includes clinical development of three product candidates for cancer indications, including a planned Phase 2 clinical trial for INNO-206 as a treatment for soft tissue sarcomas following an open-label Phase 1b safety and dose escalation clinical trial in patients with advanced solid tumors, clinical trials with tamibarotene for the treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer and acute promyelocytic leukemia, or APL, two Phase 2 proof-of-concept clinical trials with bafetinib in patients with advanced prostate cancer and high-risk B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia, or B-CLL, and an additional pharmacokinetic clinical trial with bafetinib in patients with brain cancer.

We are a Delaware corporation, incorporated in 1985. Our corporate offices are located at 11726 San Vicente Boulevard, Suite 650, Los Angeles, California 90049, and our telephone number is (310) 826-5648. Our web site is located on the worldwide web at <http://www.cytrx.com>. We do not incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus the information on, or accessible through, our website, and you should not consider it as part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Recent Developments

Since March 31, 2010, we have announced several important developments that are summarized below:

On July 6, 2011, we announced that INNO-206 is delivering doxorubicin safely at doses over four times higher than the standard doxorubicin dose in our open-label Phase 1b safety and dose escalation clinical trial. The clinical trial is being conducted in up to 24 patients with advanced solid tumors who have failed standard therapies.

On July 5, 2011, we announced that the Office of Orphan Product Development of the Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, has granted INNO-206 orphan drug designation for the treatment of patients with soft tissue sarcomas. In April 2011, the FDA granted INNO-206 orphan drug designation for treating patients with pancreatic cancer.

On June 13, 2011, we announced that preliminary results from our ENABLE Phase 2 proof-of-concept trial demonstrated that bafetinib was clinically active in a group of patients with relapsed or refractory B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia, or B-CLL, who have failed several other treatments for their cancer. Based on this indication of clinical activity and the low incidence of adverse events, additional patients enrolled in the ENABLE Phase 2 clinical trial will receive bafetinib as a single agent at a higher dose.

On May 13, 2011, we entered into an asset purchase agreement with Orphazyme ApS, or Orphazyme, under which we sold to Orphazyme certain pre-clinical and clinical data, intellectual property rights and other assets

Table of Contents

relating to our compounds associated with molecular chaperone regulation technology. Under the asset purchase agreement, we received a cash payment and are entitled to receive various future payments that will be contingent upon the achievement of specified regulatory and business milestones, as well as royalty payments based on a specified percentage of any eventual net sales of products derived from the assets. We also will be entitled to a percentage-based fee from any licensing agreement entered into by Orphazyme with respect to the sold assets within 18 months after entering into the asset purchase agreement.

S-3

Table of Contents

The Offering

Common stock offered by us	shares
Common stock to be outstanding after this offering	shares
Warrants we are offering	<p>We are offering warrants to purchase up to shares of common stock that will be exercisable during the period commencing on the date of original issuance and ending five years from such date at an exercise price of \$ per share of common stock, subject to adjustment. This prospectus supplement also relates to the offering of the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants. There is no established public trading market for the warrants, and we do not expect a market to develop. In addition, we do not intend to apply for listing of the warrants on any national securities exchange or other nationally recognized trading system.</p>
Overallotment option	<p>shares of common stock and/or warrants to purchase up to shares of common stock.</p>
Use of proceeds	<p>We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering to fund the clinical development of INNO-206, bafetinib and tamibarotene and for general corporate purposes, which may include working capital, capital expenditures, research and development expenditures and other commercial expenditures. See Use of Proceeds on page S-10 for further information.</p>
Risk factors	<p>See Risk Factors beginning on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement, beginning on page 14 of the accompanying prospectus, and beginning on page 14 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 incorporated herein by reference, for a discussion of factors you should read and consider carefully before investing in our securities.</p>
NASDAQ Capital Market symbol	CYTR
The number of shares of common stock to be outstanding after this offering as shown above is based on 109,857,885 shares outstanding as of July 15, 2011 and excludes:	

The shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants offered hereby;

10,033,590 shares of our common stock subject to options outstanding as of July 15, 2011 having a weighted-average exercise price of \$1.04 per share;

Edgar Filing: CYTRX CORP - Form 424B5

7,199,500 shares of our common stock that have been reserved for issuance in connection with future grants under our stock option plans as of July 15, 2011; and

9,062,074 shares of our common stock that have been reserved for issuance upon exercise of outstanding warrants as of July 15, 2011 having a weighted-average exercise price of \$1.47 per share.

Except as otherwise indicated, all information in this prospectus supplement assumes no exercise by the underwriters of their overallotment option and no exercise of the warrants offered hereby.

S-4

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before acquiring any offered securities pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should carefully consider the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any accompanying prospectus supplement, including, without limitation, the risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, which is incorporated herein by reference, the risk factors described under the caption "Risk Factors" in any applicable prospectus supplement and any risk factors set forth in our other filings with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act before making an investment decision. The occurrence of any of these risks might cause you to lose all or a part of your investment in the offered securities. Please see "Where You Can Find Additional Information" on page S-22 of this prospectus supplement.

Risks Associated With Our Business

The following selected risk factors have been updated from the corresponding risk factors contained in the accompanying prospectus and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010:

We have operated at a loss and will likely continue to operate at a loss for the foreseeable future.

We have operated at a loss due to our ongoing expenditures for research and development of our product candidates and for general and administrative purposes and lack of significant recurring revenue. We incurred a net profit of \$0.4 million, including gain from the sale of RXi shares and other marketable securities, for the year ended December 31, 2010, net losses of \$4.8 million and \$27.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively, and a net loss of \$6.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011. We had an accumulated deficit as of March 31, 2011 of approximately \$202.8 million. We are likely to continue to incur losses unless and until we are able to commercialize one or more of our product candidates. These losses, among other things, have had and will continue to have an adverse effect on our stockholders' equity and working capital. Because of the numerous risks and uncertainties associated with our product development efforts, we are unable to predict when we may become profitable, if at all. If we do not become profitable or are unable to maintain future profitability, the market value of our common stock will be adversely affected.

We may be unable to protect our intellectual property rights, which could adversely affect our ability to compete effectively.

We believe that obtaining and maintaining patent and other intellectual property rights for our technologies and potential products is critical to establishing and maintaining the value of our assets and our business. We will be able to protect our technologies from unauthorized use by third parties only to the extent that we have rights to valid and enforceable patents or other proprietary rights that cover them. Although we own or have rights to patents and patent applications directed to INNO-206, tamibarotene and bafetinib, these patents and applications may not prevent third parties from developing or commercializing similar or identical technologies. In addition, our patents may be held to be invalid if challenged by third parties, and our patent applications may not result in the issuance of patents.

The patent positions of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies can be highly uncertain and involve complex legal and factual questions for which important legal principles remain unresolved. No consistent policy regarding the breadth of claims allowed in biotechnology patents has emerged to date in the U.S. and in many foreign countries. The application and enforcement of patent laws and regulations in foreign countries is even more uncertain. Accordingly, we may not be able to effectively file, protect or defend our proprietary rights on a consistent basis. Many of the patents and patent applications on which we rely were issued or filed by third parties prior to the time we acquired rights to them. The validity, enforceability and ownership of those patents and patent applications may be challenged, and if a court decides that our patents are not valid, we will not have the right to stop others from using our inventions. There is also the risk that, even if the validity of our patents is upheld, a court may refuse to stop others on the ground that their activities do not infringe our patents.

Table of Contents

Any litigation brought by us to protect our intellectual property rights could be costly and have a material adverse effect on our operating results or financial condition, make it more difficult for us to enter into strategic alliances with third parties to develop our products, or discourage our existing licensees from continuing their development work on our potential products. If our patent coverage is insufficient to prevent third parties from developing or commercializing similar or identical technologies, the value of our assets is likely to be materially and adversely affected.

We also rely on certain proprietary trade secrets and know-how, especially where we believe patent protection is not appropriate or obtainable. However, trade secrets and know-how are difficult to protect. Although we have taken measures to protect our unpatented trade secrets and know-how, including the use of confidentiality and invention assignment agreements with our employees, consultants and some of our contractors, it is possible that these persons may disclose our trade secrets or know-how or that our competitors may independently develop or otherwise discover our trade secrets and know-how.

If our product candidates infringe the rights of others, we could be subject to expensive litigation or be required to obtain licenses from others to develop or market them.

Our competitors or others may have patent rights that they choose to assert against us or our licensees, suppliers, customers or potential collaborators. Moreover, we may not know about patents or patent applications that our products would infringe. For example, because patent applications do not publish for at least 18 months, if at all, and can take many years to issue, there may be currently pending applications, unknown to us, that may later result in issued patents that our arimoclomol, iroxanadine or other product candidates would infringe. In addition, if third parties file patent applications or obtain patents claiming technology also claimed by us in issued patents or pending applications, we may have to participate in interference proceedings in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to determine priority of invention. If third parties file oppositions in foreign countries, we may also have to participate in opposition proceedings in foreign tribunals to defend the patentability of our foreign patent applications.

If a third party claims that we infringe its proprietary rights, any of the following may occur:

we may become involved in time-consuming and expensive litigation, even if the claim is without merit;

we may become liable for substantial damages for past infringement if a court decides that our technology infringes a competitor's patent;

a court may prohibit us from selling or licensing our product without a license from the patent holder, which may not be available on commercially acceptable terms, if at all, or which may require us to pay substantial royalties or grant cross licenses to our patents; and

we may have to redesign our product candidates or technology so that it does not infringe patent rights of others, which may not be possible or commercially feasible.

If any of these events occurs, our business and prospects will suffer and the market price of our common stock will likely decline substantially.

Risks Related to this Offering

Our common stock may be delisted from The NASDAQ Capital Market if the stock price does not increase.

We received notice from The NASDAQ Stock Market on February 18, 2011 that we were not in compliance with the minimum \$1.00 closing bid price required by NASDAQ Marketplace Rule 4310(c)(4) and, in accordance with Marketplace Rule 4310(c)(8)(D), could regain compliance if, by August 17, 2011, the closing bid price of our common stock is at or above \$1.00 for 10 consecutive business days and we otherwise meet the NASDAQ's continuing listing requirements. In its notice to us, NASDAQ also informed us that, if we did not regain compliance by the stated deadline, we would be granted up to an additional 180 calendar days to regain full compliance while continuing to trade during such time if we meet the NASDAQ's initial listing requirements other than the minimum bid price rule. If we eventually fail to comply with this condition for continued listing

Table of Contents

and our common stock is delisted from The NASDAQ Capital Market, we expect prices for our common stock to be quoted on the OTC Bulletin Board or on one of the quotation services operated by OTC Markets Group Inc. There is no assurance, however, that prices for our common stock would be quoted on this trading system or that an active trading market for our common stock would thereafter exist, which would materially and adversely impact the market value of our common stock.

Management will have broad discretion as to the use of the proceeds of this offering.

We have not designated the amount of net proceeds we will receive from this offering for any particular purpose. Accordingly, our management will have broad discretion as to the application of these net proceeds and could use them for purposes other than those contemplated at the time of this offering. Our stockholders may not agree with the manner in which our management chooses to allocate and spend the net proceeds.

You will experience immediate and substantial dilution.

Since the public offering price of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is higher than the net tangible book value per share of our common stock, you will suffer substantial dilution in the net tangible book value of the common stock you purchase in this offering. See "Dilution" in this prospectus supplement for a more detailed discussion of the dilution you will incur if you purchase securities in this offering.

You may experience future dilution as a result of future equity offerings or other equity issuances.

To raise additional capital, we may in the future offer additional shares of our common stock, preferred stock or other securities convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock. We cannot assure you that we will be able to sell shares or other securities in any other offering at a price per share that is equal to or greater than the price per share paid by investors in this offering. The price per share at which we sell additional shares of our common stock or other securities convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock in future transactions may be higher or lower than the price per share in this offering.

Our outstanding options and warrants and the availability for resale of the underlying shares may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

As of July 15, 2011, there were outstanding stock options to purchase approximately 10.0 million shares of our common stock at a weighted-average exercise price of \$1.04 per share and outstanding warrants to purchase approximately 9.1 million shares of common stock at a weighted-average exercise price of \$1.47 per share. Our outstanding options and warrants could adversely affect our ability to obtain future financing or engage in certain mergers or other transactions, since the holders of options and warrants can be expected to exercise them at a time when we may be able to obtain additional capital through a new offering of securities on terms more favorable to us than the terms of outstanding options and warrants. For the life of the options and warrants, the holders have the opportunity to profit from a rise in the market price of our common stock without assuming the risk of ownership. The issuance of shares upon the exercise of outstanding options and warrants will also dilute the ownership interests of our existing stockholders.

