
**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 1, 2019

Vericel Corporation

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Michigan
(State or Other
Jurisdiction of
Incorporation)

001-35280
(Commission
File Number)

94-3096597
(IRS 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 (see General Instructions A.2.):

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

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

Emerging growth company

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

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

As described below in Item 5.07 of this Current Report on Form 8-K, on May 1, 2019, at its Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on May 1, 2019 (the “Annual Meeting”), the shareholders of Vericel Corporation, a Michigan corporation (the “Company”) approved the Vericel Corporation 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the “2019 Plan”), which will replace the Vericel Corporation 2017 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the “2017 Plan”). The Company’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) approved the 2019 Plan on February 6, 2019, subject to and effective upon approval by the shareholders at the Annual Meeting. The 2019 Plan became effective upon receipt of the requisite shareholder approval on May 1, 2019 (the “Effective Date”). The number of shares of the Company’s common stock reserved for issuance under the 2019 Plan is 5,000,000.

A summary of the material terms of the 2019 Plan is set forth in Proposal 3 contained in the Company’s Definitive Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) on March 20, 2019 and is incorporated herein by reference. That summary is qualified in its entirety by the full text of the 2019 Plan, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 10.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 5.07 Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

At the Annual Meeting, the shareholders of the Company voted on the following matters, which are described in detail in the Company’s Definitive Proxy Statement filed with the SEC on March 20, 2019: (i) to elect each of Robert L. Zerbe, Alan L. Rubino, Heidi Hagen, Steven Gilman, Kevin McLaughlin, Paul Wotton and Dominick C. Colangelo as a director of the Company to serve for a one-year term expiring at the Company’s 2020 annual meeting of shareholders and until his or her successor has been elected and qualified (“Proposal 1”), (ii) to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019 (“Proposal 2”), (iii) to approve the adoption of the Company’s 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan (“Proposal 3”), and (iv) to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the named executive officers of the Company (“Proposal 4”).

The Company’s shareholders approved the nominees recommended for election in Proposal 1 at the Annual Meeting.

Shareholders voted for directors as follows:

Nominee	For	Abstain/Withheld	Broker Non-Votes
Robert L. Zerbe	22,269,495	7,022,145	9,604,305
Alan L. Rubino	19,927,019	9,364,621	9,604,305
Heidi Hagen	23,539,135	5,752,505	9,604,305
Steven Gilman	15,498,616	13,793,024	9,604,305
Kevin McLaughlin	21,301,612	7,990,028	9,604,305
Paul Wotton	22,289,228	7,002,412	9,604,305
Dominick C. Colangelo	24,010,018	5,281,622	9,604,305

The Company’s shareholders approved Proposal 2 to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company’s independent registered accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. The votes cast at the Annual Meeting were as follows:

Votes For	Votes Against	Abstentions
38,438,148	434,958	22,839

The Company’s shareholders approved Proposal 3 on the adoption of the Company’s 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan. The votes cast at the Annual Meeting were as follows:

Votes For	Votes Against	Abstentions	Broker Non-Votes
26,133,378	3,015,865	142,397	9,604,305

The Company's shareholders approved, on an advisory basis, Proposal 4 on the compensation of the Company's named executive officers. The votes cast at the Annual Meeting were as follows:

Votes For	Votes Against	Abstentions	Broker Non-Votes
28,735,014	399,932	156,694	9,604,305

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	Description
10.1**	Vericel Corporation 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan
10.2**	Form of Incentive Stock Option Agreement for Employees under the 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan
10.3**	Form of Incentive Stock Option Agreement for New Hires under the 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan
10.4**	Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Agreement under the 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan
10.5**	Form of Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement for Employees under the 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan
10.6**	Form of Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement for non-employee directors under the 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan

** Filed herewith

EXHIBIT INDEX

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** Filed herewith

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 1, 2019

By: /s/ Gerard Michel

Name: Gerard Michel

Title: Chief Financial Officer and Vice President, Corporate
Development

VERICEL CORPORATION 2019 OMNIBUS INCENTIVE PLAN

Vericel Corporation (the “Company”), a Michigan corporation, hereby establishes and adopts the following 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the “Plan”).

1. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the Plan is to assist the Company and its Affiliates in attracting and retaining certain individuals to serve as directors, employees, consultants and/or advisors of the Company and its Affiliates who are expected to contribute to the Company’s success and achieve long-term objectives that will inure to the benefit of all shareholders of the Company through the additional incentives inherent in the Awards hereunder.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1. “*Affiliate*” shall mean, at the time of determination, any “parent” or “subsidiary” of the Company as such terms are defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. The Board or the Committee shall have the authority to determine the time or times at which “parent” or “subsidiary” status is determined within the foregoing definition.

2.2. “*Award*” shall mean any Option, Stock Appreciation Right, Restricted Stock Award, Restricted Stock Unit Award, Performance Award or any other right, interest or option relating to Shares or other property (including cash) granted pursuant to the provisions of the Plan.

2.3. “*Award Agreement*” shall mean any agreement, contract or other instrument or document evidencing any Award granted hereunder, whether in writing or through an electronic medium.

2.4. “*Board*” shall mean the board of directors of the Company.

2.5. “*Change in Control*” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 10.3.

2.6. “*Code*” shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time.

2.7. “*Committee*” shall mean the Compensation Committee of the Board or a subcommittee thereof formed by the Compensation Committee to act as the Committee hereunder. The Committee shall consist of no fewer than two Directors, each of whom is (i) a “Non-Employee Director” within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act, and (ii) an “independent director” for purpose of the rules of the NASDAQ Stock Market (or such other principal U.S. national securities exchange on which the Shares are traded) to the extent required by such rules.

2.8. “*Consultant*” shall mean any consultant or advisor who is a natural person and who provides services to the Company or any Affiliate, so long as such person (i) renders bona fide services that are not in connection with the offer and sale of the Company’s securities in a capital-raising transaction and (ii) does not directly or indirectly promote or maintain a market for the Company’s securities.

2.9. “*Director*” shall mean a non-employee member of the Board.

2.10. “*Dividend Equivalents*” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 11.5.

2.11. “*Employee*” shall mean any employee of the Company or any Affiliate and any prospective employee conditioned upon, and effective not earlier than, such person becoming an employee of the Company or any Affiliate.

2.12. “*Exchange Act*” shall mean the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

2.13. “*Fair Market Value*” shall mean, with respect to Shares as of any date, (i) the per Share closing price of the Shares as reported on the NASDAQ Stock Market on that date (or if there was no reported closing price on such date, on the last preceding date on which the closing price was reported), (ii) if the Shares are not then listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market, the closing price on the principal U.S. national securities exchange on which the Shares are listed (or if there was no reported closing price on such date, on the last preceding date on which the closing price was reported), or (iii) if the Shares are not listed on a U.S. national securities exchange, the Fair Market Value of Shares shall be determined by the Committee in its sole discretion using appropriate criteria, a reasonable application of a reasonable method in accordance with the regulations under Section 409A of the Code and, with respect to Incentive Stock Options, in accordance with the requirements of Section 422 of the Code. The Fair Market Value of any property other than Shares shall mean the market value of such property determined by such methods or procedures as shall be established from time to time by the Committee.

2.14. “*Incentive Stock Option*” shall mean an Option which when granted is intended to qualify as an incentive stock option for purposes of Section 422 of the Code.

2.15. “*Option*” shall mean any right granted to a Participant under the Plan allowing such Participant to purchase Shares at such price or prices and during such period or periods as the Committee shall determine.

2.16. “*Participant*” shall mean an Employee, Director or Consultant who the Committee determines to receive an Award under the Plan.

2.17. “*Payee*” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 12.1.

2.18. “*Performance Award*” shall mean any Award of Performance Cash, Performance Shares or Performance Units granted pursuant to Article 9.

2.19. “*Performance Cash*” shall mean any cash incentives granted pursuant to Article 9 payable to the Participant upon the achievement of such performance goals as the Committee shall establish.

2.20. “*Performance Period*” shall mean the period established by the Committee during which any performance goals specified by the Committee with respect to such Award are to be measured.

2.21. “*Performance Share*” shall mean any grant pursuant to Article 9 of a unit valued by reference to a designated number of Shares, which value may be paid to the Participant upon achievement of such performance goals during the Performance Period as the Committee shall establish.

2.22. “*Performance Unit*” shall mean any grant pursuant to Section 9 of a unit valued by reference to a designated amount of cash or property other than Shares, which value may be paid to the Participant upon achievement of such performance goals during the Performance Period as the Committee shall establish.

2.23. “*Permitted Assignee*” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 11.3.

2.24. “*Prior Plans*” shall mean, collectively, the Vericel Corporation 2017 Omnibus Incentive Plan and the following Aastrom Biosciences, Inc. plans: Amended and Restated 2004 Equity Incentive Plan and Amended and Restated 2009 Omnibus Incentive Plan.

2.25. “*Restricted Stock*” shall mean any Share issued with the restriction that the holder may not sell, transfer, pledge or assign such Share and with such other restrictions as the Committee, in its sole discretion, may impose (including any restriction on the right to vote such Share and the right to receive any dividends), which restrictions may lapse separately or in combination at such time or times, in installments or otherwise, as the Committee may deem appropriate.

2.26. “*Restricted Stock Award*” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 7.1.

2.27. “*Restricted Stock Unit Award*” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 8.1.

2.28. “*Restricted Stock Unit*” means an Award that is valued by reference to a Share, which value may be paid to the Participant upon satisfaction of such vesting restrictions as the Committee in its sole discretion shall impose, which restrictions may lapse separately or in combination at such time or times, in installments or otherwise, as the Committee may deem appropriate.

2.29. “*Shares*” shall mean the shares of common stock, no par value, of the Company.

2.30. “*Stock Appreciation Right*” shall mean the right granted to a Participant pursuant to Section 6.

2.31. “*Substitute Awards*” shall mean Awards granted or Shares issued by the Company in assumption of, or in substitution or exchange for, awards previously granted, or the right or obligation to make future awards, in each case by a company acquired by the Company or any Affiliate or with which the Company or any Affiliate combines.

