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

FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): **May 8, 2018**

Vericel Corporation
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Michigan
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)

001-35280
(Commission File Number)

94-3096597
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

64 Sidney Street
Cambridge, MA
(Address of principal
executive offices)

02139
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(800) 556-0311**

Not Applicable
Former name or former address, if changed since last report

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

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

Indicate by a checkmark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).
Emerging Growth Company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On May 8, 2018, Vericel Corporation issued a press release, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

The information in this Report on Form 8-K and Exhibit 99.1 attached hereto is intended to be furnished and shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act, except as expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release of Vericel Corporation, “Vericel Reports First Quarter 2018 Financial Results” dated May 8, 2018

SIGNATURES

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

Vericel Corporation

Date: May 8, 2018

By: /s/ Gerard Michel

Name: Gerard Michel

Title: Chief Financial Officer and Vice President Corporate
Development

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press Release of Vericel Corporation, "Vericel Reports First Quarter 2018 Financial Results" dated May 8, 2018



Vericel Corporation
64 Sidney Street Cambridge, MA 02139
T (617) 252-7999 F (617) 252-7550
www.vcel.com

Vericel Reports First Quarter 2018 Financial Results

Record First Quarter Revenues of \$18.0 Million

Conference Call Today at 8:30am Eastern Time

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., May 8, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) - Vericel Corporation (NASDAQ:VCEL), a leader in advanced cell therapies for the sports medicine and severe burn care markets, today reported financial results and business highlights for the first quarter ended March 31, 2018.

First Quarter 2018 Financial Highlights

- Total net revenues of \$18.0 million compared to \$9.4 million in the first quarter of 2017; first quarter 2017 revenues included a \$2.8 million revenue reserve for Carticel[®] and MACI[®] related to a contractual dispute between one of the Company's pharmacy providers and a third-party payer;
- Gross margins of 57% compared to gross margins of 24% in the first quarter of 2017;
- Net loss of \$7.7 million, or \$0.21 loss per share, which included warrant-related expense of \$2.9 million, compared to net loss of \$9.8 million, or \$0.31 per share, in the first quarter of 2017, which included \$0.1 million of warrant income;
- Non-GAAP adjusted EBITDA loss of \$2.6 million compared to a loss of \$5.9 million in the first quarter of 2017; and
- As of March 31, 2018, the company had \$29.8 million in cash compared to \$26.9 million in cash at December 31, 2017.

Recent Business Highlights

During and since the first quarter of 2018, the company:

- Achieved record first quarter revenues and the fourth straight quarter of 30% or greater revenue growth versus the same quarter of the prior year;
- Achieved the Company's first quarter of positive operating cash flow;
- Deployed the expanded MACI (autologous cultured chondrocytes on porcine collagen membrane) sales force, which increased from 28 to 40 sales representatives;
- Launched the MACI 'It's Your Move' campaign in partnership with world champion swimmer, five-time Olympian, and best-selling author Dara Torres; and

- Announced the publication of results from the Phase 3 SUMMIT Extension Study in the American Journal of Sports Medicine demonstrating sustained clinical benefit of MACI out to five years.

“We had a strong start to 2018 with significant revenue growth for both MACI and Epicel, and delivered the fourth straight quarter of 30% or higher revenue growth compared to the same quarter of the prior year,” said Nick Colangelo, president and CEO of Vericel. “We also reported significant margin improvements and generated the Company’s first quarter of positive operating cash flow as we continue to move our current business towards sustained profitability.”

First Quarter 2018 Results

Total net revenues for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 were \$18.0 million, which included \$12.1 million of MACI net revenue and \$6.0 million of Epicel[®] (cultured epidermal autografts) net revenue, compared to \$5.0 million of Carticel (autologous cultured chondrocytes) and MACI net revenue and \$4.4 million of Epicel net revenue, respectively, in the first quarter of 2017. Total net revenues for the quarter ended March 31, 2017 included a \$2.8 million revenue reserve for Carticel and MACI related to a contractual dispute between one of the Company’s pharmacy providers and a third-party payer. Total net revenues increased 93% compared to the first quarter of 2017, with MACI revenue increasing 141% and Epicel revenue increasing 37%, respectively, compared to the same period in 2017. Excluding the revenue reserve in the first quarter of 2017, non-GAAP net revenues increased 49%, with MACI revenue increasing 55% compared to first quarter of 2017.