We have registered with the SEC the resale by the holders of all or substantially all shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of our outstanding options and warrants. The availability of these shares for public resale, as well as actual resales of these shares, could adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

There is no public market for the warrants to purchase common stock being offered in this offering.

There is no established public trading market for the warrants being offered in this offering, and we do not expect a market to develop. In addition, we do not intend to apply for listing of the warrants on any securities exchange or other nationally recognized trading system. Without an active trading market, the liquidity of the warrants will be limited.

Table of Contents

Holders of our warrants will have no rights as a common stockholder until such holders exercise their warrants and acquire our common stock.

Until holders of warrants acquire shares of our common stock upon exercise of the warrants, holders of warrants will have no rights with respect to the shares of our common stock underlying such warrants. Upon exercise of the warrants, the holders thereof will be entitled to exercise the rights of a common stockholder only as to matters for which the record date occurs after the exercise date.

The warrants may not have any value.

The warrants have an exercise price of \$ _____ per share and expire on the fifth anniversary of the date of issuance. In the event our common stock price does not exceed the exercise price of the warrants during the period when the warrants are exercisable, the warrants may not have any value.

If our common stock is not listed on a national securities exchange, U.S. holders of warrants may not be able to exercise their warrants without compliance with applicable state securities laws and the value of your warrants may be significantly reduced.

If our common stock is delisted from The NASDAQ Capital Market and is not eligible to be listed on another national securities exchange, the exercise of the warrants by U.S. holders may not be exempt from state securities laws. As a result, depending on the state of residence of a holder of the warrants, a U.S. holder may not be able to exercise its warrants unless we comply with any state securities law requirements necessary to permit such exercise or an exemption applies. Although we plan to use our reasonable efforts to assure that U.S. holders will be able to exercise their warrants under applicable state securities laws if no exemption exists, there is no assurance that we will be able to do so. As a result, in the event that our common stock is delisted from The NASDAQ Capital Market and is not eligible to be listed on another securities exchange, your ability to exercise your warrants may be limited. The value of the warrants may be significantly reduced if U.S. holders are not able to exercise their warrants under applicable state securities laws.

If our common stock is not listed on a national securities exchange, compliance with applicable state securities laws may be required for subsequent offers, transfers and sales of the shares of common stock and warrants offered hereby.

The shares of our common stock and the warrants are being offered pursuant to one or more exemptions from registration and qualification under applicable state securities laws. Because our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Capital Market, we are not required to register or qualify in any state the subsequent offer, transfer or sale of the common stock or warrants. If our common stock is delisted from The NASDAQ Capital Market and is not eligible to be listed on another national securities exchange, subsequent transfers of the shares of our common stock and warrants offered hereby by U.S. holders may not be exempt from state securities laws. In such event, it will be the responsibility of the holder of shares or warrants to register or qualify the shares or the warrants for any subsequent offer, transfer or sale in the United States or to determine that any such offer, transfer or sale is exempt under applicable state securities laws.

Table of Contents

NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or in the accompanying prospectus may include forward-looking statements that reflect our current views with respect to our ongoing and planned clinical trials, business strategy, business plan, financial performance and other future events. These statements include forward-looking statements both with respect to us, specifically, and the biotechnology sector, in general. We make these statements pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Statements that include the words expect, intend, plan, believe, project, estimate, may, should, anticipate, will and statements of a future or forward-looking nature identify forward-looking statements for purposes of the federal securities laws or otherwise.

All forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, and there are or will be important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in these statements. We believe that these factors include, but are not limited to, those factors set forth under the caption Risk Factors in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus and under the captions Risk Factors, Business, Legal Proceedings, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk and Controls and Procedures in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, all of which you should review carefully. Please consider our forward-looking statements in light of those risks as you read this prospectus and the prospectus supplement. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or review any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

If one or more of these or other risks or uncertainties materializes, or if our underlying assumptions prove to be incorrect, actual results may vary materially from what we anticipate. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or individuals acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by this Note. Before purchasing any shares of common stock, you should consider carefully all of the factors set forth or referred to in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus that could cause actual results to differ.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds of this offering, after deducting the underwriting discount and the estimated offering expenses payable by us, will be approximately \$ (or approximately \$ if the underwriters' over-allotment option is exercised in full), assuming no exercise of the warrants offered hereby.

We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering to fund the clinical development of INNO-206, bafetinib and tamibarotene and for general corporate purposes, which may include working capital, capital expenditures, research and development expenditures and other commercial expenditures. As of the date of this prospectus supplement, we cannot specify with certainty the particular uses of the proceeds from this offering. As a result, our management will retain broad discretion in the allocation and use of the net proceeds from this offering. Pending their use as described above, we intend to invest the net proceeds in high quality, short-term, interest-bearing securities.

S-10

Table of Contents**DILUTION**

Purchasers of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus will suffer immediate and substantial dilution in the net tangible book value per share of the common stock they purchase. Our net tangible book value as of March 31, 2011 was approximately \$0.22 per share of our common stock. Net tangible book value per share represents the amount of total tangible assets less total liabilities, divided by the number of shares of our common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2011.

Dilution in net tangible book value per share represents the difference between the amount per share paid by purchasers in this offering and the net tangible book value per share of our common stock immediately after this offering. After giving effect to the sale of _____ shares of common stock and warrants to purchase up to _____ shares of our common stock in this offering at the combined public offering price of \$ _____ per share and warrant, and after deducting the underwriting discount and the estimated offering expenses payable by us, our as adjusted net tangible book value as of March 31, 2011 would have been approximately \$ _____ per share of common stock. This represents an immediate increase in net tangible book value of \$ _____ share of common stock to our existing stockholders and an immediate dilution in net tangible book value of \$ _____ per share of common stock to purchasers in this offering, attributing none of the combined public offering price to the warrants offered hereby. The following table illustrates this per share dilution:

Combined public offering price per share and warrant		\$
Net tangible book value per share as of March 31, 2011	\$ 0.22	
Increase per share attributable to this offering	\$	
As adjusted net tangible book value per share as of March 31, 2011 after this offering		\$
Dilution per share to new investors participating in this offering		\$

The above table is based on 109,857,885 shares of common stock outstanding as of March 31, 2011, and excludes:

The shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants offered hereby;

9,808,590 shares of our common stock subject to options outstanding as of March 31, 2011 having a weighted average exercise price of \$1.05 per share;

7,434,500 shares of our common stock that have been reserved for issuance in connection with future grants under our stock option plans as of March 31, 2011; and

9,062,074 shares of our common stock that have been reserved for issuance upon exercise of outstanding warrants as of March 31, 2011 having a weighted average exercise price of \$1.47 per share.

If the underwriters exercise in full their option to purchase _____ additional shares of common stock and warrants to purchase up to _____ shares of our common stock at the combined public offering price, the as adjusted net tangible book value after this offering would be \$ _____ per share, representing an increase in net tangible book value of \$ _____ per share to existing stockholders and immediate dilution in net tangible book value of \$ _____ per share to purchasers in this offering.

To the extent that any options or warrants are exercised, new options are issued under our equity incentive plans or we otherwise issue additional shares of common stock in the future at a price less than the combined public offering price, there will be further dilution to new investors.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

In this offering, we are offering _____ shares of common stock and warrants to purchase up to _____ shares of common stock. Each share of common stock is being sold together with a five-year warrant to purchase one share of common stock at an exercise price of \$ _____. The shares of common stock and warrants will be issued separately. This prospectus also relates to the offering of shares of our common stock upon exercise, if any, of the warrants.

Our authorized capital stock currently consists of 250,000,000 shares of common stock, \$.001 par value per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$.01 par value per share.

The following summary of certain provisions of our common and preferred stock does not purport to be complete. You should refer to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our restated bylaws, which are filed with or incorporated by reference in the registration statement relating to this offering filed by us with the SEC. The summary below is also qualified by reference to the provisions of applicable Delaware corporation law.

Common Stock

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on matters on which our stockholders vote, including with respect to the election of directors. Holders of common stock are entitled to receive dividends, if declared by our board of directors, out of funds that we may legally use to pay dividends. If we liquidate or dissolve, holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in our assets once our debts and any liquidation preference owed to holders of any then-outstanding preferred stock are paid. No shares of preferred stock will be outstanding immediately after the closing of this offering. All shares of common stock that are outstanding as of the date of this prospectus supplement are, and all shares we are selling in this offering, upon their issuance and sale, will be, fully-paid and nonassessable.

Preferred Stock

We are currently authorized to issue 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, of which 25,000 shares have been designated as Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock. We have reserved all of the shares of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock for issuance upon the exercise of the rights under our Shareholder Protection Rights Agreement described below. Our board of directors has the authority to issue shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the rights of each series. These rights may include dividend rights, dividend rates, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, redemption prices, liquidation preferences, sinking fund terms, and the number of shares that constitute any series. The board of directors may exercise this authority without any further action by our stockholders.

Our board of directors will fix the rights, preferences, privileges, qualifications and restrictions of the preferred stock of each series that we sell under this prospectus in the certificate of designation relating to each such series. We will incorporate by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or as an exhibit to one or more current reports on Form 8-K, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of the related series of preferred stock. This description will include:

the title and stated value;

the number of shares we are offering;

the liquidation preference per share;

the purchase price per share;

the dividend rate per share, dividend period, payment date or dates and method of calculation of dividends;

whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends will accumulate;

S-12

Table of Contents

our right, if any, to defer payment of dividends and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any;

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any;

the provisions for redemption or repurchase, if applicable, and any restrictions on our ability to exercise those redemption and repurchase rights;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange or market;

whether the preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock or other securities of ours, including warrants, and, if applicable, the conversion price, or how it will be calculated, and under what circumstances and the mechanism by which it may be adjusted, and the conversion period;

whether the preferred stock will be exchangeable into debt securities or other securities of ours, and, if applicable, the exchange price, or how it will be calculated, and under what circumstances it may be adjusted, and the exchange period;

voting rights, if any;

preemptive rights, if any;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs;

any limitations on issuances of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior or on a parity with the series of preferred stock being issued as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs; and

any other specific terms, rights, preferences, privileges, qualifications or limitations of, or restrictions on, the preferred stock.

If we issue and sell shares of preferred stock pursuant to this prospectus, the shares will be fully paid and nonassessable and will not have, or be subject to, any preemptive or similar rights.

The laws of the State of Delaware, the state of our incorporation, provide that the holders of preferred stock will have the right to vote separately as a class on any proposal involving fundamental changes in the rights of holders of such preferred stock. This right is in addition to any voting rights that may be provided for in the applicable certificate of designation.

Edgar Filing: CYTRX CORP - Form 424B5

We believe the power to issue preferred stock will provide our board of directors with flexibility in connection with certain possible corporate transactions. The issuance of preferred stock, however, could adversely affect the voting power of holders of our common stock, restrict their rights to receive payment upon liquidation, and have the effect of delaying, deferring, or preventing a change in control which may be beneficial to our stockholders.

Warrants

The material terms and provisions of the warrants offered hereby are summarized below. The following description is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, the form of warrant, which will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K to be filed by us with the SEC in connection with this offering. You should review a copy of the form of warrant for a complete description of the terms and conditions applicable to the warrants.

Term. The warrants are exercisable beginning on the date of original issuance and at any time up to the date that is five years after such date.

S-13

Table of Contents

Exercise Price. The exercise price of the warrants is \$ _____ per share of common stock. The exercise price is subject to appropriate adjustment in the event of certain stock dividends and distributions, stock splits, stock combinations, distributions of assets, reclassifications or similar events affecting our common stock.

Exercisability. Holders may exercise the warrants beginning on the date of the original issuance and at any time during the term of the warrant. The warrants will be exercisable, at the option of each holder, in whole or in part, by delivering to us a duly executed exercise notice accompanied by payment in full for the number of shares of our common stock purchased upon such exercise (except in the case of a cashless exercise as discussed below). A holder (together with its affiliates) may not exercise any portion of the warrant to the extent that the holder would own more than 4.99% of the outstanding common stock after exercise, except that upon at least 61 days' prior notice from the holder to us, the holder may increase the amount of ownership of outstanding stock after exercising the holder's warrants up to 9.99% of the number of shares of our common stock outstanding immediately after giving effect to the exercise, as such percentage ownership is determined in accordance with the terms of the warrants.

Cashless Exercise. If, at the time a holder exercises its warrant, there is no effective registration statement registering, or the prospectus contained therein is not available for an issuance of the shares underlying the warrant to the holder, then in lieu of making the cash payment otherwise contemplated to be made to the Company upon such exercise in payment of the aggregate exercise price, the holder may elect instead to receive upon such exercise (either in whole or in part) the net number of shares of common stock determined according to a formula set forth in the warrant.