3. SHARES SUBJECT TO THE PLAN

3.1. Number of Shares.

(a) Subject to adjustment as provided in Sections 3.1(b) and 11.2 and as of the Effective Date, the number of Shares that shall be authorized for grant under the Plan shall equal a total of (i) 5,000,000 Shares, as increased pursuant to paragraph (b) of this Section, less (ii) one (1) share of Stock for every one (1) share of Stock that was subject to an option or stock appreciation right granted after December 31, 2018 and prior to the Effective Date under the Vericel Corporation 2017 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the “2017 Plan”) and 1.25 Shares for every one (1) Share that was subject to an award other than an option or stock appreciation right granted after December 31, 2018 and prior to the Effective Date under the 2017 Plan, plus (iii) one (1) Share for every one (1) Share that was subject to an option or stock appreciation right granted under the Prior Plans and 1.25 Shares for every one (1) Share that was subject to an award other than an option or stock appreciation right under the Prior Plans that were forfeited, expired or settled for cash (in whole or in part), after December 31, 2018 and prior to the Effective Date. Any Shares that are subject to Options or Stock Appreciation Rights shall be counted against this limit as one (1) Share for every one (1) Share granted, and any Shares that are subject to Awards other than Options or Stock Appreciation Rights shall be counted against this limit as 1.25 Shares for every one (1) Share granted. Subject to adjustment as provided in Section 11.2, no Participant may be granted Awards during any calendar year with respect to more than 2,000,000 Shares. After the Effective Date, no awards may be granted under any Prior Plan.

(b) If (i) any Shares subject to an Award are forfeited, an Award expires or an Award is settled for cash (in whole or in part), or (ii) after the Effective Date any Shares subject to an award under the Prior Plans are forfeited, or an award under the Prior Plans expires or is settled for cash (in whole or in part), the Shares subject to such Award or award under the Prior Plans shall, to the extent of such forfeiture, expiration or cash settlement, again be available for Awards under the Plan, in accordance with Section 3.1(d) below. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the following Shares shall not be added to the Shares authorized for grant under paragraph (a) of this Section: (i) Shares tendered by the Participant or withheld by the Company in payment of the purchase price of an Option or after December 31, 2018, an option granted under the Prior Plans, or to satisfy any tax withholding obligation with respect to an Award or after December 31, 2018, awards granted under the Prior Plans, and (ii) Shares subject to a Stock Appreciation Right or after December 31, 2018, a stock appreciation right granted under the Prior Plans that are not issued in connection with the stock settlement of the Stock Appreciation Right on exercise thereof and (iii) Shares reacquired by the Company on the open market or otherwise using cash proceeds from the exercise of Options or after December 31, 2018, options granted under the Prior Plans.

(c) Shares issued under Substitute Awards shall not reduce the Shares authorized for grant under the Plan or the limitation set forth in the last sentence of paragraph (a) above, nor shall Shares subject to a Substitute Award again be available for Awards under the Plan to the extent of any forfeiture, expiration or cash settlement as provided in paragraph (b) above.

(d) Any Shares that again become available for grant pursuant to paragraph (b) of this Section shall be added back as (i) one (1) Share if such Shares were subject to Options or Stock Appreciation Rights granted under the Plan or options or stock appreciation rights granted under the Prior Plans, and (ii) as 1.25 Shares if such Shares were subject to Awards other than Options or Stock Appreciation Rights granted under the Plan or awards other than options or stock appreciation rights granted under the Prior Plans.

3.2. *Character of Shares.* Any Shares issued hereunder may consist, in whole or in part, of authorized and unissued shares, treasury shares or shares purchased in the open market or otherwise.

3.3 *Limit on Awards to Directors.* Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan to the contrary, the aggregate grant date fair value (computed as of the date of grant in accordance with applicable financial accounting rules) of all Awards granted to any Director during any single calendar year plus the aggregate amount of all cash earned and paid or payable to such Director for services rendered for the same year shall not exceed \$700,000; provided, however, that with respect to the Chairman of the Board, the lead independent Director, or any newly-elected Director in his or her first calendar year of service, such amount shall not exceed \$1,000,000.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ADMINISTRATION

4.1. *Eligibility.* Any Employee, Director or Consultant shall be eligible to participate, in accordance with the terms of the Plan.

4.2. *Administration.*

(a) The Plan shall be administered by the Committee. The Committee shall have full power and authority, subject to the provisions of the Plan and subject to such orders or resolutions not inconsistent with the provisions of the Plan as may from time to time be adopted by the Board, to:

- (i) select the Employees, Directors and Consultants to whom Awards may from time to time be granted hereunder;
- (ii) determine the type or types of Awards, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Plan, to be granted to each Participant hereunder;
- (iii) determine the number of Shares (or dollar value) to be covered by each Award granted hereunder;
- (iv) determine the terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Plan, of any Award granted hereunder (including the power to amend outstanding Awards);
- (v) accelerate at any time the exercisability or vesting of all or any portion of any Award in circumstances involving the grantee's death, disability, retirement or termination of employment, a change in control (including a Change in Control) or for any other reason deemed reasonable by the Administrator;
- (vi) determine whether, to what extent and under what circumstances Awards may be settled in cash, Shares or other property;
- (vii) determine whether, to what extent, and under what circumstances cash, Shares, other property and other amounts payable with respect to an Award made under the Plan shall be deferred either automatically or at the election of the Participant;
- (viii) determine whether, to what extent and under what circumstances any Award shall be canceled or suspended;
- (ix) interpret and administer the Plan and any instrument or agreement entered into under or in connection with the Plan, including any Award Agreement;
- (x) correct any defect, supply any omission or reconcile any inconsistency in the Plan or any Award in the manner and to the extent that the Committee shall deem desirable to carry it into effect;
- (xi) establish such rules and regulations and appoint such agents as it shall deem appropriate for the proper administration of the Plan;
- (xii) determine whether any Award, other than an Option or Stock Appreciation Right, will have Dividend Equivalents; and
- (xiii) make any other determination and take any other action that the Committee deems necessary or desirable for administration of the Plan.

Subject to subparagraph (b) below, in determining whether to make an Award, to whom to make an Award, the type of Award or the size of the Award, the Committee may consult with management of the Company.

(b) Decisions of the Committee shall be final, conclusive and binding on all persons or entities, including the Company, any Participant, and any Affiliate. A majority of the members of the Committee may determine its actions, including fixing the time and place of its meetings.

(c) To the extent not inconsistent with applicable law or the rules and regulations of the NASDAQ Stock Market (or such other principal U.S. national securities exchange on which the Shares are traded), the Committee may delegate to: (i) a committee of one or more members of the Board the authority to take action on behalf of the Committee under the Plan including the right to grant, cancel, suspend or amend Awards and (ii) one or more “executive officers” within the meaning of Rule 16a-1(f) of the Exchange Act or a committee of executive officers the right to grant Awards to Employees who are not directors or executive officers of the Company and the authority to take action on behalf of the Committee pursuant to the Plan to cancel or suspend Awards to Employees who are not directors or executive officers of the Company.

(d) The Board in its discretion may ratify and approve actions taken by the Committee. In addition, to the extent not inconsistent with applicable law or the rules and regulations of the NASDAQ Stock Market or such other principal U.S. national securities exchange on which the Shares are traded, the Board may take any action under the Plan that the Committee is authorized to take. In the event the Board takes such action references to the Committee hereunder shall be understood to refer to the Board.

5. OPTIONS

5.1. *Grant of Options.* Options may be granted hereunder to Participants either alone or in addition to other Awards granted under the Plan. Any Option shall be subject to the terms and conditions of this Section and to such additional terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Plan, as the Committee shall deem desirable.

5.2. *Award Agreements.* All Options granted pursuant to this Section shall be evidenced by a written Award Agreement in such form and containing such terms and conditions as the Committee shall determine which are not inconsistent with the provisions of the Plan. The terms of Options need not be the same with respect to each Participant. Granting an Option pursuant to the Plan shall impose no obligation on the recipient to exercise such Option. Any individual who is granted an Option pursuant to this Section may hold more than one Option granted pursuant to the Plan at the same time.

5.3. *Option Price.* Other than in connection with Substitute Awards, the option price per each Share purchasable under any Option granted pursuant to this Article shall not be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value of one Share on the date of grant of such Option; provided, however, that in the case of an Incentive Stock Option granted to a Participant who, at the time of the grant, owns stock representing more than 10% of the voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any Affiliate, the option price per share shall be no less than 110% of the Fair Market Value of one Share on the date of grant. Other than pursuant to Section 11.2, the Committee shall not without the approval of the Company’s shareholders (a) lower the option price per Share of an Option after it is granted, (b) cancel an Option when the option price per Share exceeds the Fair Market Value of one Share in exchange for cash or another Award (other than in connection with a Change in Control or Substitute Awards), and (c) take any other action with respect to an Option that would be treated as a repricing under the rules and regulations of the NASDAQ Stock Market (or such other principal U.S. national securities exchange on which the Shares are traded).

5.4. *Option Term.* The term of each Option shall be fixed by the Committee in its sole discretion; provided, that no Option shall be exercisable after the expiration of ten (10) years from the date the Option is granted, except in the event of death or disability; provided, however, that the term of the Option shall not exceed five (5) years from the date the Option is granted in the case of an Incentive Stock Option granted to a Participant who, at the time of the grant, owns stock representing more than 10% of the voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any Affiliate.

5.5. *Exercise of Options.*

(a) Vested Options granted under the Plan may be exercised by the Participant or by a Permitted Assignee thereof (or by the Participant's executors, administrators, guardian or legal representative, as may be provided in an Award Agreement) as to all or part of the Shares covered thereby, by the giving of notice of exercise to the Company or its designated agent, specifying the number of Shares to be purchased. The notice of exercise shall be in such form, made in such manner, and shall comply with such other requirements consistent with the provisions of the Plan as the Committee may from time to time prescribe.