Gross profit for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 was \$10.4 million, or 57% of net revenues, compared to \$2.3 million, or 24% of net revenues, for the first quarter of 2017.

Total operating expenses for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 were \$14.7 million compared to \$11.9 million for the same period in 2017.

Loss from operations for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 was \$4.3 million, compared to a loss of \$9.6 million for the first quarter of 2017. Material non-cash items impacting the operating loss for the quarter included \$1.3 million of stock-based compensation expense and \$0.4 million in depreciation expense.

Other expense for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 was \$3.3 million compared to \$0.2 million for the same period in 2017. The change in other expense for the quarter is primarily due to a \$2.9 million change in the fair value of warrants.

Non-GAAP adjusted EBITDA loss was \$2.6 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 compared to a loss of \$5.9 million in the same period in 2017. See table reconciling non-GAAP measures for more details.

Vericel’s net loss for the quarter ended March 31, 2018 was \$7.7 million, or \$0.21 per share, compared to a net loss of \$9.8 million, or \$0.31 per share, for the same period in 2017.

As of March 31, 2018, the company had \$29.8 million in cash compared to \$26.9 million in cash at December 31, 2017.

“Our first quarter results demonstrated continued momentum moving into our second year with MACI on the market and that investments made in Epicel are continuing to drive additional utilization,” added Mr. Colangelo. “We believe that an expanded MACI sales force in 2018, together with patient-focused marketing initiatives, will further strengthen our position in the market and build the foundation for strong revenue growth in the years ahead.”

Conference Call Information

Today's conference call will be available live at 8:30am Eastern time in the Investor Relations section of the Vericel website at <http://investors.vcel.com/events.cfm>. Please access the site at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time in order to download the required audio software if necessary. To participate in the live call by telephone, please call (877) 312-5881 and reference Vericel Corporation's first-quarter 2018 investor conference call. If calling from outside the U.S., please use the international phone number (253) 237-1173.

If you are unable to participate in the live call, the webcast will be available at <http://investors.vcel.com/events.cfm> until May 8, 2019. A replay of the call will also be available until 11:30am (EST) on May 13, 2018 by calling (855) 859-2056, or from outside the U.S. (404) 537-3406. The conference ID is 1564056.

About Vericel Corporation

Vericel is a leader in advanced cell therapies for the sports medicine and severe burn care markets. The company markets two cell therapy products in the United States. MACI (autologous cultured chondrocytes on porcine collagen membrane) is an autologous cellularized scaffold product indicated for the repair of symptomatic, single or multiple full-thickness cartilage defects of the knee with or without bone involvement in adults. Epicel (cultured epidermal autografts) is a permanent skin replacement for the treatment of patients with deep dermal or full thickness burns greater than or equal to 30% of total body surface area. For more information, please visit the company's website at www.vcel.com.

GAAP v. Non-GAAP Measures

Vericel's reported earnings are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States, or GAAP, and represent earnings as reported to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Vericel has provided in this release financial information that has not been prepared in accordance with GAAP. Vericel's management believes that adjusted EBITDA loss described in the release, or EBITDA loss adjusted for specific items that are generally not indicative of our core operations, provides additional information that is useful to investors in understanding Vericel's underlying performance, business and performance trends, and helps facilitate period to period comparisons and compare its financial measures with other companies in Vericel's industry. However, non-GAAP financial measures that Vericel uses may differ from measures that other companies may use. Non-GAAP financial measures are not required to be uniformly applied, are not audited and should not be considered in isolation or as substitutes for results prepared in accordance with GAAP.

Epichel[®], MACI[®] and Carticel[®] are registered trademarks of Vericel Corporation. © 2018 Vericel Corporation. All rights reserved.