Transferability. Subject to applicable laws and the restriction on transfer set forth in the warrant, the warrant may be transferred at the option of the holder upon surrender of the warrant to us together with the appropriate instruments of transfer.

Authorized Shares. During the period the warrants are outstanding, we will reserve from its authorized and unissued common stock a sufficient number of shares to provide for the issuance of shares of common stock underlying the warrants upon the exercise of the warrants.

Exchange Listing. We do not plan on making an application to list the warrants on The NASDAQ Capital Market, any national securities exchange or other nationally recognized trading system.

Fundamental Transactions. In the event of any fundamental transaction, as described in the warrants and generally including any merger with or into another entity, sale of all or substantially all of our assets, tender offer or exchange offer, or reclassification of our common stock, then upon any subsequent exercise of a warrant, the holder shall have the right to receive as alternative consideration, for each share of our common stock that would have been issuable upon such exercise immediately prior to the occurrence of such fundamental transaction, the number of shares of common stock of the successor or acquiring corporation or of CytRx, if we are the surviving corporation, and any additional consideration receivable upon or as a result of such transaction by a holder of the number of shares of our common stock for which the warrant is exercisable immediately prior to such event. In addition, in the event of a fundamental transaction that is an all-cash transaction, a going private transaction or a transaction with a person or entity not traded on an eligible securities market, then we or any successor entity shall pay at the holder's option, exercisable at any time commencing on the earlier of the public disclosure of the fundamental transaction or the consummation of the fundamental transaction and continuing for 90 days after the public disclosure of the consummation of the fundamental transaction, an amount of cash equal to the value of the warrant as determined in accordance with the Black Scholes option pricing model.

Right as a Stockholder. Except as otherwise provided in the warrants or by virtue of such holder's ownership of shares of our common stock, the holders of the warrants do not have the rights or privileges of holders of our common stock, including any voting rights, until they exercise their warrants.

Waivers and Amendments. Any term of the warrants issued in the offering may be amended or waived with our written consent and the written consent of the holders of warrants representing a majority of the shares of common stock underlying the warrants then outstanding, except that no such action may increase the exercise price of any warrant or decrease the number of shares or class of stock obtainable upon exercise of any warrant without the written consent of the holder of the warrant.

Table of Contents

Anti-Takeover Measures

Delaware Law

Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law is applicable to takeovers of certain Delaware corporations, including us. Subject to exceptions enumerated in Section 203, Section 203 provides that a corporation shall not engage in any business combination with any interested stockholder for a three-year period following the date that the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder unless:

prior to that date, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, though some shares may be excluded from the calculation; or

on or subsequent to that date, the business combination is approved by the board of directors of the corporation and by the affirmative votes of holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Except as specified in Section 203, an interested stockholder is generally defined to include any person who, together with any affiliates or associates of that person, beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation, or is an affiliate or associate of the corporation and was the owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation, any time within three years immediately prior to the relevant date. Under certain circumstances, Section 203 makes it more difficult for an interested stockholder to effect various business combinations with a corporation for a three-year period, although the stockholders may elect not to be governed by this section, by adopting an amendment to the certificate of incorporation or by-laws, effective 12 months after adoption. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws do not opt out from the restrictions imposed under Section 203. We anticipate that the provisions of Section 203 may encourage companies interested in acquiring us to negotiate in advance with the board because the stockholder approval requirement would be avoided if a majority of the directors then in office excluding an interested stockholder approve either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder. These provisions may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying changes in control, which could depress the market price of our common stock and deprive stockholders of opportunities to realize a premium on shares of common stock held by them.

Charter and By-Law Provisions

In addition to the board of directors' ability to issue shares of preferred stock, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws contain the following provisions that may have the effect of discouraging unsolicited acquisition proposals:

our by-laws classify the board of directors into three classes with staggered three-year terms;

under our by-laws, our board of directors may enlarge the size of the board and fill the vacancies;

our by-laws provide that a stockholder may not nominate candidates for the board of directors at any annual or special meeting unless that stockholder notifies us of its intention a specified period in advance and provides us with certain required information;

stockholders who wish to bring business before the stockholders at our annual meeting must provide advance notice; and

Edgar Filing: CYTRX CORP - Form 424B5

our by-laws provide that special meetings of stockholders may only be called by our board of directors or by an officer so instructed by our board.

S-15

Table of Contents

Shareholder Protection Rights Agreement

Our board of directors adopted a Shareholder Protection Rights Agreement, or Rights Agreement, dated April 16, 1997, as amended, between us and American Stock Transfer & Trust Co., as Rights Agent. The Rights Agreement will expire on April 16, 2017, unless renewed or extended by our board of directors. A series of our preferred stock, designated as Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$.01 per share, was created in accordance with the Rights Agreement. The Rights Agreement is designed to deter coercive takeover tactics, including the accumulation of shares in the open market or through private transactions, and to prevent an acquirer from gaining control of us without offering a fair and adequate price and terms to all of our stockholders. As such, the Rights Agreement is intended to enhance our board of directors ability to protect stockholder interests and help to assure that stockholders receive fair and equal treatment in the event any proposed takeover of CytRx is made in the future. Pursuant to the Rights Agreement, our board of directors declared a dividend distribution of one preferred stock purchase right for each outstanding share of our common stock. The preferred stock purchase rights are attached to, and trade with, our common stock. The purchase rights are exercisable only upon the occurrence of certain triggering events described in the Rights Agreement.

Transfer Agent

The transfer agent for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, 40 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

We and the underwriters for the offering named below have entered into an underwriting agreement with respect to the shares of common stock and the warrants offered hereby. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase from us the number of shares of our common stock and warrants set forth opposite its name below:

Underwriter	Number of Shares	Number of Warrants
Cowen and Company, LLC		
Roth Capital Partners, LLC		
Total		

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters are subject to certain conditions precedent and that the underwriters have agreed, severally and not jointly, to purchase all of the shares and the warrants sold under the underwriting agreement if any of these shares and warrants are purchased, other than those shares and warrants covered by the overallotment option described below.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against specified liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, and to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect thereof.

The underwriters are offering the shares and the warrants, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by them, subject to approval of legal matters by their counsel and other conditions specified in the underwriting agreement. The underwriters reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part.

Overallotment Option to Purchase Additional Shares. We have granted to the underwriters an option to purchase up to _____ additional shares of common stock and/ or additional warrants to purchase up to _____ shares at the public offering prices set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, less the underwriting discount. This option is exercisable for a period of 30 days. The underwriters may exercise this option solely for the purpose of covering overallotments, if any, made in connection with the sale of the shares of our common stock and warrants offered hereby. To the extent that the underwriters exercise this option, the underwriters will purchase additional shares and/or warrants from us in approximately the same proportion as shown in the table above.

Discounts and Commissions. The following table shows the combined public offering price, the underwriting discount and proceeds, before expenses to us. These amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' overallotment option.

	Per Share of Common Stock and Per Warrant	Total	
		Without Overallotment	With Overallotment
Public offering price	\$	\$	\$
Underwriting discount			
Proceeds, before expenses, to us			

We also have agreed to reimburse the underwriters for certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred by them in connection with this offering, including fees and disbursements of counsel to the underwriters, provided that, subject to certain exceptions, out-of-pocket and legal expenses exceeding \$50,000 by either underwriter will require our prior approval. We estimate that the total expenses of the offering payable by us, excluding the underwriting discount, will be approximately \$ _____.

Edgar Filing: CYTRX CORP - Form 424B5

The underwriters propose to offer the shares of common stock and the warrants to the public at the public offering prices set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement. The underwriters may offer the shares of common stock and the warrants to securities dealers at the public offering prices less a concession not in excess of a combined \$ per share of common stock and related warrant. The underwriters may allow, and the

S-17

Table of Contents

dealers may reallocate, a discount not in excess of a combined \$ _____ per share of common stock and related warrant to other dealers. If all of the shares and warrants are not sold at the public offering price, the underwriters may change the offering prices and other selling terms.

Discretionary Accounts. The underwriters do not intend to confirm sales of the shares or warrants to any accounts over which they have discretionary authority.

Stabilization. In connection with this offering, the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, overallotment transactions, syndicate-covering transactions and purchases to cover positions created by short sales.

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase a security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum, and are engaged in for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the security while the offering is in progress.

Overallotment transactions involve sales by the underwriters of securities in excess of the securities the underwriters are obligated to purchase. This creates a syndicate short position which may be either a covered short position or a naked short position. In a covered short position, the amount of securities over-allotted by the underwriters is not greater than the amount of securities that they may purchase in the overallotment option. In a naked short position, the amount of securities involved is greater than the amount of securities in the overallotment option. The underwriters may close out any short position by exercising their overallotment option and/or purchasing the securities in the open market.

Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of securities in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. In determining the source of securities to close out the short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of the securities available for purchase in the open market as compared with the price at which they may purchase these securities through exercise of the overallotment option. If the underwriters sell more securities than could be covered by exercise of the overallotment option and, therefore, have a naked short position, the position can be closed out only by buying securities in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that after pricing there could be downward pressure on the price of the securities in the open market that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. These stabilizing transactions and syndicate covering transactions may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market prices of our common stock and warrants or preventing or retarding a decline in the market prices of our common stock and warrants. As a result, the prices of our common stock and warrants in the open market may be higher than they would otherwise be in the absence of these transactions. Neither we nor the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the effect that the transaction described above may have on the prices of our common stock and warrants. These transactions may be effected on The NASDAQ Stock Market, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Passive Market Making. In connection with this offering, underwriters and selling group members may engage in passive market making transactions in our common stock on The NASDAQ Stock Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, during a period before the commencement of offers or sales of common stock and extending through the completion of the distribution. A passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid of that security. However, if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, that bid must then be lowered when specified purchase limits are exceeded.

Lock-Up Agreements. Pursuant to certain lock-up agreements, we and our executive officers and directors have agreed, subject to certain exceptions, not to offer, sell, assign, transfer, pledge, contract to sell, or otherwise dispose of or announce the intention to otherwise dispose of, or enter into any swap, hedge or similar agreement or arrangement that transfers, in whole or in part, the economic consequence of ownership of, directly or indirectly, or make any demand or request or exercise any right with respect to the registration of, or file with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act relating to, any common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any common stock without the prior written consent of the underwriters

Table of Contents

for a period of 60 days after the date of the pricing of the offering. If either of the underwriters is at such time providing research coverage on us and is subject to the restrictions set forth in FINRA Rule 2711(f)(4), then if (i) we issue an earnings release or material news or a material event relating to us occurs during the last 17 days of the 60-day restricted period, or (ii) prior to the expiration of the 60-day restricted period, we announce that we will release earnings results during the 16-day period beginning on the last day of the 60-day restricted period, the restrictions described above will be extended automatically and the restrictions imposed by the lock-up agreements will continue to apply until the expiration of the 18-day period beginning on the issuance of the earnings release or the occurrence of the material news or material event.

United Kingdom. Each of the underwriters has represented and agreed that:

it has not made or will not make an offer of the securities to the public in the United Kingdom within the meaning of section 102B of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as amended) (FSMA) except to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities or otherwise in circumstances which do not require the publication by us of a prospectus pursuant to the Prospectus Rules of the Financial Services Authority (FSA);

it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of section 21 of FSMA) to persons who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 or in circumstances in which section 21 of FSMA does not apply to us; and

it has complied with and will comply with all applicable provisions of FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the securities in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Switzerland. The securities will not be offered, directly or indirectly, to the public in Switzerland and this prospectus does not constitute a public offering prospectus as that term is understood pursuant to article 652a or 1156 of the Swiss Federal Code of Obligations.

European Economic Area. In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area (Iceland, Norway and Lichtenstein in addition to the member states of the European Union) that has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), each underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of the securities to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the securities that has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of the securities to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;

to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;

in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by the issuer of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

Each person in a Relevant Member State who receives any communication in respect of, or who acquires any securities under, the offer contemplated in this prospectus will be deemed to have represented, warranted and agreed to and with us and each underwriter that:

it is a qualified investor within the meaning of the law in that Relevant Member State implementing Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive; and

S-19

Table of Contents

in the case of any securities acquired by it as a financial intermediary, as that term is used in Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, (1) the securities acquired by it in the offer have not been acquired on behalf of, nor have they been acquired with a view to their offer or resale to, persons in any Relevant Member State other than qualified investors, as that term is defined in the Prospectus Directive, or in circumstances in which the prior consent of the representative[s] of the underwriters has been given to the offer or resale; or (2) where securities have been acquired by it on behalf of persons in any Relevant Member State other than qualified investors, the offer of those securities to it is not treated under the Prospectus Directive as having been made to such persons.