(b) Unless otherwise provided in an Award Agreement, full payment of such purchase price shall be made at the time of exercise and shall be made (i) in cash or cash equivalents (including certified check or bank check or wire transfer of immediately available funds), (ii) by tendering previously acquired Shares (either actually or by attestation), valued at their then Fair Market Value, (iii) with the consent of the Committee, by delivery of other consideration having a Fair Market Value on the exercise date equal to the total purchase price, (iv) with the consent of the Committee, with respect to Options that are not Incentive Stock Options, by a "net exercise" arrangement pursuant to which the Company will reduce the number of Shares issuable upon exercise by the largest whole number of shares with a Fair Market Value that does not exceed the aggregate exercise price, (v) through any other method specified in an Award Agreement (including same-day sales through a broker), or (vi) any combination of any of the foregoing. In no event may any Option granted hereunder be exercised for a fraction of a Share. No adjustment shall be made for cash dividends or other rights for which the record date is prior to the date of such issuance.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, an Award Agreement may provide that if on the last day of the term of an Option the Fair Market Value of one Share exceeds the option price per Share, the Participant has not exercised the Option (or, if applicable, a tandem Stock Appreciation Right) and the Option has not expired, the Option shall be deemed to have been exercised by the Participant on such day with payment made by withholding Shares otherwise issuable in connection with the exercise of the Option. In such event, the Company shall deliver to the Participant the number of Shares for which the Option was deemed exercised, less the number of Shares required to be withheld for the payment of the total purchase price and required withholding taxes (subject to Section 12.1); provided, however, any fractional Share shall be settled in cash.

5.6. *Form of Settlement.* In its sole discretion, the Committee may provide that the Shares to be issued upon an Option's exercise shall be in the form of Restricted Stock or other similar securities.

5.7. *Incentive Stock Options.* The Committee may grant Incentive Stock Options to any employee of the Company or any Affiliate, subject to the requirements of Section 422 of the Code; provided, however, that for purposes of this Section "Affiliate shall mean, at the time of determination, any "parent" or "subsidiary of the Company as such terms are defined in Section 424 of the Code and the regulations thereunder. Notwithstanding anything in Section 3.1 to the contrary and solely for the purposes of determining whether Shares are available for the grant of Incentive Stock Options under the Plan, the maximum aggregate number of Shares that may be issued pursuant to Incentive Stock

Options granted under the Plan shall be 5,000,000 Shares, subject to adjustment as provided in Section 11.2.

6. STOCK APPRECIATION RIGHTS

6.1. *Grant and Exercise.* The Committee may provide Stock Appreciation Rights (a) in tandem with all or part of any Option granted under the Plan or at any subsequent time during the term of such Option, (b) in tandem with all or part of any Award (other than an Option) granted under the Plan or at any subsequent time during the term of such Award, or (c) without regard to any Option or other Award, in each case upon such terms and conditions as the Committee may establish in its sole discretion.

6.2. *Terms and Conditions.* Stock Appreciation Rights shall be subject to such terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Plan, as shall be determined from time to time by the Committee, including the following:

(a) Upon the exercise of a Stock Appreciation Right, the holder shall have the right to receive the excess of (i) the Fair Market Value of one Share on the date of exercise (or such amount less than such Fair Market Value as the Committee shall so determine at any time during a specified period before the date of exercise) over (ii) the grant price of the Stock Appreciation Right.

(b) The Committee shall determine in its sole discretion whether payment upon the exercise of a Stock Appreciation Right shall be made in cash, in whole Shares or other property, or any combination thereof.

(c) The terms and conditions of Stock Appreciation Rights need not be the same with respect to each recipient.

(d) The Committee may impose such other conditions on the exercise of any Stock Appreciation Right, as it shall deem appropriate. A Stock Appreciation Right shall have (i) a grant price per Share of not less than the Fair Market Value of one Share on the date of grant or, if applicable, on the date of grant of an Option with respect to a Stock Appreciation Right granted in exchange for or in tandem with, but subsequent to, the Option (subject to the requirements of Section 409A of the Code), except in the case of Substitute Awards or in connection with an adjustment provided in Section 11.2 and (ii) a term not greater than ten (10) years. In addition to the foregoing, but subject to Section 11.2, the Committee shall not without the approval of the Company's shareholders (x) lower the grant price per Share of any Stock Appreciation Right after it is granted, (y) cancel any Stock Appreciation Right when the grant price per Share exceeds the Fair Market Value of the underlying Shares in exchange for cash or another Award (other than in connection with a Change in Control as defined in Section 10.3 or Substitute Awards), and (z) take any other action with respect to any Stock Appreciation Right that would be treated as a repricing under the rules and regulations of the NASDAQ Stock Market (or such other principal U.S. national securities exchange on which the Shares are traded).

(e) In no event may any Stock Appreciation Right granted hereunder be exercised for a fraction of a Share. No adjustment shall be made for cash dividends or other rights for which the record date is prior to the date of such issuance.

(f) An Award Agreement may provide that if on the last day of the term of a Stock Appreciation Right the Fair Market Value of one Share exceeds the grant price per Share of the Stock Appreciation Right, the Participant has not exercised the Stock Appreciation Right or the tandem Option (if applicable), and the Stock Appreciation Right has not expired, the Stock Appreciation Right shall be

deemed to have been exercised by the Participant on such day. In such event, the Company shall make payment to the Participant in accordance with this Section, reduced by the number of Shares (or cash) required for withholding taxes (subject to Section 12.1); any fractional Share shall be settled in cash.

7. RESTRICTED STOCK AWARDS

7.1. *Grants.* Awards of Restricted Stock may be issued hereunder to Participants either alone or in addition to other Awards granted under the Plan (a “Restricted Stock Award”), and such Restricted Stock Awards may also be available as a form of payment of Performance Awards and other earned cash-based incentive compensation. A Restricted Stock Award shall be subject to vesting restrictions imposed by the Committee covering a period of time specified by the Committee. The Committee has absolute discretion to determine whether any consideration (other than services) is to be received by the Company or any Affiliate as a condition precedent to the issuance of Restricted Stock.

7.2. *Award Agreements.* The terms of any Restricted Stock Award granted under the Plan shall be set forth in an Award Agreement which shall contain provisions determined by the Committee and not inconsistent with the Plan. The terms of Restricted Stock Awards need not be the same with respect to each Participant.

7.3. *Rights of Holders of Restricted Stock.* Unless otherwise provided in the Award Agreement, beginning on the date of grant of the Restricted Stock Award, the Participant shall become a shareholder of the Company with respect to all Shares subject to the Award Agreement and shall have all of the rights of a shareholder, including the right to vote such Shares and the right to receive distributions made with respect to such Shares; provided, however, that any Shares, cash or any other property distributed as a dividend or otherwise with respect to any Restricted Stock as to which the restrictions have not yet lapsed shall be accumulated or credited, and shall be subject to the same restrictions and risk of forfeiture as such Restricted Stock and shall not be paid until and unless the underlying Award vests.

8. RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT AWARDS

8.1. *Grants.* Other Awards of units having a value equal to an identical number of Shares (“Restricted Stock Unit Awards”) may be granted hereunder to Participants either alone or in addition to other Awards granted under the Plan. Restricted Stock Unit Awards shall also be available as a form of payment of other Awards granted under the Plan and other earned cash-based incentive compensation.

8.2. *Award Agreements.* The terms of Restricted Stock Unit Award granted under the Plan shall be set forth in an Award Agreement which shall contain provisions determined by the Committee and not inconsistent with the Plan. Restricted Stock Unit Awards shall be subject to vesting restrictions imposed by the Committee covering a period of time specified by the Committee. The terms of such Awards need not be the same with respect to each Participant.

8.3. *Payment.* Except as provided in Section 10 or as may be provided in an Award Agreement, Restricted Stock Unit Awards may be paid in cash, Shares, other property, or any combination thereof, in the sole discretion of the Committee. Restricted Stock Unit Awards may be paid in a lump sum or in installments or, in accordance with procedures established by the Committee, on a deferred basis subject to the requirements of Section 409A of the Code.

8.4. *Rights of Holders of Restricted Stock Units.* A Participant who holds a Restricted Stock Unit Award shall only have those rights specifically provided for in the Award Agreement; provided, however, in no event shall the Participant have voting rights with respect to such Award.

9. PERFORMANCE AWARDS

9.1. *Grants.* Performance Awards in the form of Performance Cash, Performance Shares or Performance Units, as determined by the Committee in its sole discretion, may be granted hereunder to Participants, for no consideration or for such minimum consideration as may be required by applicable law, either alone or in addition to other Awards granted under the Plan. The performance goals to be achieved for each Performance Period shall be conclusively determined by the Committee.

9.2. *Award Agreements.* The terms of any Performance Award granted under the Plan shall be set forth in an Award Agreement (or, if applicable, in a resolution duly adopted by the Committee) which shall contain provisions determined by the Committee and not inconsistent with the Plan. The terms of Performance Awards need not be the same with respect to each Participant.

9.3. *Terms and Conditions.* The performance criteria to be achieved during any Performance Period and the length of the Performance Period shall be determined by the Committee upon the grant of each Performance Award. The amount of the Award to be distributed shall be conclusively determined by the Committee.

9.4. *Payment.* Except as provided in Section 10 or as may be provided in an Award Agreement, Performance Awards will be distributed only after the end of the relevant Performance Period. Performance Awards may be paid in cash, Shares, other property, or any combination thereof, in the sole discretion of the Committee. Performance Awards may be paid in a lump sum or in installments following the close of the Performance Period or, in accordance with procedures established by the Committee, on a deferred basis subject to the requirements of Section 409A of the Code.

10. CHANGE IN CONTROL PROVISIONS

10.1. *Impact on Certain Awards.* The Committee, in its discretion, may determine that in the event of a Change in Control of the Company (i) Options and Stock Appreciation Rights outstanding as of the date of the Change in Control shall be cancelled and terminated without payment therefor if the Fair Market Value of one Share as of the date of the Change in Control is less than the Option per Share option price or Stock Appreciation Right per Share grant price and (ii) all Performance Awards shall be considered to be earned and payable (either in full or pro rata based on the portion of Performance Period completed as of the date of the Change in Control, or otherwise) as provided in the Award Agreement, and any limitations or other restrictions shall lapse and such Performance Awards shall be immediately settled or distributed.