This document contains forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, statements concerning anticipated progress, objectives and expectations regarding the commercial potential of our products and growth in revenues, and objectives and expectations regarding our company described herein, all of which involve certain risks and uncertainties. These statements are often, but are not always, made through the use of words or phrases such as "anticipates," "intends," "estimates," "plans," "expects," "we believe," "we intend," "guidance," "outlook," "future," and similar words or phrases, or future or conditional verbs such as "will," "would," "should," "potential," "could," "may," or similar expressions. Actual results may differ significantly from the expectations contained in the forward-looking statements. Among the factors that may result in differences are the inherent uncertainties associated with our expectations regarding 2018 revenues, our ability to achieve or sustain profitability, our need to generate significant sales to become profitable, potential fluctuations in sales volumes and our results of operations over the course of the year, competitive developments, estimating the commercial growth potential of our products and product candidates and growth in revenues and improvement in costs, market demand for our products, our ability to secure consistent reimbursement for our products, changes in third party coverage and reimbursement, any disruption or delays in operations at our facilities, our dependence on a limited number of third party suppliers, our ability to maintain and expand our network of direct sales employees, and our ability to supply or meet customer demand for our products. These and other significant factors are discussed in greater detail in Vericel's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on March 5, 2018, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and other filings with the SEC. These forward-looking statements reflect management's current views and Vericel does not undertake to update any of these forward-looking statements to reflect a change in its views or events or circumstances that occur after the date of this release except as required by law.

Global Media Contacts:

David Schull
Russo Partners LLC
+1 212-845-4271 (office)
+1 858-717-2310 (mobile)
David.schull@russopartnersllc.com

Karen Chase
Russo Partners LLC
+1 646-942-5627 (office)
+1 917-547-0434 (mobile)
Karen.chase@russopartnersllc.com

Investor Contacts:

Chad Rubin
Solebury Trout

crubin@troutgroup.com
+1 (646) 378-2947

Lee Stern
Solebury Trout
lstern@troutgroup.com
+1 (646) 378-2922

VERICEL CORPORATION
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(unaudited, amounts in thousands)

	March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 29,777	\$ 26,862
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$315 and \$249, respectively)	13,162	18,270
Inventory	3,905	3,793
Other current assets	1,358	1,581
Total current assets	48,202	50,506
Property and equipment, net	4,207	4,071
Total assets	\$ 52,409	\$ 54,577
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 5,768	\$ 5,552
Accrued expenses	4,007	5,573
Short term deferred rent	426	420
Current portion of term loan credit agreement (net of deferred costs of \$69 and \$67, respectively)	1,597	350
Warrant liabilities	1,921	1,014
Other	159	181
Total current liabilities	13,878	13,090
Revolving and term loan credit agreement (net of deferred costs of \$185 and \$196, respectively)	15,649	16,888
Long term deferred rent	1,947	2,059
Total liabilities	31,474	32,037
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES		
Shareholders' equity:		
Common stock, no par value; shares authorized — 75,000; shares issued and outstanding — 36,502 and 35,861, respectively	389,074	383,020
Warrants	397	397
Accumulated deficit	(368,536)	(360,877)
Total shareholders' equity	20,935	22,540
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 52,409	\$ 54,577

VERICEL CORPORATION

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(unaudited, amounts in thousands except per share amounts)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2018	2017
Product sales, net	\$ 18,027	\$ 9,361
Cost of product sales	7,666	7,109
Gross profit	10,361	2,252
Research and development	3,729	3,467
Selling, general and administrative	10,954	8,408
Total operating expenses	14,683	11,875
Loss from operations	(4,322)	(9,623)
Other income (expense):		
(Increase) decrease in fair value of warrants	(2,907)	107
Foreign currency translation (loss)	(44)	(1)
Interest income	—	1
Interest expense	(432)	(262)
Other income	46	—
Total other income (expense)	(3,337)	(155)
Net loss	\$ (7,659)	\$ (9,778)
Net loss per share attributable to common shareholders (Basic and Diluted)	\$ (0.21)	\$ (0.31)
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding (Basic and Diluted)	36,140	31,896

RECONCILIATION OF REPORTED NET LOSS (GAAP) TO ADJUSTED EBITDA (NON-GAAP MEASURE) - UNAUDITED

(In thousands)	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2018	2017
Net loss (GAAP)	\$ (7,659)	\$ (9,778)
Change in fair value of warrants	2,907	(107)
Revenue reserve related to a dispute between pharmacy provider and payer	—	2,775
Stock compensation expense	1,342	502
Depreciation and amortization	427	409
Net interest expense	432	261
Adjusted EBITDA (Non-GAAP)	\$ (2,551)	\$ (5,938)