For the purposes of the provisions in the two immediately preceding paragraphs, the expression an offer of the securities to the public in relation to the securities in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the securities to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the securities, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

Electronic Offer, Sale and Distribution of Securities. A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the websites maintained by one or more of the underwriters or selling group members, if any, participating in this offering and one or more of the underwriters participating in this offering may distribute prospectuses electronically. The underwriters may agree to allocate securities to underwriters and selling group members for sale to their online brokerage account holders. Internet distributions will be allocated by the underwriters and selling group members that will make internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations. Other than the prospectus in electronic format, the information on these websites is not part of this prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, has not been approved or endorsed by us or any underwriter in its capacity as underwriter, and should not be relied upon by investors.

Other Relationships. Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates have provided, and may in the future provide, various investment banking, commercial banking and other financial services for us and our affiliates for which they have received, and may in the future receive, customary fees.

Stock Exchange Listing. Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol CYTR. There is no established trading market for the warrants offered hereby, and we do not expect a market to develop. In addition, we do not intend to apply for listing of the warrants on any national securities exchange or other nationally recognized trading system.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by TroyGould PC, Los Angeles, California. TroyGould PC owned 70,000 shares of our common stock as of July 26, 2011. Lowenstein Sandler, Roseland, New Jersey, is acting as counsel for the underwriters in connection with certain legal matters related to this offering.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and schedules of December 31, 2010 and 2009 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010 and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010 incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of BDO USA, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

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>. The SEC's website contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers, such as us, that file electronically with the SEC. You may also read and copy any document we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C., 20549. You may also obtain copies of these documents at prescribed rates by writing to the SEC. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of its Public Reference Room. Information on our website is not incorporated into this prospectus and is not a part of this prospectus.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we have filed with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document that we have filed separately with the SEC. You should read the information incorporated by reference because it is an important part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Any statement in a document we incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus will be considered to be modified or superseded to the extent a statement contained in this prospectus supplement or any other subsequently filed document that is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement modifies or supersedes that statement. The modified or superseded statement will not be considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, as applicable, except as modified or superseded.

We incorporate by reference the following information or documents that we have filed with the SEC (excluding those portions of any Form 8-K that are not deemed filed pursuant to the General Instructions of Form 8-K):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2011;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 3, 2011, February 18, 2011, May 17, 2011, July 5, 2011 and July 26, 2011, respectively;

the description of our securities as described in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed under the Exchange Act on March 17, 1987 (File No. 0-15327), and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating any such description; and

the description of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock Purchase Rights as described in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed under the Exchange Act on April 17, 1997 (File No. 000-15327), and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating any such descriptions.

Table of Contents

We also incorporate by reference all documents filed pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus supplement and prior to the termination of this offering (excluding those portions of any Form 8-K that are not deemed filed pursuant to the General Instructions of Form 8-K).

Statements made in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or in any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to herein or therein are not necessarily complete, and in each instance reference is made to the copy of such contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the documents incorporated by reference, each such statement being qualified in all material respects by such reference.

We will provide without charge upon written or oral request to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus supplement is delivered, a copy of any or all of the documents which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement but not delivered with the prospectus (other than exhibits to those documents unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference as an exhibit in this prospectus supplement). Requests should be directed to:

CytRx Corporation

11726 San Vicente Blvd.

Suite 650

Los Angeles, California 90049

Attention: Corporate Secretary

(310) 826-5648

S-22

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

CYTRX CORPORATION

\$100,000,000

We may offer and sell from time to time up to \$100,000,000 in the aggregate of shares of our common stock, shares of our preferred stock, and warrants in amounts, at prices and on terms that we will decide at the time of the offering. These securities may be offered and sold separately, together or as units with other securities. Each share of our common stock to be offered and sold is accompanied by one Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock Purchase Right that trades with our common stock.

We will provide the specific terms of these offers and sales in supplements to this prospectus. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. You should read this prospectus and the supplement carefully before you invest. We may offer securities directly to investors or through agents, underwriters or dealers. If any agents, underwriters or dealers are involved in the sale of any of our securities, their names and any applicable purchase prices, fees, commissions or discount arrangements will be set forth in the prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol CYTR. On December 10, 2010, the last sale price of our common stock as reported on The NASDAQ Capital Market was \$1.05.

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before purchasing any securities, you should consider carefully the risks referred to under Risk Factors on page 3 in this prospectus and in the prospectus supplement.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED THAT THIS PROSPECTUS IS COMPLETE OR ACCURATE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this prospectus is December 13, 2010

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROSPECTUS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	1
<u>ABOUT CYTRX</u>	2
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	3
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	16
<u>THE SECURITIES THAT WE MAY OFFER</u>	16
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	17
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	21
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	23
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	24
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	26
<u>INCORPORATION OF INFORMATION FILED WITH THE SEC</u>	26
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	27
<u>EXPERTS</u>	27

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement utilizing the shelf registration process that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, to permit us to offer and sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more transactions. The plan of distribution of the securities is described in this prospectus under the heading Plan of Distribution.

As permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC, the registration statement filed by us includes additional information not contained in this prospectus. You may read the registration statement and the other reports we file with the SEC at the SEC's web site or at the SEC's offices described below under the heading Where You Can Find Additional Information.

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

You should rely only on the information provided in this prospectus and in the prospectus supplement, including any information incorporated by reference. For more details on information incorporated herein by reference, you should review the discussion contained under the heading Incorporation of Information Filed With the SEC. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in the prospectus supplement. We are offering the securities only in jurisdictions where offers are permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or the prospectus supplement is accurate at any date other than the date indicated on the cover page of these documents.

In this prospectus, we sometimes refer to CytRx Corporation as CytRx, to our former subsidiary, RXi Pharmaceuticals Corporation, as RXi, and to Innovive Pharmaceuticals, Inc., which we acquired in September 2008, as Innovive. References in this prospectus and the prospectus supplement to we, us, our or the company refer to CytRx, alone.

NOTE ON FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in the prospectus supplement may include forward-looking statements that reflect our current views with respect to our research and development activities, business strategy, business plan, financial performance and other future events. These statements include forward-looking statements both with respect to us, specifically, and the biotechnology sector, in general. We make these statements pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Statements that include the words expect, intend, plan, believe, project, estimate, may, should, anticipate, will and statements of a future or forward-looking nature identify forward-looking statements for purposes of the federal securities laws or otherwise.

All forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, and there are or will be important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in these statements. We believe that these factors include, but are not limited to, those factors set forth under the caption Risk Factors in this prospectus and in any prospectus supplement and under the captions Business, Legal Proceedings, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk and Controls and Procedures in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, all of which you should review carefully. Please consider our forward-looking statements in light of those risks as you read this prospectus and the prospectus supplement. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or review any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

Table of Contents

If one or more of these or other risks or uncertainties materializes, or if our underlying assumptions prove to be incorrect, actual results may vary materially from what we anticipate. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or individuals acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by this Note. Before purchasing any securities, you should consider carefully all of the factors set forth or referred to in this prospectus and in the prospectus supplement that could cause actual results to differ.

ABOUT CYTRX

We are a biopharmaceutical research and development company engaged in the development of high-value human therapeutics, specializing in oncology. Our drug development pipeline includes clinical development of three product candidates for cancer indications, including recently-initiated Phase 2 proof-of-concept clinical trials with bafetinib in patients with advanced prostate cancer and high-risk B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia, or B-CLL, an additional planned pharmacokinetic clinical trial with bafetinib in patients with brain cancer, two planned Phase 2 clinical trials for INNO-206 as a treatment for soft tissue sarcomas and pancreatic cancer following an abbreviated safety trial, and clinical trials with tamibarotene for the treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer and acute promyelocytic leukemia, or APL. In addition to our core oncology programs, we are developing two drug candidates based on our molecular chaperone regulation technology, which are designed to repair or degrade mis-folded proteins associated with disease. Apart from our drug development programs, we currently maintain a 17% equity interest in our former subsidiary, RXi Pharmaceuticals Corporation, or RXi. Our current business strategy is to possibly spin-out our molecular chaperone regulation technology or seek one or more strategic partnerships to pursue the development of the technology.

We are a Delaware corporation, incorporated in 1985. Our corporate offices are located at 11726 San Vicente Boulevard, Suite 650, Los Angeles, California 90049, and our telephone number is (310) 826-5648.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Prior to making a decision about purchasing our securities, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties and all other information contained or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and in the prospectus supplement, including the risks and uncertainties discussed below, as well as any modification, replacement or update to these risks and uncertainties that are reflected in any subsequent filings we make with the SEC. These risks and uncertainties are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us, or that we currently perceive as immaterial, may also harm our business. If any of these risks or uncertainties actually occurs, our business, results of operations and financial condition could be materially and adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you could lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Associated With Our Business

We have operated at a loss and will likely continue to operate at a loss for the foreseeable future.

We have operated at a loss due to our ongoing expenditures for research and development of our product candidates and for general and administrative purposes and lack of significant recurring revenue. We incurred net losses of \$4.8 million, \$27.0 million, and \$21.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, respectively, and \$3.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. We had an accumulated deficit as of September 30, 2010 of approximately \$200.7 million. We are likely to continue to incur losses unless and until we are able to commercialize one or more of our product candidates. These losses, among other things, have had and will continue to have an adverse effect on our stockholders' equity and working capital. Because of the numerous risks and uncertainties associated with our product development efforts, we are unable to predict when we may become profitable, if at all. If we do not become profitable or are unable to maintain future profitability, the market value of our common stock will be adversely affected.

Our common stock may be delisted from The NASDAQ Capital Market if the stock price does not increase.

We received notice from The NASDAQ Stock Market on July 14, 2010 that we were not in compliance with the minimum \$1.00 closing bid price required by NASDAQ Marketplace Rule 4310(c)(4) and, in accordance with Marketplace Rule 4310(c)(8)(D), could regain compliance if, by January 10, 2011, the closing bid price of our common stock is at or above \$1.00 for 10 consecutive business days and we otherwise meet the NASDAQ's continuing listing requirements. In its notice to us, NASDAQ also informed us that, if we did not regain compliance by the stated deadline, we would be granted up to an additional 180 calendar days to regain full compliance while continuing to trade during such time if we meet the NASDAQ's initial listing requirements other than the minimum bid price rule. If we eventually fail to comply with this condition for continued listing and our common stock is delisted from The NASDAQ Capital Market, our common stock is expected to be quoted on the Pink Sheets LLC or the OTC Bulletin Board markets. However, there is no assurance that our common stock will, in fact, be quoted on one of these other trading systems or that an active trading market for our common stock will thereafter exist, which would materially and adversely impact the market value of our common stock.

Because we have no source of significant recurring revenue, we must depend on financing to sustain our operations.

Developing products and conducting clinical trials require substantial amounts of capital. To date, we have relied primarily upon proceeds from sales of our equity securities, sales of our shares of RXi common stock, and the exercise of options and warrants to generate funds needed to finance our business and operations. We will need to raise additional capital to, among other things:

fund our clinical trials and pursue regulatory approval of our existing and possible future product candidates;

expand our research and development activities;

Table of Contents

finance our general and administrative expenses;

acquire or license new technologies;

prepare, file, prosecute, maintain, enforce and defend our patent and other proprietary rights; and

develop and implement sales, marketing and distribution capabilities to successfully commercialize any product for which we obtain marketing approval and choose to market ourselves.

Our revenues were \$9.5 million, \$6.3 million and \$7.5 million, respectively, for years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, which included \$9.4 million, \$6.2 million and \$7.2 million, respectively, of deferred revenue recognized from our sale in August 2006 of a one-percent royalty interest in worldwide sales of arimoclomol for the treatment of ALS to the privately-funded ALS Charitable Remainder Trust, or ALSCRT.

Pursuant to an amendment signed between us and the beneficiary of the ALSCRT on August 6, 2009, we were released from all restrictions on the use of any proceeds previously paid to us in connection with the arrangement. As a result, we recognized \$6.7 million as service revenue in the third quarter of 2009, which represented the remaining deferred revenue and previously un-recognized portion of the value received. We will have no significant recurring revenue unless we are able to commercialize one or more of our product candidates in development, which may require us to first enter into license or other strategic arrangements with third parties.