10.2. *Assumption or Substitution of Certain Awards.*

(a) Unless otherwise provided in an Award Agreement, in the event of a Change in Control of the Company in which the successor company assumes or substitutes for an Option, Stock Appreciation Right, Restricted Stock Award or Restricted Stock Unit Award (or in which the Company is the ultimate parent corporation and continues the Award), if a Participant's employment with such successor company (or the Company) or a subsidiary thereof terminates within the time period following such Change in Control set forth in the Award Agreement (or prior thereto if applicable) and under the circumstances specified in the Award Agreement: (i) Options and Stock Appreciation Rights outstanding as of the date of such termination of employment will immediately vest, become fully exercisable, and may thereafter be exercised for the period of time set forth in the Award Agreement, (ii) the restrictions, limitations and other conditions applicable to Restricted Stock shall lapse and the Restricted Stock shall become free of all restrictions, limitations and conditions and become fully vested, and (iii) the restrictions, limitations and other conditions applicable to any Restricted Stock

Unit Awards or any other Awards shall lapse, and such Restricted Stock Unit Awards or such other Awards shall become free of all restrictions, limitations and conditions and become fully vested and transferable to the full extent of the original grant. For the purposes of this Section, an Option, Stock Appreciation Right, Restricted Stock Award or Restricted Stock Unit Award shall be considered assumed or substituted for if following the Change in Control the Award confers the right to purchase or receive, for each Share subject to the Option, Stock Appreciation Right, Restricted Stock Award or Restricted Stock Unit Award immediately prior to the Change in Control, the consideration (whether stock, cash or other securities or property) received in the transaction constituting a Change in Control by holders of Shares for each Share held on the effective date of such transaction (and if holders were offered a choice of consideration, the type of consideration chosen by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares); provided, however, that if such consideration received in the transaction constituting a Change in Control is not solely common stock of the successor company, the Committee may, with the consent of the successor company, provide that the consideration to be received upon the exercise or vesting of an Option, Stock Appreciation Right, Restricted Stock Award or Restricted Stock Unit Award, for each Share subject thereto, will be solely common stock of the successor company substantially equal in fair market value to the per Share consideration received by holders of Shares in the transaction constituting a Change in Control. The determination of such substantial equality of value of consideration shall be made by the Committee in its sole discretion and its determination shall be conclusive and binding.

(b) Unless otherwise provided in an Award Agreement, in the event of a Change in Control of the Company, to the extent that the successor company does not assume or substitute for an Option, Stock Appreciation Right, Restricted Stock Award or Restricted Stock Unit Award (or in which the Company is the ultimate parent corporation and continues the Award), then immediately prior to the Change in Control: (i) those Options and Stock Appreciation Rights outstanding as of the date of the Change in Control that are not assumed or substituted for (or continued) shall immediately vest and become fully exercisable, (ii) restrictions, limitations and conditions on Restricted Stock not assumed or substituted for (or continued) shall lapse and the Restricted Stock shall become free of all restrictions, limitations and conditions and become fully vested, and (iii) the restrictions limitations and conditions applicable to any Restricted Stock Unit Awards or any other Awards not assumed or substituted for (or continued) shall lapse, and such Restricted Stock Unit Awards or such other Awards shall become free of all restrictions, limitations and conditions and become fully vested and transferable to the full extent of the original grant.

(c) The Committee, in its discretion, may determine that, upon the occurrence of a Change in Control of the Company, each Option and Stock Appreciation Right outstanding shall terminate within a specified number of days after notice to the Participant, and/or that each Participant shall receive, with respect to each Share subject to such Option or Stock Appreciation Right, an amount equal to the excess (if any) of the Fair Market Value of such Share immediately prior to the occurrence of such Change in Control over the exercise price per Share of such Option and/or Stock Appreciation Right; such amount to be payable in cash, in one or more kinds of stock or property (including the stock or property, if any, payable in the transaction) or in a combination thereof, as the Committee, in its discretion, shall determine. The Committee shall also have the option (in its sole discretion) to make or provide for a payment, in cash or in kind, to the grantees holding other Awards in an amount equal to the Fair Market Value of one Share immediately prior to the occurrence of such Change in Control multiplied by the number of vested Shares under such Awards.

10.3. *Change in Control.* For purposes of the Plan, unless otherwise provided in an Award Agreement, Change in Control means the occurrence of any one of the following events:

(a) During any twenty-four (24) month period, individuals who, as of the beginning of such period, constitute the Board (the “Incumbent Directors”) cease for any reason to constitute at least a majority of the Board, provided that any person becoming a director subsequent to the beginning of such period whose election or nomination for election was approved by a vote of at least a majority of the Incumbent Directors then on the Board (either by a specific vote or by approval of the proxy statement of the Company in which such person is named as a nominee for director, without written objection to such nomination) shall be an Incumbent Director; provided, however, that no individual initially elected or nominated as a director of the Company as a result of an actual or threatened election contest with respect to directors or as a result of any other actual or threatened solicitation of proxies by or on behalf of any person other than the Board shall be deemed to be an Incumbent Director;

(b) Any “person” (as such term is defined in the Exchange Act and as used in Sections 13(d)(3) and 14(d)(2) of the Exchange Act) is or becomes a “beneficial owner” (as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of securities of the Company representing 50% or more of the combined voting power of the Company’s then outstanding securities eligible to vote for the election of the Board (the “Company Voting Securities”); provided, however, that the event described in this paragraph (ii) shall not be deemed to be a Change in Control by virtue of any of the following acquisitions: (A) by the Company or any Affiliate, (B) by any employee benefit plan (or related trust) sponsored or maintained by the Company or any Affiliate, (C) by any underwriter temporarily holding securities pursuant to an offering of such securities, (D) pursuant to a Non-Qualifying Transaction, as defined in paragraph (iii), or (E) by any person of Voting Securities from the Company, if a majority of the Incumbent Board approves in advance the acquisition of beneficial ownership of 50% or more of Company Voting Securities by such person;

(c) The consummation of a merger, consolidation, statutory share exchange or similar form of corporate transaction involving the Company or any of its Affiliates that requires the approval of the Company’s shareholders, whether for such transaction or the issuance of securities in the transaction (a “Business Combination”), unless immediately following such Business Combination: (A) more than 50% of the total voting power of (x) the corporation resulting from such Business Combination (the “Surviving Corporation”), or (y) if applicable, the ultimate parent corporation that directly or indirectly has beneficial ownership of 100% of the voting securities eligible to elect directors of the Surviving Corporation (the “Parent Corporation”), is represented by Company Voting Securities that were outstanding immediately prior to such Business Combination (or, if applicable, is represented by shares into which such Company Voting Securities were converted pursuant to such Business Combination), and such voting power among the holders thereof is in substantially the same proportion as the voting power of such Company Voting Securities among the holders thereof immediately prior to the Business Combination, (B) no person (other than any employee benefit plan (or related trust) sponsored or maintained by the Surviving Corporation or the Parent Corporation), is or becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of 50% or more of the total voting power of the outstanding voting securities eligible to elect directors of the Parent Corporation (or, if there is no Parent Corporation, the Surviving Corporation) and (C) at least a majority of the members of the board of directors of the Parent Corporation (or, if there is no Parent Corporation, the Surviving Corporation) following the consummation of the Business Combination were Incumbent Directors at the time of the Board’s approval of the execution of the initial agreement providing for such Business Combination (any Business Combination which satisfies all of the criteria specified in (A), (B) and (C) above shall be deemed to be a “Non-Qualifying Transaction”);

- (d) The shareholders of the Company approve a plan of complete liquidation or dissolution of the Company; or
- (e) The consummation of a sale of all or substantially all of the Company's assets.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Change in Control shall not be deemed to occur solely because any person acquires beneficial ownership of more than 50% of the Company Voting Securities as a result of the acquisition of Company Voting Securities by the Company which reduces the number of Company Voting Securities outstanding; provided, that if after such acquisition by the Company such person becomes the beneficial owner of additional Company Voting Securities that increases the percentage of outstanding Company Voting Securities beneficially owned by such person, a Change in Control of the Company shall then occur.

11. GENERALLY APPLICABLE PROVISIONS

11.1. *Amendment and Termination of the Plan.* The Board may, at any time, amend or discontinue the Plan and the Committee may, at any time, amend or cancel any outstanding Award for the purpose of satisfying changes in law or for any other lawful purpose, but no such action shall adversely affect rights under any outstanding Award without the holder's consent. To the extent required under the rules of any securities exchange or market system on which the Stock is listed, to the extent determined by the Committee to be required by the Code to ensure that Incentive Stock Options granted under the Plan are qualified under Section 422 of the Code, Plan amendments shall be subject to approval by the Company stockholders entitled to vote at a meeting of stockholders. Subject to Section 11.2, the Board may not without the approval of the Company's shareholders take any action with respect to an Option or Stock Appreciation Right that may be treated as a repricing under the rules and regulations of the NASDAQ Stock Market (or such other principal U.S. national securities exchange on which the Shares are traded), including a reduction of the exercise price of an Option or the grant price of a Stock Appreciation Right or the cancellation of an Option or Stock Appreciation Right when the exercise price or grant price per Share exceeds the Fair Market Value of the underlying Shares in exchange for cash or another Award (other than in connection with a Change in Control as defined in Section 10.3 or Substitute Awards). In addition, no amendments to, or termination of, the Plan shall in any way impair the rights of a Participant under any Award previously granted without such Participant's consent.

11.2. *Adjustments.* In the event of any merger, reorganization, consolidation, recapitalization, dividend or distribution (whether in cash, shares or other property, other than a regular cash dividend), stock split, reverse stock split, spin-off or similar transaction or other change in corporate structure affecting the Shares or the value thereof, such adjustments and other substitutions shall be made to the Plan and to Awards as the Committee deems equitable or appropriate taking into consideration the accounting and tax consequences, including such adjustments in the aggregate number, class and kind of securities that may be delivered under the Plan, the limits in Section 3.1 and 3.3, the maximum number of Shares that may be issued pursuant to Incentive Stock Options and, in the aggregate or to any one Participant, in the number, class, kind and option or exercise price of securities subject to outstanding Awards granted under the Plan (including, if the Committee deems appropriate, the substitution of similar options to purchase the shares of, or other awards denominated in the shares of, another company) as the Committee may determine to be appropriate in its sole discretion; provided, however, that the number of Shares subject to any Award shall always be a whole number.