At September 30, 2010, we had cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$10.2 million, marketable securities of approximately \$20.6 million, held approximately 3.1 million restricted shares of common stock of RXi with a market value of approximately \$8.8 million based upon the closing price of the RXi common stock on that date. On March 26, 2010, we raised approximately \$3.8 million from the sale of 675,000 RXi shares and on June 30, 2010, we sold 2.0 million shares of the RXi common stock for \$5.0 million, net of costs. Management believes that our current cash on hand, together with our marketable securities and proceeds from possible future sales of RXi common stock, will be sufficient to fund our operations for the foreseeable future. The estimate is based, in part, upon our currently projected expenditures for the remainder of 2010 and the first nine months of 2011 of approximately \$21.7 million, which includes approximately \$3.4 million for our clinical programs for INNO-206, approximately \$4.6 million for our clinical programs for bafetinib, approximately \$4.6 million for our clinical program for tamibarotene, approximately \$2.2 million for general operation of our clinical programs, and approximately \$6.9 million for other general and administrative expenses. These projected expenditures are also based upon numerous other assumptions and subject to many uncertainties, and actual expenditures may be significantly different from these projections.

If we obtain marketing approval as currently planned and successfully commercialize our product candidates, we anticipate it will take a minimum of several years, and likely longer, for us to generate significant recurring revenue, and we will be dependent on future financing until such time, if ever, as we can generate significant recurring revenue. Our ability to raise capital has been materially and adversely affected by the continuing poor economy. Despite the recovery in the U.S. financial markets in 2009 and 2010, the market remains severely depressed for private investment in public equities, or PIPEs, transactions on which we have relied for raising needed capital. These conditions also may materially and adversely affect the market for our RXi shares. We have no commitments from third parties to provide us with any additional financing, and we may not be able to obtain future financing on favorable terms, or at all. Failure to obtain adequate financing would adversely affect our ability to operate as a going concern. If we raise additional funds by issuing equity securities, dilution to stockholders may result and new investors could have rights superior to holders of the shares issued in this offering. In addition, debt financing, if available, may include restrictive covenants. If adequate funds are not available to us, we may have to liquidate some or all of our assets or to delay or reduce the scope of or eliminate some portion or all of our development programs or clinical trials. We also may have to license to other companies our product candidates or technologies that we would prefer to develop and commercialize ourselves.

Table of Contents

If we do not achieve our projected development goals in the time frames we estimate, the commercialization of our products may be delayed and our business prospects may suffer. Our financial projections also may prove to be materially inaccurate.

From time to time, we estimate the timing of the accomplishment of various scientific, clinical, regulatory and other product development goals, which we sometimes refer to as milestones. These milestones may include the commencement or completion of scientific studies and clinical trials and the submission of regulatory filings. For example, we have stated in our most recent Annual Report incorporated by reference in this prospectus the expected timing of certain milestones relating to our INNO-206, bafetinib, tamibarotene and molecular chaperone development programs.

We also may disclose projected expenditures or other forecasts for future periods such as the statements above in this prospectus supplement regarding our current projected expenditures for fiscal year 2010. These and other financial projections are based on management's current expectations and do not contain any margin of error or cushion for any specific uncertainties, or for the uncertainties inherent in all financial forecasting.

The actual timing of milestones and actual expenditures or other financial results can vary dramatically compared to our estimates, in some cases for reasons beyond our control. If we do not meet milestones or financial projections as announced from time to time, the development and commercialization of our products may be delayed and our business prospects may suffer. The assumptions management has used to produce these projections may significantly change or prove to be inaccurate. Accordingly, you should not unduly rely on any of these financial projections.

If our products are not successfully developed and approved by the FDA, we may be forced to reduce or curtail our operations.

All of our product candidates in development must be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, or corresponding foreign governmental agencies, before they can be marketed. The process for obtaining FDA and foreign government approvals is both time-consuming and costly, with no certainty of a successful outcome. This process typically includes the conduct of extensive pre-clinical and clinical testing, including post-approval testing, which may take longer or cost more than we or our licensees, if any, anticipate, and may prove unsuccessful due to numerous factors. Product candidates that may appear to be promising at early stages of development may not successfully reach the market for a number of reasons. The results of preclinical and initial clinical testing of these product candidates may not necessarily be predictive of the results that will be obtained from later or more extensive testing. Companies in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries have suffered significant setbacks in advanced clinical trials, even after obtaining promising results in earlier trials.

Numerous factors could affect the timing, cost or outcome of our product development efforts, including the following:

difficulty in securing centers to conduct trials;

difficulty in enrolling patients in conformity with required protocols or projected timelines;

requirements for clinical trial design imposed by the FDA;

unexpected adverse reactions by patients in trials;

difficulty in obtaining clinical supplies of the product;

changes in or our inability to comply with FDA or foreign governmental product testing, manufacturing or marketing requirements;

Edgar Filing: CYTRX CORP - Form 424B5

regulatory inspections of clinical trials or manufacturing facilities, which may, among other things, require us or our manufacturers or licensees to undertake corrective action or suspend or terminate the affected clinical trials if investigators find them not to be in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements;

Table of Contents

inability to generate statistically significant data confirming the safety and efficacy of the product being tested;

modification of the product during testing; and

reallocation of our limited financial and other resources to other clinical programs.

It is possible that none of the product candidates we develop will obtain the regulatory approvals necessary for us to begin selling them. The time required to obtain FDA and foreign governmental approvals is unpredictable, but often can take many years following the commencement of clinical trials, depending upon the complexity of the product candidate. Any analysis we perform on data from clinical activities is subject to confirmation and interpretation by regulatory authorities, which could delay, limit or prevent regulatory approval.

Furthermore, even if we obtain regulatory approvals, our products and the manufacturing facilities used to produce them will be subject to continual review, including periodic inspections and mandatory post-approval clinical trials by the FDA and other U.S. and foreign regulatory authorities. Any delay or failure in obtaining required approvals or to comply with post-approval regulatory requirements could have a material adverse effect on our ability to generate revenue from the particular product candidate. The failure to comply with any post-approval regulatory requirements also could also result in the rescission of the related regulatory approvals or the suspension of sales of the offending product.

Our current and planned clinical trials of our product candidates may fail to show that these product candidates are clinically safe and effective, or that they are better than alternative treatments.

INNO-206 was no more toxic than free doxorubicin in a Phase I clinical trial and showed limited biological responses against certain tumors. However, these conclusions may not be reproducible in larger clinical trials, including the planned abbreviated safety clinical trial of INNO-206 and the planned Phase 2 clinical trials of INNO-206 as a treatment for soft tissue sarcomas and pancreatic cancer.

Bafetinib demonstrated clinical responses in patients with CML in a Phase I clinical trial conducted in patients with CML and other leukemias that have a certain mutation called the Philadelphia Chromosome (Ph+) and are intolerant of or resistant to Gleevec and, in some cases, second-line tyrosine kinase inhibitors. However, bafetinib has never been tested in human clinical trials in patients with B-CLL, prostate cancer or brain cancer, and there are no assurances that it will be effective in those indications.

Tamibarotene has been shown to be safe, well tolerated, and efficacious in the Japanese APL population. However, it is possible that the response to the drug may be different in American or European populations. Furthermore, the efficacy studies that led to approval in Japan occurred prior to the advent of the use of arsenic trioxide, or ATO, for second line therapy. It is possible that the current use of ATO could alter the safety or efficacy of tamibarotene. The FDA might not accept the Japanese studies as a database for safety in the US. The majority of patients treated with ATRA as a first-line therapy generally experience a complete remission of disease. As a result of the limited population of patients requiring third-line treatment for APL, there is no assurance that we will be successful in recruiting a sufficient number of patients into our ongoing clinical trial of tamibarotene as a third-line treatment for APL in order to demonstrate efficacy. Any FDA-required changes to our clinical development strategy could delay or increase the cost of the trial, adversely affect our ability to demonstrate the efficacy of tamibarotene in the trial or cause us not to pursue clinical development of tamibarotene for one or more of these considerations. Tamibarotene has never been tested in human clinical trials in patients with non-small-cell lung cancer, and there are no assurances that it will be effective in that indication.

Later trials also may not yield statistically significant data indicating that these product candidates are clinically effective. Accordingly, we, or any development partners, may ultimately be unable to provide the FDA with satisfactory data on clinical safety and efficacy sufficient to obtain FDA approval of INNO-206, tamibarotene, bafetinib, arimoclomol or iroxoanadine for any indications.

Table of Contents

We will rely upon third parties for the manufacture of our clinical product supplies.

We do not have the facilities or expertise to manufacture supplies of any of our product candidates. Accordingly, we are dependent upon third-party manufacturers, or potential future strategic alliance partners, to manufacture these supplies. We have manufacturing supply arrangements in place with respect to a portion of the clinical supplies needed for the clinical development programs for INNO-206, bafetinib, tamibarotene and arimoclomol. However, we have no supply arrangements for the commercial manufacture of these product candidates or any manufacturing supply arrangements for any other potential product candidates, and we may not be able to secure needed supply arrangements on attractive terms, or at all. Our failure to secure these arrangements as needed could have a materially adverse effect on our ability to complete the development of our products or to commercialize them.

If our product candidates cannot be manufactured in suitable quantities and in accordance with regulatory standards, our clinical trials, regulatory approvals and marketing efforts for such products may be delayed. Such delays could adversely affect our competitive position and our chances of generating significant recurring revenues. If our products cannot be manufactured at an acceptable cost, the commercial success of our products may be adversely affected.

We may rely upon third parties in connection with the commercialization of our products.

The completion of the development of INNO-206, bafetinib and tamibarotene, and our molecular chaperone product candidates, as well as the marketing of these products, may require us to enter into strategic alliances, license agreements or other collaborative arrangements with other pharmaceutical companies under which those companies will be responsible for one or more aspects of the commercial development and eventual marketing of our products.

Our products may not have sufficient potential commercial value to enable us to secure strategic arrangements with suitable companies on attractive terms, or at all. If we are unable to enter into such arrangements, we may not have the financial or other resources to complete the development of any of our products and may have to sell our rights in them to a third party or abandon their development altogether.

To the extent we enter into collaborative arrangements, we will be dependent upon the timeliness and effectiveness of the development and marketing efforts of our contractual partners. If these companies do not allocate sufficient personnel and resources to these efforts or encounter difficulties in complying with applicable FDA and other regulatory requirements, we may not obtain regulatory approvals as planned, if at all, and the timing of receipt or the amount of revenue from these arrangements may be materially and adversely affected. By entering into these arrangements rather than completing the development and then marketing these products on our own, the profitability to us of these products may decline.

We may be unable to protect our intellectual property rights, which could adversely affect our ability to compete effectively.

We believe that obtaining and maintaining patent and other intellectual property rights for our technologies and potential products is critical to establishing and maintaining the value of our assets and our business. We will be able to protect our technologies from unauthorized use by third parties only to the extent that we have rights to valid and enforceable patents or other proprietary rights that cover them. Although we own or have rights to patents and patent applications directed to INNO-206, tamibarotene, bafetinib and our molecular chaperone amplification technologies, these patents and applications may not prevent third parties from developing or commercializing similar or identical technologies. In addition, our patents may be held to be invalid if challenged by third parties, and our patent applications may not result in the issuance of patents.

The patent positions of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies can be highly uncertain and involve complex legal and factual questions for which important legal principles remain unresolved. No consistent policy regarding the breadth of claims allowed in biotechnology patents has emerged to date in the U.S. and in many

Table of Contents

foreign countries. The application and enforcement of patent laws and regulations in foreign countries is even more uncertain. Accordingly, we may not be able to effectively file, protect or defend our proprietary rights on a consistent basis. Many of the patents and patent applications on which we rely were issued or filed by third parties prior to the time we acquired rights to them. The validity, enforceability and ownership of those patents and patent applications may be challenged, and if a court decides that our patents are not valid, we will not have the right to stop others from using our inventions. There is also the risk that, even if the validity of our patents is upheld, a court may refuse to stop others on the ground that their activities do not infringe our patents.

Any litigation brought by us to protect our intellectual property rights could be costly and have a material adverse effect on our operating results or financial condition, make it more difficult for us to enter into strategic alliances with third parties to develop our products, or discourage our existing licensees from continuing their development work on our potential products. If our patent coverage is insufficient to prevent third parties from developing or commercializing similar or identical technologies, the value of our assets is likely to be materially and adversely affected.

We also rely on certain proprietary trade secrets and know-how, especially where we believe patent protection is not appropriate or obtainable. However, trade secrets and know-how are difficult to protect. Although we have taken measures to protect our unpatented trade secrets and know-how, including the use of confidentiality and invention assignment agreements with our employees, consultants and some of our contractors, it is possible that these persons may disclose our trade secrets or know-how or that our competitors may independently develop or otherwise discover our trade secrets and know-how.

If our product candidates infringe the rights of others, we could be subject to expensive litigation or be required to obtain licenses from others to develop or market them.

Our competitors or others may have patent rights that they choose to assert against us or our licensees, suppliers, customers or potential collaborators. Moreover, we may not know about patents or patent applications that our products would infringe. For example, because patent applications can take many years to issue, there may be currently pending applications, unknown to us, that may later result in issued patents that our arimoclomol, iroxanadine or other product candidates would infringe. In addition, if third parties file patent applications or obtain patents claiming technology also claimed by us in issued patents or pending applications, we may have to participate in interference proceedings in the US Patent and Trademark Office to determine priority of invention. If third parties file oppositions in foreign countries, we may also have to participate in opposition proceedings in foreign tribunals to defend the patentability of our foreign patent applications.

If a third party claims that we infringe its proprietary rights, any of the following may occur:

we may become involved in time-consuming and expensive litigation, even if the claim is without merit;

we may become liable for substantial damages for past infringement if a court decides that our technology infringes a competitor's patent;

a court may prohibit us from selling or licensing our product without a license from the patent holder, which may not be available on commercially acceptable terms, if at all, or which may require us to pay substantial royalties or grant cross licenses to our patents; and

we may have to redesign our product candidates or technology so that it does not infringe patent rights of others, which may not be possible or commercially feasible.

If any of these events occurs, our business and prospects will suffer and the market price of our common stock will likely decline substantially.

Table of Contents

Any drugs we develop may become subject to unfavorable pricing regulations, third-party reimbursement practices or healthcare reform initiatives, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We intend to sell our products primarily to hospitals which receive reimbursement for the health care services they provide to their patients from third-party payors, such as Medicare, Medicaid and other domestic and international government programs, private insurance plans and managed care programs. Most third-party payors may deny reimbursement if they determine that a medical product was not used in accordance with cost-effective treatment methods, as determined by the third-party payor, or was used for an unapproved indication. Third-party payors also may refuse to reimburse for experimental procedures and devices. Furthermore, because our programs are in the early stages of development, we are unable at this time to determine their cost-effectiveness and the level or method of reimbursement. Increasingly, the third-party payors who reimburse patients are requiring that drug companies provide them with predetermined discounts from list prices, and are challenging the prices charged for medical products. If the price we are able to charge for any products we develop is inadequate in light of our development and other costs, our profitability could be adversely affected.

We currently expect that any drugs we develop may need to be administered under the supervision of a physician. Under currently applicable law, drugs that are not usually self-administered may be eligible for coverage by the Medicare program if:

they are incidental to a physician's services,

they are reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of the illness or injury for which they are administered according to accepted standard of medical practice,

they are not excluded as immunizations, and

they have been approved by the FDA.

We are subject to intense competition, and we may not compete successfully.

We and our strategic partners or licensees may be unable to compete successfully against our current or future competitors. The pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical and biotechnology industries are characterized by intense competition and rapid and significant technological advancements. Many companies, research institutions and universities are working in a number of areas similar to our primary fields of interest to develop new products. There also is intense competition among companies seeking to acquire products that already are being marketed. Many of the companies with which we compete have or are likely to have substantially greater research and product development capabilities and financial, technical, scientific, manufacturing, marketing, distribution and other resources than us and at least some of our present or future strategic partners or licensees.

As a result, these competitors may:

succeed in developing competitive products sooner than us or our strategic partners or licensees;

obtain FDA or foreign governmental approvals for their products before we can obtain approval of any of our products;

obtain patents that block or otherwise inhibit the development and commercialization of our product candidate candidates;

develop products that are safer or more effective than our products;

devote greater resources than us to marketing or selling products;

introduce or adapt more quickly than us to new technologies and other scientific advances;

introduce products that render our products obsolete;

withstand price competition more successfully than us or our strategic partners or licensees;

negotiate third-party strategic alliances or licensing arrangements more effectively than us; and

take better advantage than us of other opportunities.

Table of Contents

Companies that currently sell generic and proprietary compounds for the treatment of cancer and related diseases include, but are not limited to, Abraxis BioScience, Amgen, Bayer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Cephalon, Eisai, Genentech, Eli Lilly, Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, sanofi-aventis, and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company. Alternative technologies are being developed to treat cancer and related diseases by numerous companies including Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eisai, Merck and Genentech, several of which are in advanced clinical trials. There also are FDA approved cancer therapies that are in the late stage of development by larger established companies for new cancer indications: Alimta (Eli Lilly), Avastin (Genentech), Eloxatin (Sanofi-Aventis), Erbitux (Bristol-Myers Squibb and Imclone Systems) and Tarceva (Genentech).

Soft tissue sarcoma patients are typically treated with surgery followed by radiation therapy. Doxorubicin is the only approved drug for treating soft tissue sarcoma and is often used in combination with radiation. The National Comprehensive Cancer Network also includes the use of ifosfamide, epirubicin, Eli Lilly's Gemzar, dacarbazine and liposomal doxorubicin marketed in the US as Doxil by Johnson & Johnson. For patients ineligible for surgery, radiation and/or chemotherapy is the only option. Other approaches to treating soft tissue sarcoma are in late stage clinical development. These include ridaforolimus being developed by Ariad Pharmaceuticals and Merck & Co., Cell Therapeutics' brostallicin, GlaxoSmithKline's pazopanib, Sanofi-Aventis' AVE8062, Threshold Pharmaceuticals' TH-302, trabectedin being co-developed by Johnson and Johnson and PharmaMar and ZIOPHARM Oncology's palifosfamide.

Pancreatic cancer patients are typically treated with surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. Eli Lilly's Gemzar is currently approved for the first line treatment of locally advanced or metastatic pancreatic cancer. It is also indicated for the use in patients who have received prior treatment with 5-FU. OSI Pharmaceuticals' Tarceva was approved in 2005 for the use in combination with Gemzar. The NCCN believes the best management for these patients is in a clinical trial. Because of the tremendous unmet need for these patients, many companies are developing new drugs to treat pancreatic cancer. Late stage drugs in clinical trials include Abraxane by Abraxis BioScience, aflibercept by sanofi-aventis and Dendreon, AGS-1C4D4 by Astellas Pharma Inc., TNFerade by GenVec, and TS-1 by Taiho Pharmaceutical Co.

To our knowledge, there are no competitors in clinical development for refractory APL. Currently, treatment of APL is based on induction and maintenance therapy with ATRA and chemotherapy (typically idarubicin). ATRA and idarubicin are both generic compounds. Arsenic trioxide, currently marketed by Cephalon, is approved for use in patients who have relapsed after ATRA-based therapy in APL. There are no FDA-approved therapies for patients who have failed arsenic trioxide. In practice, it appears that patients who fail arsenic trioxide are retreated with ATRA.

Non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is a competitive indication in which patients are treated with a variety of agents. The gold standard regimen for first line locally advanced or metastatic NSCLC is a doublet comprised of a platinum agent combined with a taxane, vinka alkaloid or antimetabolite. The addition of Genentech/Roche's Avastin to the standard treatment doublet has offered significant improvements in survival and rates of remission. Tarceva by OSI and Genentech/Roche and Iressa by AstraZeneca have shown benefit in second line regimens for specific patients but have not conferred survival benefit. In addition, there are several drugs in late stage development including Eisai's eribulin, Eli Lilly & Co.'s necitumumab and Pfizer's axitinib and crizotinib.

There are currently three marketed competitors to bafetinib (formerly INNO-406) in the CML market, Gleevec®, Sprycel® and Tasigna®. Gleevec is approved for treatment of newly diagnosed adult patients with Philadelphia chromosome positive chronic myeloid leukemia (Ph+ CML) in the chronic phase and patients with Ph+ CML in blast crisis (BC), accelerated phase (AP), or in the chronic phase (CP) after failure of interferon-alpha therapy. Sprycel® and Tasigna® are approved for Gleevec-resistant CML and have recently been approved for the treatment of newly diagnosed adult patients with Ph+ CML. Because of the highly competitive nature of the CML market including drug candidates in development, CytRx plans to develop bafetinib initially in cancers other than CML. CytRx has selected B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia (B-CLL), hormone refractory prostate cancer and glioblastoma multiforme due to the potent and specific inhibitory properties of bafetinib against Lyn kinase. Lyn kinase is a member of the Src family of kinases which are known to be involved in cell growth. Lyn kinase is overexpressed in both B-CLL, advanced prostate cancer and glioblastoma multiforme (GBM).

Table of Contents

There are several drugs approved for the treatment of CLL. First-line therapy for CLL includes a variety of combination therapies including fludarabine, cyclophosphamide, Rituxan® and Campath®. Treatment for relapsed or refractory CLL includes several chemotherapy regimens including CHOP, CFAR, hyperCFAD and OFAR in addition to single agents including GlaxoSmithKline's Arzerra™ and sanofi-aventis' Oforta™. Arzerra was approved in October 2009 for CLL patients who are refractory to treatment with fludarabine and Campath. Oforta, an oral tablet formulation of fludarabine, was approved in December 2008 as a second-line treatment for CLL.

There are products currently under development by other companies and organizations that could compete with bafetinib in advanced prostate cancer. Products such as chemotherapeutics, androgen metabolism or androgen receptor antagonists, endothelin A receptor antagonists, antisense compounds, angiogenesis inhibitors and gene therapies for cancer are also under development by a number of companies as well. Sanofi-Aventis' Taxotere® (docetaxel) Injection Concentrate was approved by the FDA in 2004 for the therapeutic treatment of metastatic, androgen-independent prostate cancer. In 2010, the FDA approved Dendreon's Provenge (sipuleucel-T) for hormone refractory prostate cancer. In addition, bafetinib may compete with late-stage oral therapies in development such as Johnson and Johnson's abiraterone.

Current therapy for glioblastoma multiforme, the most common form of brain cancer, is surgery followed by radiation therapy and chemotherapy. Merck's Temodar® is approved for treating newly diagnosed GBM concomitantly with radiotherapy and then as a maintenance treatment. Roche's Avastin was approved in May 2009 for treatment of recurrent GBM. We believe that bafetinib's ability to selectively inhibit Lyn kinase and to penetrate the brain in an animal model of cancer will be an effective treatment for second-line therapy in GBM. Other drugs in development for GBM include Merck Serono's celengitide, Myrexis' MPC-6827, and Arno Therapeutics' AR-67.

Any of these competing therapies could prove to be more effective than INNO-206, bafetinib, tamibarotene, or any future therapy of ours. Most of our competitors have substantially greater research and product development capabilities and financial, technical, scientific, manufacturing, marketing, distribution and other resources than us.

We will be required to pay substantial milestone and other payments relating to the commercialization of our products.

The agreement relating to our worldwide rights to INNO-206 provides for our payment of an aggregate of \$7.5 million upon meeting specified clinical and regulatory milestones up to and including the product's second final marketing approval. We also will be obliged to pay:

commercially reasonable royalties based on a percentage of net sales (as defined in the agreement);

a percentage of non-royalty sub-licensing income (as defined in the agreement); and

milestones of \$1,000,000 for each additional final marketing approval that we might obtain.

Our agreement relating to our worldwide (except Japan) rights to bafetinib provides for our payment of an aggregate of \$13.35 million (including \$5 million upon the product's initial final marketing approval) upon the achievement of specified clinical and regulatory milestones up to and including approvals in the U.S. and Europe. We also will be obliged to pay:

commercially reasonable royalties based on a percentage of net sales (as defined in the agreement), dependent on reaching certain revenue thresholds;

annual minimum payments if sales of bafetinib do not meet specified levels; and

a percentage of non-royalty sub-licensing income (as defined in the agreement).

Table of Contents

The agreement under which we have North American rights to tamibarotene provides for our payment of royalties based on net sales of any products, as well as aggregate payments of \$4.4 million upon meeting specified clinical, regulatory and sales milestones up to and including the first commercial sale of tamibarotene for the treatment of APL.

If we are required to pay any third party in order to exercise our rights under the agreement, we will deduct a percentage of those payments from the royalties due under the agreement, up to an agreed-upon cap.

Under the merger agreement by which we acquired Innovive, we agreed to pay the former Innovive stockholders a total of up to approximately \$18.3 million of future earnout merger consideration, subject to our achievement of specified net sales under the Innovive license agreements. The earnout merger consideration, if any, will be payable in shares of our common stock, subject to specified conditions, or, at our election, in cash or by a combination of shares of our common stock and cash. Our common stock will be valued for purposes of any future earnout merger consideration based upon the trading price of our common stock at the time the earnout merger consideration is paid.