11.3. *Transferability of Awards.* Except as provided below, no Award and no Shares subject to Awards that have not been issued or as to which any applicable restriction, performance or deferral period has not lapsed, may be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged or otherwise encumbered, other than

by will or the laws of descent and distribution, and such Award may be exercised during the life of the Participant only by the Participant or the Participant's guardian or legal representative. To the extent and under such terms and conditions as determined by the Committee, a Participant may assign or transfer an Award (each transferee thereof, a "Permitted Assignee") to a "family member" as such term is defined in the General Instructions to Form S-8 (whether by gift or a domestic relations order); provided that such Permitted Assignee shall be bound by and subject to all of the terms and conditions of the Plan and the Award Agreement relating to the transferred Award and shall execute an agreement satisfactory to the Company evidencing such obligations; and provided further that such Participant shall remain bound by the terms and conditions of the Plan. The Company shall cooperate with any Permitted Assignee and the Company's transfer agent in effectuating any transfer permitted under this Section. In no event may any Award be transferred for consideration to a third-party financial institution.

11.4. *Termination of Employment or Service.* The Committee shall determine and set forth in each Award Agreement whether any Awards granted in such Award Agreement will continue to be exercisable, continue to vest or be earned and the terms of such exercise, vesting or earning, on and after the date that a Participant ceases to be employed by or to provide services to the Company or any Affiliate (including as a Director or a Consultant), whether by reason of death, disability, voluntary or involuntary termination of employment or services, or otherwise. The date of termination of a Participant's employment or services will be determined by the Committee, which determination will be final. A Participant's employment or services will not be deemed terminated merely because of a change in the capacity in which the Participant provides services for the Company or an Affiliate as a Consultant, Director or Employee, or because of a change from providing services to the Company to an Affiliate or vice versa or from one Affiliate to another, provided that there is no interruption or termination of the Participant's service between such changes.

11.5. *Deferral; Dividend Equivalents.* The Committee shall be authorized to establish procedures pursuant to which the payment of any Award may be deferred in accordance with the requirements of Section 409A of the Code. Subject to the provisions of the Plan and any Award Agreement, the recipient of an Award (including any deferred Award) other than an Option or Stock Appreciation Right may, if so determined by the Committee, be entitled to receive cash, stock or other property dividends, or cash payments in amounts equivalent to cash, stock or other property dividends on Shares ("Dividend Equivalents") with respect to the number of Shares covered by the Award, as determined by the Committee, in its sole discretion. The Committee may provide that such amounts and Dividend Equivalents (if any) shall be deemed to have been credited or accumulated and reinvested in additional Shares or otherwise reinvested. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Dividend Equivalents shall at all times be subject to restrictions and risk of forfeiture to the same extent as the underlying Award and shall not be paid unless and until the underlying Award vests.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

12.1. *Tax Withholding.* The Company shall have the right to make all payments or distributions pursuant to the Plan to a Participant (or a Permitted Assignee thereof) (any such person, a "Payee") net of any applicable federal, state and local taxes required to be paid or withheld as a result of (a) the grant of any Award, (b) the exercise of an Option or Stock Appreciation Right, (c) the delivery of Shares or cash, (d) the lapse of any restrictions in connection with any Award or (e) any other event occurring pursuant to the Plan. The Company or any Affiliate shall have the right to withhold from wages or other amounts otherwise payable to such Payee such withholding taxes as may be required by law, or to otherwise require the Payee to pay such withholding taxes. If the Payee shall fail to make such tax payments as are required, the Company or its Affiliates shall, to the extent permitted by law, have the right to deduct any such taxes from any payment of any kind otherwise due to such Payee or

to take such other action as may be necessary to satisfy such withholding obligations. The Committee shall be authorized to establish procedures for election by Participants to satisfy such obligation for the payment of such taxes by tendering previously acquired Shares (either actually or by attestation, valued at their then Fair Market Value), or by directing the Company to retain Shares (up to the Participant's maximum required tax withholding rate or such other lesser rate that will not cause an adverse accounting consequence or cost) otherwise deliverable in connection with the Award, subject to the discretion of the Committee. The Committee may also require (i) Awards to be subject to mandatory share withholding up to the required withholding amount or (ii) the Company's tax withholding obligation to be satisfied, in whole or in part, by an arrangement whereby a certain number of Shares issued pursuant to any Award are immediately sold and proceeds from such sale are remitted to the Company in an amount that would satisfy the withholding amount due. For purposes of share withholding, the Fair Market Value of withheld shares shall be determined in the same manner as the value of shares includible in income of the grantees.

12.2. *Right of Discharge Reserved; Claims to Awards.* Nothing in the Plan nor the grant of an Award hereunder shall confer upon any Employee, Director or Consultant the right to continue in the employment or service of the Company or any Affiliate or affect any right that the Company or any Affiliate may have to terminate the employment or service of (or to demote or to exclude from future Awards under the Plan) any such Employee, Director or Consultant at any time for any reason. Except as specifically provided by the Committee, the Company shall not be liable for the loss of existing or potential profit from an Award granted in the event of termination of an employment or other relationship. No Employee, Director or Consultant shall have any claim to be granted any Award under the Plan, and there is no obligation for uniformity of treatment of Employees, Directors or Consultants under the Plan.

12.3. *Prospective Recipient.* The prospective recipient of any Award under the Plan shall not, with respect to such Award, be deemed to have become a Participant, or to have any rights with respect to such Award, until and unless such recipient shall have executed an agreement or other instrument evidencing the Award and delivered a copy thereof to the Company, and otherwise complied with the then applicable terms and conditions.

12.4. *Substitute Awards.* Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, the terms of Substitute Awards may vary from the terms set forth in the Plan to the extent the Committee deems appropriate to conform, in whole or in part, to the provisions of the awards in substitution for which they are granted.

12.5. *Cancellation of Award; Forfeiture of Gain.*

(a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, an Award Agreement may provide that the Award shall be canceled if the Participant, without the consent of the Company, while employed by, or providing services to, the Company or any Affiliate or after termination of such employment or services, establishes a relationship with a competitor of the Company or any Affiliate or engages in activity that is in conflict with or adverse to the interest of the Company or any Affiliate (including conduct contributing to any financial restatements or financial irregularities), as determined by the Committee in its sole discretion. The Committee may provide in an Award Agreement that if within the time period specified in the Agreement the Participant establishes a relationship with a competitor or engages in an activity referred to in the preceding sentence, the Participant will forfeit any gain realized on the vesting or exercise of the Award and must repay such gain to the Company. For purposes of this section, the term "competitor" shall mean any business of the same nature as, or in competition with, the business in which the Company or an Affiliate is now engaged, or in which Company or Affiliate becomes engaged during the term of a Participant's employment, consultancy or

service on the Board, or which is involved in science or technology which is similar to the Company's or an Affiliate's science or technology, provided, however, that a Participant shall not be deemed to have established a relationship or engaged in a competitive activity due to the ownership of 2% or less of the shares of a public company that would otherwise be a competitor so long as the Participant does not actively participate in the management of such company.

(b) In the event the Participant ceases to be employed by, or provide services to, the Company or an Affiliate on account of a termination for "cause" (as defined below), any Award held by the Participant shall terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be employed by, or provide services to, the Company or the Affiliate unless the Committee notifies the Participant that his or her Award(s) will not terminate. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of this Section, if, after an Award is made, or an Option or a Stock Appreciation Right is exercised, after the act or omission of the Participant that defines the termination as a termination for cause, but before the Company determines that termination is for cause, such Award, or exercise, as the case may be, will be void *ab initio* and reversed by the parties. In the event a Participant's employment or services is terminated for cause, in addition to the immediate termination of all Awards, the Participant shall automatically forfeit all shares underlying any exercised portion of an Option for which the Company has not yet delivered the share certificates, upon refund by the Company of the option price paid by the Participant for such shares. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this provision is not intended to, and shall be interpreted in a manner that does not, limit or restrict you from exercising any legally protected whistleblower rights (including pursuant to Rule 21F under the Exchange Act).

(c) For purposes of this Section, "cause" shall mean, unless otherwise provided in an Award Agreement or another agreement between the Participant and the Company or an Affiliate or a plan maintained by the Company or an Affiliate in which the Participant participates, a determination by the Committee that the Participant has (i) materially breached his or her employment or service contract with the Company, (ii) been engaged in disloyalty to the Company or an Affiliate, including, without limitation, fraud, embezzlement, theft, commission of a felony or proven dishonesty in the course of his or her employment or service, which will materially harm the interests of the Company or the Affiliate (iii) disclosed trade secrets or confidential information of the Company to persons not entitled to receive such information, (iv) breached any written noncompetition or nonsolicitation agreement between the Participant and the Company or an Affiliate in a manner which the Committee determines will cause material harm to the interests of the Company or an Affiliate, or (v) engaged in such other behavior materially detrimental to the interests of the Company, in each case as the Committee determines.

(d) Further, this provision also applies to any policy adopted by any exchange on which the securities of the Company are listed pursuant to Section 10D of the Exchange Act. To the extent any such policy requires the repayment of incentive-based compensation received by a Participant, whether paid pursuant to an Award granted under this Plan or any other plan of incentive-based compensation maintained in the past or adopted in the future by the Company, by accepting an Award under this Plan, the Participant agrees to the repayment of such amounts to the extent required by such policy and applicable law.

12.6. *Stop Transfer Orders.* All certificates for Shares delivered under the Plan pursuant to any Award shall be subject to such stop-transfer orders and other restrictions as the Committee may deem advisable under the rules, regulations and other requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any stock exchange upon which the Shares are then listed, and any applicable federal or state securities law, and the Committee may cause a legend or legends to be put on any such certificates to make appropriate reference to such restrictions.

12.7. *Nature of Payments.* All Awards made pursuant to the Plan are in consideration of services performed or to be performed for the Company or any Affiliate, division or business unit of the Company. Any income or gain realized pursuant to Awards under the Plan constitutes a special incentive payment to the Participant and shall not be taken into account, to the extent permissible under applicable law, as compensation for purposes of any of the employee benefit plans of the Company or any Affiliate except as may be determined by the Committee or by the Board or board of directors of the applicable Affiliate.

12.8. *Other Plans.* Nothing contained in the Plan shall prevent the Board from adopting other or additional compensation arrangements, subject to shareholder approval if such approval is required; and such arrangements may be either generally applicable or applicable only in specific cases.

12.9. *Severability.* The provisions of the Plan shall be deemed severable. If any provision of the Plan shall be held unlawful or otherwise invalid or unenforceable in whole or in part by a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason of a change in a law or regulation, such provision shall (a) be deemed limited to the extent that such court of competent jurisdiction deems it lawful, valid and/or enforceable and as so limited shall remain in full force and effect, and (b) not affect any other provision of the Plan or part thereof, each of which shall remain in full force and effect. If the making of any payment or the provision of any other benefit required under the Plan shall be held unlawful or otherwise invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such unlawfulness, invalidity or unenforceability shall not prevent any other payment or benefit from being made or provided under the Plan, and if the making of any payment in full or the provision of any other benefit required under the Plan in full would be unlawful or otherwise invalid or unenforceable, then such unlawfulness, invalidity or unenforceability shall not prevent such payment or benefit from being made or provided in part, to the extent that it would not be unlawful, invalid or unenforceable, and the maximum payment or benefit that would not be unlawful, invalid or unenforceable shall be made or provided under the Plan.

12.10. *Construction.* As used in the Plan, the words “include” and “including” and variations thereof, shall not be deemed to be terms of limitation, but rather shall be deemed to be followed by the words “without limitation.”

12.11. *Unfunded Status of the Plan.* The Plan is intended to constitute an “unfunded” plan for incentive compensation. With respect to any payments not yet made to a Participant by the Company, nothing contained herein shall give any such Participant any rights that are greater than those of a general creditor of the Company. In its sole discretion, the Committee may authorize the creation of trusts or other arrangements to meet the obligations created under the Plan to deliver the Shares or payments in lieu of or with respect to Awards hereunder; provided, however, that the existence of such trusts or other arrangements is consistent with the unfunded status of the Plan.

12.12. *Governing Law.* The Plan and all determinations made and actions taken thereunder, to the extent not otherwise governed by the Code or the laws of the United States, shall be governed by the laws of the State of Michigan, without reference to principles of conflict of laws, and construed accordingly.

12.13. *Effective Date of Plan; Termination of Plan.* The Plan shall be effective on the date of the approval of the Plan by the holders of the shares entitled to vote at a duly constituted meeting of the shareholders of the Company (the “Effective Date”). The Plan shall be null and void and of no effect if the foregoing condition is not fulfilled and in such event each Award shall, notwithstanding any of the preceding provisions of the Plan, be null and void and of no effect. Awards may be granted under the Plan at any time and from time to time on or prior to the tenth anniversary of the Effective Date, on which date the Plan will expire except as to Awards then outstanding under the Plan, and no grants

of Incentive Stock Options may be made hereunder after the tenth anniversary of the date the Plan is approved by the Board. Such outstanding Awards shall remain in effect until they have been exercised or terminated, or have expired.

12.14. *Foreign Employees and Consultants.* Awards may be granted to Participants who are foreign nationals or employed or providing services outside the United States, or both, on such terms and conditions different from those applicable to Awards to Employees or Consultants employed or providing services in the United States as may, in the judgment of the Committee, be necessary or desirable in order to recognize differences in local law or tax policy. The Committee also may impose conditions on the exercise or vesting of Awards in order to minimize the Company's obligation with respect to tax equalization for Employees or Consultants on assignments outside their home country.

12.15. *Compliance with Section 409A of the Code.* This Plan is intended to comply and shall be administered in a manner that is intended to comply with Section 409A of the Code and shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with such intent. To the extent that an Award or the payment, settlement or deferral thereof is subject to Section 409A of the Code, the Award shall be granted, paid, settled or deferred in a manner that will comply with Section 409A of the Code, including regulations or other guidance issued with respect thereto, except as otherwise determined by the Committee. Any provision of this Plan that would cause the grant of an Award or the payment, settlement or deferral thereof to fail to satisfy Section 409A of the Code shall be amended to comply with Section 409A of the Code on a timely basis, which may be made on a retroactive basis, in accordance with regulations and other guidance issued under Section 409A of the Code.

Should any payments made in accordance with the Plan to a specified employee, as defined by Section 409A of the Code, be determined to be payments from a nonqualified deferred compensation plan, as defined by Section 409A of the Code and are payable in connection with a Participant's Separation from Service, that are not exempt from Section 409A of the Code as a short-term deferral or otherwise, these payments, to the extent otherwise payable within six (6) months after the Participant's date of Separation from Service, will be paid in a lump sum on the earlier of the date that is six (6) months after the Participant's date of Separation from Service or the date of the Participant's death, to the extent necessary in order to avoid the imposition of taxes under Section 409A of the Code. For purposes of the Plan, a "Separation from Service" means an anticipated permanent reduction in a Participant's level of bona fide services to twenty percent (20%) or less of the average level of bona fide services performed by a Participant over the immediately preceding thirty-six (36) month period. For purposes of Section 409A of the Code, the payments to be made to a Participant in accordance with this Plan shall be treated as a right to a series of separate payments.

12.16. *Captions.* The captions in the Plan are for convenience of reference only, and are not intended to narrow, limit or affect the substance or interpretation of the provisions contained herein.

12.17. *Clawback Policy.* Awards under the Plan shall be subject to the Company's clawback policy, as in effect from time to time.

Vericel Corporation 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan
Incentive Stock Option Award Agreement

AWARD AGREEMENT (the “Agreement”), effective as of [[GRANTDATE]] (the “Grant Date”), is entered into by and between Vericel Corporation, a Michigan corporation (the “Company”), and [[FIRSTNAME]] [[LASTNAME]] (the “Participant”).

1. **Grant of Option.** The Company hereby grants to the Participant a stock option (the “Option”) to purchase [[SHARESGRANTED]] shares of common stock of the Company, no par value (the “Shares”), at the exercise price of [[GRANTPRICE]] per Share (the “Exercise Price”).

2. **Subject to the Plan.** This Agreement is subject to and governed by the terms and provisions of the Vericel Corporation 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the “Plan”), and, unless the context requires otherwise, terms used herein shall have the same meaning as in the Plan. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of the Plan and this Agreement, the Plan shall control.

3. **Term of Option.** Unless the Option terminates earlier pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement, the Option shall expire on the tenth anniversary of the Grant Date.

4. **Vesting.** Subject to the discretion of the Committee to accelerate the exercisability of the Option, the Option shall become vested and exercisable in equal quarterly installments over four years commencing on the Grant Date, provided that the Participant is employed by the Company or an Affiliate on the applicable date.

5. **Exercise of Option.**

(a) **Manner of Exercise.** To the extent vested, the Option may be exercised, in whole or in part, by delivering written notice to the Company in such form as the Company may require from time to time. Such notice shall specify the number of Shares subject to the Option as to which the Option is being exercised, and shall be accompanied by full payment of the Exercise Price of such Shares in a manner permitted under the terms of Section 5.5 of the Plan. The Option may be exercised only in multiples of whole Shares and no fractional Shares shall be issued.

(b) **Status of the Option.** This Stock is intended to qualify as an “incentive stock option” under Section 422 of Code, but the Company does not represent or warrant that this Option qualifies as such. The Participant should consult with his or her own tax advisors regarding the tax effects of this Option and the requirements necessary to obtain favorable income tax treatment under Section 422 of the Code, including, but not limited to, holding period requirements. To the extent any portion of this Option does not so qualify as an “incentive stock option,” such portion shall be deemed to be a non-qualified stock option.

(c) **Issuance of Shares.** As soon as practicable following the exercise of the Option, payment of the Exercise Price for the Shares as to which the Option is exercised and compliance to the satisfaction of the Committee with all requirements under applicable laws or

regulations in connection with such transfer and with the requirements hereof and of the Plan, the Company shall issue to the Participant the applicable number of Shares in the form of fully paid and nonassessable Shares. The determination of the Committee as to such compliance shall be final and binding on the Participant.

(d) Capitalization Adjustments. The number of Shares subject to the Option and the Exercise Price shall be equitably and appropriately adjusted, if applicable, as provided in Section 11.2 of the Plan.

(e) Notice of Disposition. The Participant agrees to notify the Company in writing within fifteen (15) days after the date of any disposition of any of the Shares issued upon exercise of the Option that occurs before the later of two (2) years after the Grant Date or one (1) year after such Shares are transferred to the Participant.

(f) Withholding. The provisions of this paragraph will apply only to the extent that the Option is not treated as an incentive stock option pursuant to paragraph (b) of this Section. No Shares will be issued on exercise of the Option unless and until the Participant pays to the Company, or makes satisfactory arrangements with the Company for payment of, any federal, state or local taxes required by law to be withheld in respect of the exercise of the Option. The Participant hereby agrees that the Company may withhold from the Participant's wages or other remuneration the applicable taxes. At the discretion of the Company, the applicable taxes may be withheld from the Shares otherwise deliverable to the Participant on exercise of the Option, up to the Participant's minimum required withholding rate or such other rate that will not trigger a negative accounting impact.

6. Termination of Option. To the extent that an Option is vested, it may be exercised at any time specified in this Agreement, provided that, except as set forth in the following provisions of this Section 6, the Participant is still employed by the Company at the time of exercise. In all other cases, the Option shall terminate as set forth in the following subsections. Except as provided herein and subject to the discretion of the Committee to permit continued vesting of the Option, any portion of this Option that has not vested as of the date of termination of employment shall immediately terminate and be of no further force or effect.

(a) Death. Upon the death of an Optionee while employed by the Company or an Affiliate, the unexercised, vested portion of this Option shall be exercisable by the person or persons entitled to do so under the will of the Participant, or, if the Participant shall fail to make testamentary disposition of the Option, or if the Participant shall die intestate, by the Participant's executor or personal representative, at any time prior to the expiration date of this Option or within one (1) year of the Participant's date of death, whichever is the shorter period.

(b) Disabled Participant. Upon the termination of employment by the Company or an Affiliate of a Disabled Participant for reasons other than Cause, the unexercised, vested portion of this Option shall be exercisable by the Participant at any time prior to the expiration date of such Option or within one year of the Participant's date of termination of employment, whichever is the shorter period. For purposes of this Agreement, a "Disabled Participant" shall mean the Participant is disabled within the meaning of Section 22(e)(3) of the Code, or as otherwise determined by the Committee in its discretion. The Committee may

require such proof of disability as the Committee in its sole and absolute discretion deems appropriate and the Committee's determination as to whether the Participant is a Disabled Participant shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.