Our agreement by which we acquired rights to arimoclomol and our other molecular chaperone amplification product candidates provides for milestone payments by us upon the occurrence of specified regulatory filings and approvals related to the acquired products. In the event that we successfully develop arimoclomol or any of these other product candidates, these milestone payments could aggregate as much as \$3.7 million, with the most significant payments due upon the first commercialization of any of these products. In addition, our agreement with the ALS CRT requires us to pay a one-percent royalty interest on worldwide sales of arimoclomol for the treatment of ALS. Also, any future license, collaborative or other agreements we may enter into in connection with our development and commercialization activities may require us to pay significant milestone, license and other payments in the future.

We are subject to potential liabilities from clinical testing and future product liability claims.

If any of our products are alleged to be defective, they may expose us to claims for personal injury by patients in clinical trials of our products or, if we obtain marketing approval and commercialize our products, by patients using our commercially marketed products. Even if the if one or more of our products is approved by the FDA, users may claim that such products caused unintended adverse effects. We maintain clinical trial insurance for our clinical trial of tamibarotene for APL, and our clinical trials of bafetinib for prostate cancer and B-CLL, and we plan to seek to obtain similar insurance for any other clinical trials that we conduct. We also would seek to obtain product liability insurance covering the commercial marketing of our product candidates. We may not be able to obtain additional insurance, however, and any insurance obtained by us may prove inadequate in the event of a claim against us. Any claims asserted against us also may divert management's attention from our operations, and we may have to incur substantial costs to defend such claims even if they are unsuccessful.

We may be unable to successfully acquire additional technologies or products. If we acquire additional technologies or products, our product development plans may change and the ownership interests of our shareholders, or our ownership interest in RXi, could be diluted.

We may seek to acquire additional technologies by licensing or purchasing such technologies, or through a merger or acquisition of one or more companies that own such technologies. We have no current understanding or agreement to acquire any technologies, however, and we may not be able to identify or successfully acquire any additional technologies. We also may seek to acquire products from third parties that already are being marketed or have been approved for marketing, although we have not currently identified any of these products. We do not have any prior experience in acquiring or marketing products approved for marketing and may need to find third parties to market any products that we might acquire.

Following our acquisition of Innovive in September 2008, we refocused our product development efforts on our oncology drug candidates, which we believe has the greatest revenue potential. If we acquire additional

Table of Contents

technologies or product candidates, we may determine to make further changes to our product development plans and business strategy to capitalize on opportunities presented by the new technologies and product candidates.

We may determine to issue shares of our common stock, or to use shares of RXi common stock owned by us, or both, to acquire additional technologies or products or in connection with a merger or acquisition of another company. To the extent we do so, the ownership interest of our stockholders, or our ownership interest in RXi, or both, will be diluted accordingly.

Risks Associated With Our Investment in RXi

We may sell or dispose of some of our RXi shares, and may not be able to do so on attractive terms.

As of December 10, 2010, we held approximately 3.1 million shares of common stock of RXi, or approximately 17% of the outstanding shares of RXi common stock. RXi shares are listed on The NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol RXII. The market price of RXi shares and the value of our RXi shares may continue to experience significant volatility.

We intend to look for favorable opportunities to sell or otherwise dispose of our RXi shares in one or more transactions in order to obtain funds to carry on our operations or in connection with our acquisition of new technologies or products. There is no assurance, however, whether, or on what terms, we might be able to sell or dispose of our RXi shares. In addition, any sales or other disposition of RXi shares by us, or the possibility of such sales or disposition, could adversely affect the market price of our remaining RXi shares.

If RXi undertakes future financings, our ownership interest in RXi may be diluted.

Under our agreement with RXi, with some exceptions, we will have preemptive rights to acquire a portion of any new securities sold or issued by RXi so as to maintain our percentage ownership of RXi. Depending upon the terms and provisions of any proposed sale of new securities by RXi, our financial condition and other factors, we may be unwilling or unable to exercise our preemptive rights in connection with any future sales or issuances by RXi of its securities. In such event, our percentage ownership interest in RXi would be diluted.

We do not control RXi, and the officers, directors and other RXi stockholders may have interests that are different from ours.

Although we currently own a significant portion of RXi's outstanding common stock, we do not control its management or operations. RXi has its own board of directors and management, who are responsible for the affairs and policies of RXi and its development plans. We have entered into letter agreements with RXi and certain of its stockholders under which we agree to vote our shares of RXi common stock for the election of directors of RXi and to take other actions to ensure that a majority of RXi's board of directors are independent of us. The board of directors and other stockholders of RXi may have interests that are different from ours, and RXi may engage in actions in connection with its business and operations that we believe are not in our best interests.

Risks Associated with Our Common Stock

Our anti-takeover measures may make it more difficult to change our management, or may discourage others from acquiring us, and thereby adversely affect stockholder value.

We have a stockholder rights plan and provisions in our bylaws that are intended to protect our stockholders' interests by encouraging anyone seeking control of our company to negotiate with our board of directors. These provisions may discourage or prevent a person or group from acquiring us without the approval of our board of directors, even if the acquisition would be beneficial to our stockholders.

Table of Contents

We have a classified board of directors, which means that at least two stockholder meetings, instead of one, will be required to effect a change in the majority control of our board of directors. This applies to every election of directors, not just an election occurring after a change in control. The classification of our board increases the amount of time it takes to change majority control of our board of directors and may cause potential acquirers to lose interest in a potential purchase of us, regardless of whether our purchase would be beneficial to us or our stockholders. The additional time and cost to change a majority of the members of our board of directors makes it more difficult and may discourage our existing stockholders from seeking to change our existing management in order to change the strategic direction or operational performance of our company.

Our bylaws provide that directors may only be removed for cause by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of our capital stock then entitled to vote at an election of directors. This provision prevents stockholders from removing any incumbent director without cause. Our bylaws also provide that a stockholder must give us at least 120 days notice of a proposal or director nomination that such stockholder desires to present at any annual meeting or special meeting of stockholders. Such provision prevents a stockholder from making a proposal or director nomination at a stockholder meeting without us having advance notice of that proposal or director nomination. This could make a change in control more difficult by providing our directors with more time to prepare an opposition to a proposed change in control. By making it more difficult to remove or install new directors, these bylaw provisions may also make our existing management less responsive to the views of our stockholders with respect to our operations and other issues such as management selection and management compensation.

We are subject to the anti-takeover provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which may also prevent or delay a takeover of us that may be beneficial to you.

Our outstanding options and warrants and the availability for resale of our shares issued in our private financings may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

As of September 30, 2010, there were outstanding stock options and warrants to purchase approximately 16.7 million shares of our common stock at a weighted-average exercise price of \$1.21 per share. Our outstanding options and warrants could adversely affect our ability to obtain future financing or engage in certain mergers or other transactions, since the holders of options and warrants can be expected to exercise them at a time when we may be able to obtain additional capital through a new offering of securities on terms more favorable to us than the terms of outstanding options and warrants. For the life of the options and warrants, the holders have the opportunity to profit from a rise in the market price of our common stock without assuming the risk of ownership. The issuance of shares upon the exercise of outstanding options and warrants will also dilute the ownership interests of our existing stockholders. Many of our outstanding warrants contain anti-dilution provisions pertaining to dividends with respect to our common stock. In the event that these anti-dilution provisions are triggered by us in the future, we would likewise be required to reduce the exercise price, and increase the number of shares underlying, those warrants, which would have a dilutive effect on our stockholders.

We have registered with the SEC the resale by the holders of all or substantially all shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of our outstanding options and warrants. The availability of these shares for public resale, as well as actual resales of these shares, could adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

We may issue preferred stock in the future, and the terms of the preferred stock may reduce the value of our common stock.

We are authorized to issue shares of preferred stock in one or more series. Our board of directors may determine the terms of future preferred stock offerings without further action by our stockholders. If we issue preferred stock, it could affect your rights or reduce the value of our outstanding common stock. In particular, specific rights granted to future holders of preferred stock may include voting rights, preferences as to dividends and liquidation, conversion and redemption rights, sinking fund provisions, and restrictions on our ability to merge with or sell our assets to a third party.

Table of Contents

We may experience volatility in our stock price, which may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

The market price of our common stock has ranged from \$0.62 to \$1.56 per share since January 1, 2010, and it may continue to experience significant volatility from time to time. Our ability to raise capital has been materially and adversely affected by the continuing poor economy. Despite the recovery in the U.S. financial markets since 2009, the market remains depressed for private investment in public equity, or PIPEs, transactions on which we have relied for raising needed capital.

Other factors that may affect the market price of our common stock include the following:

announcements of regulatory developments or technological innovations by us or our competitors;

changes in our relationship with our licensors and other strategic partners;

changes in our ownership of or other relationships with RXi;

our quarterly operating results;

litigation involving or affecting us;

shortfalls in our actual financial results compared to our guidance or the forecasts of stock market analysts;

developments in patent or other technology ownership rights;

acquisitions or strategic alliances by us or our competitors;

public concern regarding the safety of our products; and

government regulation of drug pricing.

We do not expect to pay any cash dividends on our common stock.

We have not declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock or other securities, and we currently do not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Because we do not anticipate paying cash dividends for the foreseeable future, our stockholders will not realize a return on their investment in our common stock except to the extent of any appreciation in the value of our common stock. Our common stock may not appreciate in value, or may decline in value.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we indicate otherwise in the prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds we receive from the sale of our securities to augment our working capital and for general corporate purposes, including product development activities, capital expenditures, potential acquisitions and other business opportunities. We may set forth in the prospectus supplement additional information about our intended use for the net proceeds received from the sale of any securities sold pursuant to that prospectus supplement.

THE SECURITIES THAT WE MAY OFFER

We, directly or through agents, dealers or underwriters designated from time to time, may offer, issue and sell, together or separately, up to \$100,000,000 in the aggregate of:

shares of our common stock, par value \$.001 per share;

shares of our preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share;

warrants to purchase our common stock or preferred stock; and

any combination of the securities listed above, separately or as units, each on terms to be determined at the time of sale. The common stock, preferred stock, warrants and units collectively are referred to in this prospectus as the securities.

We have summarized below the material terms of the various types of securities that we may offer. We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the detailed terms of the securities offered by that supplement. If indicated in the prospectus supplement, the terms of the offered securities may differ from the terms summarized below.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

Our authorized capital stock currently consists of 175,000,000 shares of common stock, \$.001 par value per share, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$.01 par value per share.

The following summary of certain provisions of our common and preferred stock does not purport to be complete. You should refer to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our restated bylaws, which are filed with or incorporated by reference in the registration statement relating to this offering filed by us with the SEC. The summary below is also qualified by reference to the provisions of applicable Delaware corporation law.

Common Stock

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on matters on which our stockholders vote, including with respect to the election of directors. Holders of common stock are entitled to receive dividends, if declared by our board of directors, out of funds that we may legally use to pay dividends. See the section of this prospectus supplement entitled "Dividend policy" for further information. If we liquidate or dissolve, holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in our assets once our debts and any liquidation preference owed to holders of any then-outstanding preferred stock are paid. No shares of preferred stock will be outstanding immediately after the closing of this offering. All shares of common stock that are outstanding as of the date of this prospectus supplement are, and all shares we are selling in this offering, upon their issuance and sale, will be, fully-paid and nonassessable.

Preferred Stock

We are currently authorized to issue 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, of which 15,000 shares have been designated as Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock. We have reserved all of the shares of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock for issuance upon the exercise of the rights under our Shareholder Protection Rights Agreement described below. Our board of directors has the authority to issue shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the rights of each series. These rights may include dividend rights, dividend rates, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, redemption prices, liquidation preferences, sinking fund terms, and the number of shares that constitute any series. The board of directors may exercise this authority without any further action by our stockholders.

Our board of directors will fix the rights, preferences, privileges, qualifications and restrictions of the preferred stock of each series that we sell under this prospectus in the certificate of designation relating to each such series. We will incorporate by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or as an exhibit to one or more current reports on Form 8-K, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of the related series of preferred stock. This description will include:

the title and stated value;

the number of shares we are offering;

the liquidation preference per share;

the purchase price per share;

the dividend rate per share, dividend period, payment date or dates and method of calculation of dividends;

whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends will accumulate;

Edgar Filing: CYTRX CORP - Form 424B5

our right, if any, to defer payment of dividends and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any;

Table of Contents

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any;

the provisions for redemption or repurchase, if applicable, and any restrictions on our ability to exercise those redemption and repurchase rights;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange or market;

whether the preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock or other securities of ours, including warrants, and, if applicable, the conversion price, or how it will be calculated, and under what circumstances and the mechanism by which it may be adjusted, and the conversion period;

whether the preferred stock will be exchangeable into debt securities or other securities of ours, and, if applicable, the exchange price, or how it will be calculated, and under what circumstances it may be adjusted, and the exchange period;

voting rights, if any;

preemptive rights, if any;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs;

any limitations on issuances of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior or on a parity with the series of preferred stock being issued as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs; and

any other specific terms, rights, preferences, privileges, qualifications or limitations of, or restrictions on, the preferred stock.

If we issue and sell shares of preferred stock pursuant to this prospectus, the shares will be fully paid and nonassessable and will not have, or be subject to, any preemptive or similar rights.

The laws of the State of Delaware, the state of our incorporation, provide that the holders of preferred stock will have the right to vote separately as a class on any proposal involving fundamental changes in the rights of holders of such preferred stock. This right is in addition to any voting rights that may be provided for in the applicable certificate of designation.

We believe the power to issue preferred stock will provide our board of directors with flexibility in connection with certain possible corporate transactions. The issuance of preferred stock, however, could adversely affect the voting power of holders of our common stock, restrict their rights to receive payment upon liquidation, and have the effect of delaying, deferring, or preventing a change in control which may be beneficial to our stockholders.

Anti-Takeover Measures

Delaware Law

Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law is applicable to takeovers of certain Delaware corporations, including us. Subject to exceptions enumerated in Section 203, Section 203 provides that a corporation shall not engage in any business combination with any interested stockholder for a three-year period following the date that the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder unless:

prior to that date, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;

Table of Contents

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, though some shares may be excluded from the calculation; or

on or subsequent to that date, the business combination is approved by the board of directors of the corporation and by the affirmative votes of holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder. Except as specified in Section 203, an interested stockholder is generally defined to include any person who, together with any affiliates or associates of that person, beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation, or is an affiliate or associate of the corporation and was the owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation, any time within three years immediately prior to the relevant date. Under certain circumstances, Section 203 makes it more difficult for an interested stockholder to effect various business combinations with a corporation for a three-year period, although the stockholders may elect not to be governed by this section, by adopting an amendment to the certificate of incorporation or by-laws, effective 12 months after adoption. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws do not opt out from the restrictions imposed under Section 203. We anticipate that the provisions of Section 203 may encourage companies interested in acquiring us to negotiate in advance with the board because the stockholder approval requirement would be avoided if a majority of the directors then in office excluding an interested stockholder approve either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder. These provisions may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying changes in control, which could depress the market price of our common stock and deprive stockholders of opportunities to realize a premium on shares of common stock held by them.

Charter and By-Law Provisions

In addition to the board of directors' ability to issue shares of preferred stock, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and by-laws contain the following provisions that may have the effect of discouraging unsolicited acquisition proposals:

our by-laws classify the board of directors into three classes with staggered three-year terms;

under our by-laws, our board of directors may enlarge the size of the board and fill the vacancies;

our by-laws provide that a stockholder may not nominate candidates for the board of directors at any annual or special meeting unless that stockholder notifies us of its intention a specified period in advance and provides us with certain required information;

stockholders who wish to bring business before the stockholders at our annual meeting must provide advance notice; and

our by-laws provide that special meetings of stockholders may only be called by our board of directors or by an officer so instructed by our board.

Shareholder Protection Rights Agreement

Our board of directors adopted a Shareholder Protection Rights Agreement, or Rights Agreement, dated April 16, 1997, as amended, between us and American Stock Transfer & Trust Co., as Rights Agent. The Rights Agreement will expire on April 16, 2017, unless renewed or extended by our board of directors. A series of our preferred stock, designated as Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$.01 per share, was created in accordance with the Rights Agreement. The Rights Agreement is designed to deter coercive takeover tactics, including the accumulation of shares in the open market or through private transactions, and to prevent an acquirer from gaining control of us without offering a fair and adequate price and terms to all of our stockholders. As such, the Rights Agreement is intended to enhance our board of directors' ability to protect

Table of Contents

stockholder interests and help to assure that stockholders receive fair and equal treatment in the event any proposed takeover of CytRx is made in the future. Pursuant to the Rights Agreement, our board of directors declared a dividend distribution of one preferred stock purchase right for each outstanding share of our common stock. The preferred stock purchase rights are attached to, and trade with, our common stock. The purchase rights are exercisable only upon the occurrence of certain triggering events described in the Rights Agreement.

Transfer Agent

The transfer agent for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, 40 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may offer and issue warrants to purchase shares of our common stock or preferred stock. The warrants may be issued independently or as a part of units consisting of shares of our common stock or preferred stock and warrants to purchase additional shares of our common stock or preferred stock. If the warrants are issued pursuant to warrant agreements, we will so specify in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants being offered pursuant to the prospectus supplement.

The following description will apply to the warrants offered by this prospectus unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement for a particular series of warrants may specify different or additional terms. The forms of any warrant certificates or warrant agreements evidencing the warrants that we issue will be filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and you should carefully review such documents.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the following terms of warrants to purchase our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities to the extent applicable:

the title of the warrants;

the common stock or preferred stock for which the warrants are exercisable;

the price at which the warrants will be issued and the exercise price of the warrants;

the aggregate number of warrants offered;

the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock that may be purchased upon the exercise of each warrant;

whether the warrants are being offered separately or as a part of units consisting of shares of our common stock or preferred stock and warrants to purchase additional shares of our common stock or preferred stock;

the terms of any right by us to redeem the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which this right will expire;

the procedures for exercising the warrants;

the terms on which the warrants may be amended;

the terms of any adjustments in the warrant exercise price and the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon the exercise of each warrant to be made in certain events, including the issuance of a stock dividend to holders of common stock or preferred stock or a stock split, reverse stock split, combination, subdivision or reclassification of common stock;

Edgar Filing: CYTRX CORP - Form 424B5

the effect on the warrants of our merger or consolidation with another entity or our sale of all or substantially all of our assets;

the maximum or minimum number of warrants which may be exercised at any time; and

the material United States federal income tax consequences applicable to the warrants and their exercise.

Holders of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock will not be entitled, by virtue of being such holders, to vote, consent, receive dividends, receive notice as stockholders with respect to any meeting of stockholders for the election of our directors or any other matter, or to exercise any rights whatsoever as our stockholders.

Table of Contents

Warrants may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants offered thereby. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void. Upon our receipt of the exercise price of the warrants upon the due exercise of the warrants, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the securities purchasable upon exercise. If less than all of the warrants represented by such warrant certificate are exercised, a new warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining warrants.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We may offer and issue units that consist of shares of our common stock or preferred stock and warrants to purchase additional shares of our common stock or preferred stock. For example, we may elect to issue units for a specified price per unit, with each unit consisting of one share of our common stock or preferred stock and one warrant to purchase an additional share of our common stock or preferred stock at a specified price. The holder of a unit will also hold each of the securities that is included in the unit.

We have provided in the preceding sections of this prospectus a general description of our common stock, preferred stock, and debt securities and of the warrants that we may offer. If we elect to offer units, we will describe the specific terms of the units in a supplement to this prospectus. Among other things, the prospectus supplement will describe, to the extent applicable:

the price of each unit;

the securities comprising each unit;

the exercise price of the warrants comprising part of the units;

the aggregate number of units offered;

the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock that may be purchased upon the exercise of each warrant comprising part of a unit;

the terms of any right by us to redeem any of the securities comprising the units;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants forming part of the units will commence and the date on which this right will expire;

any transfer restrictions on the units, including whether the securities comprising the units may be transferred separately;

the terms on which the units or warrants forming part of the units may be amended;

with respect to preferred stock forming part of the units, the other matters listed above under **Description of Capital Stock - Preferred Stock** ;

with respect to warrants forming part of the units, the other matters listed above under **Description of Warrants** ; and

the material United States federal income tax consequences applicable to the units.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities being offered hereby in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

through agents to the public or to investors;

to one or more underwriters for resale to the public or to investors;

in at the market offerings, within the meaning of Rule 415(a)(4) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market, on an exchange or otherwise;

directly to investors; or

through a combination of these methods of sale.

We will set forth in a prospectus supplement the terms of an offering of shares of our securities, including.

the name or names of any agents or underwriters;

the purchase price of the securities being offered and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;

any agency fees or underwriting discounts and other items constituting agents or underwriters compensation;

the public offering price; and

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

We may distribute the securities from time to time in one or more transactions;

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

We may also, from time to time, authorize dealers, acting as our agents, to offer and sell securities upon the terms and conditions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. We, or the purchasers of securities for whom the underwriters may act as agents, may compensate underwriters in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions, in connection with the sale of securities. Underwriters may sell the securities to or through dealers, and those dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent. Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, an agent will be acting on a best efforts basis and a dealer will purchase securities as a principal, and may then resell the common stock at varying prices to be determined by the dealer.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement any compensation we will pay to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of securities, and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers. The dealers and agents participating in the distribution of securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions. We may enter into agreements to indemnify underwriters, dealers and agents against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act and to reimburse these persons for certain expenses. We may grant underwriters who participate in the distribution of securities we are offering under this prospectus an option to purchase additional shares to cover over-allotments, if any, in connection with the distribution. In accordance with the rules of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA), in no event may the maximum compensation payable to FINRA members and independent broker-dealers exceed 8.0% of the gross proceeds of any offering of our securities.

Table of Contents

To facilitate the offering of securities, certain persons participating in the offering may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain, or otherwise affect the price of the securities. This may include over-allotments or short sales of the securities, which involve the sale by persons participating in the offering of more securities than we sold to them. In these circumstances, these persons would cover such over-allotments or short positions by making purchases in the open market or by exercising their over-allotment option, if any. In addition, these persons may stabilize or maintain the price of the securities by bidding for or purchasing securities in the open market or by imposing penalty bids, whereby selling concessions allowed to dealers participating in the offering may be reclaimed if securities sold by them is repurchased in connection with stabilization transactions. The effect of these transactions may be to stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market. These transactions may be discontinued at any time.

Any underwriters who are qualified market makers on The NASDAQ Capital Market may engage in passive market making transactions in the securities on The NASDAQ Capital Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the securities. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded.

Certain underwriters, dealers or agents and their associates may engage in transactions with and perform services for us in the ordinary course of our business.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act, and are required to file annual, quarterly and other reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may inspect and copy these reports, proxy statements and other information at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC in Washington, D.C. (100 F Street NE, Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549). Copies of such materials can be obtained from the SEC's public reference section at prescribed rates. You may obtain information on the operation of the public reference rooms by calling the SEC at (800) SEC-0330 or on the SEC website located at <http://www.sec.gov>.

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol CYTR. Reports, proxy and information statements and other information concerning us also may be inspected at the offices of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. located at 1735 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Information about us is also available at our website at www.cytrx.com; however, the information on our website is not a part of this prospectus.

INCORPORATION OF INFORMATION FILED WITH THE SEC

The SEC allows us to incorporate in this prospectus by reference information contained in documents that we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those other documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and documents that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus will automatically update and, where applicable, modify or supersede any information set forth or incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference in this prospectus the documents listed below:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 (filed on March 15, 2010), as amended by Amendment No. 1 (filed on July 16, 2010);

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010 (filed on May 6, 2010);

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2010 (filed on August 9, 2010);

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2010 (filed on November 8, 2010);

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 7, 2010, March 25, 2010, May 6, 2010, July 16, 2010, August 9, 2010, November 8, 2010 and December 9, 2010, respectively (excluding any information furnished in such reports under Item 2.02, Item 7.01 or Item 9.01);

the description of our securities as described in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed under the Exchange Act on March 17, 1987 (File No. 0-15327), and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating any such description;

our definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on May 18, 2010;

the description of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock Purchase Rights as described in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed under the Exchange Act on April 17, 1997 (File No. 000-15327), and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating any such descriptions; and

Edgar Filing: CYTRX CORP - Form 424B5

any document that we file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and before the termination of this offering (other than any portion of such documents that are not deemed filed under the Exchange Act in accordance with the Exchange Act and applicable SEC rules). Information in these subsequent SEC filings will be deemed to be incorporated by reference as of the date we make the filing.

You may obtain a copy of the foregoing documents from us without charge by writing or calling us at the following address and telephone number: 11726 San Vicente Blvd., Suite 650 Los Angeles, California 90049, Attention: Corporate Secretary; (310) 826-5648.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities being offered hereby has been passed upon for us by TroyGould PC, Los Angeles, California. As of December 10, 2010, TroyGould PC owned 70,000 shares of our common stock and warrants to purchase 7,146 shares of our common stock, as well as 23,491 shares of common stock of RXi.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and schedules as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009 and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 incorporated by reference in this Prospectus have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of BDO USA, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Table of Contents

Shares of Common Stock

Warrants to Purchase up to Shares of Common Stock

Prospectus Supplement

Cowen and Company

, 2011

Roth Capital Partners