(c) Termination without Cause. Upon the termination of employment by the Company or an Affiliate of a Participant other than a Disabled Participant, for reasons other than death or Cause, the unexercised, vested portion of this Option shall be exercisable by the Participant at any time prior to the expiration date of such Option or within three (3) months of the Participant's date of termination of employment, whichever is the shorter period.

(d) Termination for Cause. Upon the termination of the Participant's employment with the Company or an Affiliate for Cause, unless the Option has earlier terminated, the Option shall immediately terminate in its entirety and shall thereafter not be exercisable to any extent whatsoever. For purposes of this Agreement, except as otherwise provided in a written employment or severance agreement between the Participant and the Company or an Affiliate or a severance plan of the Company or an Affiliate covering the Participant, "Cause" shall mean a determination by the Committee that the Participant has (i) materially breached his or her employment or service contract with the Company, (ii) been engaged in disloyalty to the Company or an Affiliate, including, without limitation, fraud, embezzlement, theft, commission of a felony or proven dishonesty in the course of his or her employment or service, which will materially harm the interests of the Company or the Affiliate, (iii) disclosed trade secrets or confidential information of the Company to persons not entitled to receive such information, (iv) breached any written noncompetition or nonsolicitation agreement between the Participant and the Company or an Affiliate in a manner which the Committee determines will cause material harm to the interests of the Company or an Affiliate, or (v) engaged in such other behavior materially detrimental to the interests of the Company, in each case as the Committee determines.

The Committee's determination of the reason for termination of the Participant's employment shall be conclusive and binding on the Participant and his or her representatives or legatees.

(e) Extension of Exercise Period. Notwithstanding any provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this Section to the contrary, if exercise of the Option following termination of employment during the time period set forth in the applicable paragraph or sale during such period of the Shares acquired on exercise would violate any of the provisions of the federal securities laws (or any Company policy related thereto), the time period to exercise the Option shall be extended until the later of (i) forty-five (45) days after the date that the exercise of the Option or sale of the Shares acquired on exercise would not be a violation of the federal securities laws (or a related Company policy), or (ii) the end of the time period set forth in the applicable paragraph.

7. Change in Control.

(a) Effect on Option. In the event of a Change in Control, to the extent the successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) does not assume or substitute for the Option on substantially the same terms and conditions, the Option shall (i) vest and become

exercisable on the day prior to the date of the Change in Control if the Participant is then employed by the Company or an Affiliate and (ii) terminate on the date of the Change in Control. In the event of a Change in Control, to the extent the successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) assumes or substitutes for the Option on substantially the same terms and conditions (which may include providing for settlement in the common stock of the successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof)), if within twelve (12) months following the date of the Change in Control the Participant's employment is terminated by the Company or an Affiliate (or the successor company or a subsidiary or parent thereof) without Cause or by the Participant for Good Reason, the Option shall become fully vested and exercisable, and may be exercised by the Participant at any time prior to the expiration date of such Option or within three months of the Participant's date of termination of employment, whichever is the shorter period.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if on the date of the Change in Control the Fair Market Value of one Share is less than the Exercise Price, then the Option shall terminate as of the date of the Change in Control, except as otherwise determined by the Committee.

(b) Good Reason. For purposes of this Agreement, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of this Section, "Good Reason" shall mean (i) a reduction by the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) of more than 10% in Participant's rate of annual base salary as in effect immediately prior to such Change in Control; (ii) a reduction by the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) of more than 10% of the Participant's individual annual target or bonus opportunity, except under circumstances where the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) implement changes to the bonus structure of similarly situated employees, including but not limited to changes to the bonus structure designed to integrate the Company's or Affiliate's personnel with other personnel of the successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof); (iii) a significant and substantial reduction by the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) of the Participant's responsibilities and authority, as compared with the Participant's responsibilities and authority in effect immediately preceding the Change in Control; or (iv) any requirement of the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) that Participant be based anywhere more than fifty (50) miles from Participant's primary office location at the time of the Change in Control.

(c) Other Agreement or Plan. The provisions of this Section (including the definitions of Cause and Good Reason), shall be superseded by the specific provisions, if any, of a written employment or severance agreement between the Participant and the Company or a severance plan of the Company covering the Participant, including a change in control severance agreement or plan, to the extent such a provision provides a greater benefit to the Participant.

8. Miscellaneous.

(a) No Rights of Stockholder. The Participant shall not have any of the rights of a stockholder with respect to the Shares subject to this Option until such Shares have been issued to him or her upon the due exercise of the Option.

(b) Nontransferability of Option. The Option shall be nontransferable otherwise than by will or the laws of descent and distribution, and during the lifetime of the Participant, the Option may be exercised only by the Participant or, during the period the Participant is under a legal disability, by the Participant's guardian or legal representative. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Participant may, by delivering written notice to the Company, in a form provided by or otherwise satisfactory to the Company, designate a third party who, in the event of the Participant's death, shall thereafter be entitled to exercise the Option.

(c) Severability. If any provision of this Agreement shall be held unlawful or otherwise invalid or unenforceable in whole or in part by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall (i) be deemed limited to the extent that such court of competent jurisdiction deems it lawful, valid and/or enforceable and as so limited shall remain in full force and effect, and (ii) not affect any other provision of this Agreement or part thereof, each of which shall remain in full force and effect.

(d) Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by, and interpreted in accordance with, the laws of the State of Michigan, other than its conflict of laws principles.

(e) Headings. The headings in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

(f) Notices. All notices required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be sufficiently made or given if hand delivered or mailed by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid. Notice by mail shall be deemed delivered on the date on which it is postmarked.

Notices to the Company should be addressed to:

Vericel Corporation
64 Sidney Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
Attention: Chief Financial Officer

Notice to the Participant should be addressed to the Participant at the Participant's address as it appears on the Company's records.

The Company or the Participant may by writing to the other party, designate a different address for notices. If the receiving party consents in advance, notice may be transmitted and received via telecopy or via such other electronic transmission mechanism as may be available to the parties. Such notices shall be deemed delivered when received.

(g) No Obligation to Continue Employment. Neither the Company nor any subsidiary is obligated by or as a result of the Plan or this Agreement to continue the Participant in employment and neither the Plan nor this Agreement shall interfere in any way with the right of the Company or any subsidiary to terminate the employment of the Participant at any time.

(h) Data Privacy Consent. In order to administer the Plan and this Agreement

and to implement or structure future equity grants, the Company, its subsidiaries and Affiliates and certain agents thereof (together, the “Relevant Companies”) may process any and all personal or professional data, including but not limited to Social Security or other identification number, home address and telephone number, date of birth and other information that is necessary or desirable for the administration of the Plan and/or this Agreement (the “Relevant Information”). By entering into this Agreement, the Participant (i) authorizes the Company to collect, process, register and transfer to the Relevant Companies all Relevant Information; (ii) waives any privacy rights the Participant may have with respect to the Relevant Information; (iii) authorizes the Relevant Companies to store and transmit such information in electronic form; and (iv) authorizes the transfer of the Relevant Information to any jurisdiction in which the Relevant Companies consider appropriate. The Participant shall have access to, and the right to change, the Relevant Information. Relevant Information will only be used in accordance with applicable law.

(i) Entire Agreement; Modification. The Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter contained herein and may not be modified, except as provided in the Plan or in a written document signed by each of the parties hereto, and may be rescinded only by a written agreement signed by both parties.

Vericel Corporation 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan
Incentive Stock Option Award Agreement

AWARD AGREEMENT (the “Agreement”), effective as of [[GRANTDATE]] (the “Grant Date”), is entered into by and between Vericel Corporation, a Michigan corporation (the “Company”), and [[FIRSTNAME]] [[LASTNAME]] (the “Participant”).

1. **Grant of Option.** The Company hereby grants to the Participant a stock option (the “Option”) to purchase [[SHARESGRANTED]] shares of common stock of the Company, no par value (the “Shares”), at the exercise price of [[GRANTPRICE]] per Share (the “Exercise Price”).

2. **Subject to the Plan.** This Agreement is subject to and governed by the terms and provisions of the Vericel Corporation 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the “Plan”), and, unless the context requires otherwise, terms used herein shall have the same meaning as in the Plan. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of the Plan and this Agreement, the Plan shall control.

3. **Term of Option.** Unless the Option terminates earlier pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement, the Option shall expire on the tenth anniversary of the Grant Date.

4. **Vesting.** Subject to the discretion of the Committee to accelerate the exercisability of the Option, the Option shall become vested and exercisable over four years, with 25% of the Shares vesting on the first anniversary of the Grant Date and 6.25% of the Shares vesting quarterly thereafter, provided that the Participant is employed by the Company or an Affiliate on the applicable date.

5. **Exercise of Option.**

(a) **Manner of Exercise.** To the extent vested, the Option may be exercised, in whole or in part, by delivering written notice to the Company in such form as the Company may require from time to time. Such notice shall specify the number of Shares subject to the Option as to which the Option is being exercised, and shall be accompanied by full payment of the Exercise Price of such Shares in a manner permitted under the terms of Section 5.5 of the Plan. The Option may be exercised only in multiples of whole Shares and no fractional Shares shall be issued.

(b) **Status of the Option.** This Stock is intended to qualify as an “incentive stock option” under Section 422 of Code, but the Company does not represent or warrant that this Option qualifies as such. The Participant should consult with his or her own tax advisors regarding the tax effects of this Option and the requirements necessary to obtain favorable income tax treatment under Section 422 of the Code, including, but not limited to, holding period requirements. To the extent any portion of this Option does not so qualify as an “incentive stock option,” such portion shall be deemed to be a non-qualified stock option.

(c) **Issuance of Shares.** As soon as practicable following the exercise of the Option, payment of the Exercise Price for the Shares as to which the Option is exercised and

compliance to the satisfaction of the Committee with all requirements under applicable laws or regulations in connection with such transfer and with the requirements hereof and of the Plan, the Company shall issue to the Participant the applicable number of Shares in the form of fully paid and nonassessable Shares. The determination of the Committee as to such compliance shall be final and binding on the Participant.

(d) Capitalization Adjustments. The number of Shares subject to the Option and the Exercise Price shall be equitably and appropriately adjusted, if applicable, as provided in Section 11.2 of the Plan.

(e) Notice of Disposition. The Participant agrees to notify the Company in writing within fifteen (15) days after the date of any disposition of any of the Shares issued upon exercise of the Option that occurs before the later of two (2) years after the Grant Date or one (1) year after such Shares are transferred to the Participant.

(f) Withholding. The provisions of this paragraph will apply only to the extent that the Option is not treated as an incentive stock option pursuant to paragraph (b) of this Section. No Shares will be issued on exercise of the Option unless and until the Participant pays to the Company, or makes satisfactory arrangements with the Company for payment of, any federal, state or local taxes required by law to be withheld in respect of the exercise of the Option. The Participant hereby agrees that the Company may withhold from the Participant's wages or other remuneration the applicable taxes. At the discretion of the Company, the applicable taxes may be withheld from the Shares otherwise deliverable to the Participant on exercise of the Option, up to the Participant's minimum required withholding rate or such other rate that will not trigger a negative accounting impact.

6. Termination of Option. To the extent that an Option is vested, it may be exercised at any time specified in this Agreement, provided that, except as set forth in the following provisions of this Section 6, the Participant is still employed by the Company at the time of exercise. In all other cases, the Option shall terminate as set forth in the following subsections. Except as provided herein and subject to the discretion of the Committee to permit continued vesting of the Option, any portion of this Option that has not vested as of the date of termination of employment shall immediately terminate and be of no further force or effect.

(a) Death. Upon the death of an Optionee while employed by the Company or an Affiliate, the unexercised, vested portion of this Option shall be exercisable by the person or persons entitled to do so under the will of the Participant, or, if the Participant shall fail to make testamentary disposition of the Option, or if the Participant shall die intestate, by the Participant's executor or personal representative, at any time prior to the expiration date of this Option or within one (1) year of the Participant's date of death, whichever is the shorter period.

(b) Disabled Participant. Upon the termination of employment by the Company or an Affiliate of a Disabled Participant for reasons other than Cause, the unexercised, vested portion of this Option shall be exercisable by the Participant at any time prior to the expiration date of such Option or within one year of the Participant's date of termination of employment, whichever is the shorter period. For purposes of this Agreement, a "Disabled Participant" shall mean the Participant is disabled within the meaning of Section 22(e)(3) of the

Code, or as otherwise determined by the Committee in its discretion. The Committee may require such proof of disability as the Committee in its sole and absolute discretion deems appropriate and the Committee's determination as to whether the Participant is a Disabled Participant shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.

(c) Termination without Cause. Upon the termination of employment with the Company or an Affiliate of a Participant other than a Disabled Participant, for reasons other than death or Cause, the unexercised, vested portion of this Option shall be exercisable by the Participant at any time prior to the expiration date of such Option or within three (3) months of the Participant's date of termination of employment, whichever is the shorter period.

(d) Termination for Cause. Upon the termination of the Participant's employment by the Company or an Affiliate for Cause, unless the Option has earlier terminated, the Option shall immediately terminate in its entirety and shall thereafter not be exercisable to any extent whatsoever. For purposes of this Agreement, except as otherwise provided in a written employment or severance agreement between the Participant and the Company or an Affiliate or a severance plan of the Company or an Affiliate covering the Participant, "Cause" shall mean a determination by the Committee that the Participant has (i) materially breached his or her employment or service contract with the Company, (ii) been engaged in disloyalty to the Company or an Affiliate, including, without limitation, fraud, embezzlement, theft, commission of a felony or proven dishonesty in the course of his or her employment or service, which will materially harm the interests of the Company or the Affiliate, (iii) disclosed trade secrets or confidential information of the Company to persons not entitled to receive such information, (iv) breached any written noncompetition or nonsolicitation agreement between the Participant and the Company or an Affiliate in a manner which the Committee determines will cause material harm to the interests of the Company or an Affiliate, or (v) engaged in such other behavior materially detrimental to the interests of the Company, in each case as the Committee determines.

The Committee's determination of the reason for termination of the Participant's employment shall be conclusive and binding on the Participant and his or her representatives or legatees.

(e) Extension of Exercise Period. Notwithstanding any provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this Section to the contrary, if exercise of the Option following termination of employment during the time period set forth in the applicable paragraph or sale during such period of the Shares acquired on exercise would violate any of the provisions of the federal securities laws (or any Company policy related thereto), the time period to exercise the Option shall be extended until the later of (i) forty-five (45) days after the date that the exercise of the Option or sale of the Shares acquired on exercise would not be a violation of the federal securities laws (or a related Company policy), or (ii) the end of the time period set forth in the applicable paragraph.

7. Change in Control.

(a) Effect on Option. In the event of a Change in Control, to the extent the successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) does not assume or substitute for the

Option on substantially the same terms and conditions, the Option shall (i) vest and become exercisable on the day prior to the date of the Change in Control if the Participant is then employed by the Company or an Affiliate and (ii) terminate on the date of the Change in Control. In the event of a Change in Control, to the extent the successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) assumes or substitutes for the Option on substantially the same terms and conditions (which may include providing for settlement in the common stock of the successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof)), if within twelve (12) months following the date of the Change in Control the Participant's employment is terminated by the Company or an Affiliate (or the successor company or a subsidiary or parent thereof) without Cause or by the Participant for Good Reason, the Option shall become fully vested and exercisable, and may be exercised by the Participant at any time prior to the expiration date of such Option or within three months of the Participant's date of termination of employment, whichever is the shorter period.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if on the date of the Change in Control the Fair Market Value of one Share is less than the Exercise Price, then the Option shall terminate as of the date of the Change in Control, except as otherwise determined by the Committee.

(b) Good Reason. For purposes of this Agreement, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of this Section, "Good Reason" shall mean (i) a reduction by the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) of more than 10% in Participant's rate of annual base salary as in effect immediately prior to such Change in Control; (ii) a reduction by the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) of more than 10% of the Participant's individual annual target or bonus opportunity, except under circumstances where the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) implement changes to the bonus structure of similarly situated employees, including but not limited to changes to the bonus structure designed to integrate the Company's or Affiliate's personnel with other personnel of the successor company (or an subsidiary or parent thereof); (iii) a significant and substantial reduction by the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) of the Participant's responsibilities and authority, as compared with the Participant's responsibilities and authority in effect immediately preceding the Change in Control; or (iv) any requirement of the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) that Participant be based anywhere more than fifty (50) miles from Participant's primary office location at the time of the Change in Control.

(c) Other Agreement or Plan. The provisions of this Section (including the definitions of Cause and Good Reason), shall be superseded by the specific provisions, if any, of a written employment or severance agreement between the Participant and the Company or a severance plan of the Company covering the Participant, including a change in control severance agreement or plan, to the extent such a provision provides a greater benefit to the Participant.

8. Miscellaneous.

(a) No Rights of Stockholder. The Participant shall not have any of the rights of a stockholder with respect to the Shares subject to this Option until such Shares have been issued to him or her upon the due exercise of the Option.

(b) Nontransferability of Option. The Option shall be nontransferable otherwise than by will or the laws of descent and distribution, and during the lifetime of the Participant, the Option may be exercised only by the Participant or, during the period the Participant is under a legal disability, by the Participant's guardian or legal representative. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Participant may, by delivering written notice to the Company, in a form provided by or otherwise satisfactory to the Company, designate a third party who, in the event of the Participant's death, shall thereafter be entitled to exercise the Option.

(c) Severability. If any provision of this Agreement shall be held unlawful or otherwise invalid or unenforceable in whole or in part by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall (i) be deemed limited to the extent that such court of competent jurisdiction deems it lawful, valid and/or enforceable and as so limited shall remain in full force and effect, and (ii) not affect any other provision of this Agreement or part thereof, each of which shall remain in full force and effect.

(d) Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by, and interpreted in accordance with, the laws of the State of Michigan, other than its conflict of laws principles.

(e) Headings. The headings in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

(f) Notices. All notices required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be sufficiently made or given if hand delivered or mailed by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid. Notice by mail shall be deemed delivered on the date on which it is postmarked.

Notices to the Company should be addressed to:

Vericel Corporation
64 Sidney Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
Attention: Chief Financial Officer

Notice to the Participant should be addressed to the Participant at the Participant's address as it appears on the Company's records.

The Company or the Participant may by writing to the other party, designate a different address for notices. If the receiving party consents in advance, notice may be transmitted and received via telecopy or via such other electronic transmission mechanism as may be available to the parties. Such notices shall be deemed delivered when received.

(g) No Obligation to Continue Employment. Neither the Company nor any subsidiary is obligated by or as a result of the Plan or this Agreement to continue the Participant in employment and neither the Plan nor this Agreement shall interfere in any way with the right of the Company or any subsidiary to terminate the employment of the Participant at any time.

(h) Data Privacy Consent. In order to administer the Plan and this Agreement

and to implement or structure future equity grants, the Company, its subsidiaries and Affiliates and certain agents thereof (together, the “Relevant Companies”) may process any and all personal or professional data, including but not limited to Social Security or other identification number, home address and telephone number, date of birth and other information that is necessary or desirable for the administration of the Plan and/or this Agreement (the “Relevant Information”). By entering into this Agreement, the Participant (i) authorizes the Company to collect, process, register and transfer to the Relevant Companies all Relevant Information; (ii) waives any privacy rights the Participant may have with respect to the Relevant Information; (iii) authorizes the Relevant Companies to store and transmit such information in electronic form; and (iv) authorizes the transfer of the Relevant Information to any jurisdiction in which the Relevant Companies consider appropriate. The Participant shall have access to, and the right to change, the Relevant Information. Relevant Information will only be used in accordance with applicable law.

(i) Entire Agreement; Modification. The Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter contained herein and may not be modified, except as provided in the Plan or in a written document signed by each of the parties hereto, and may be rescinded only by a written agreement signed by both parties.

Vericel Corporation 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan
Non-Qualified Stock Option Award Agreement for Non-Employee Directors

AWARD AGREEMENT (the “Agreement”), effective as of [[GRANTDATE]] (the “Grant Date”), is entered into by and between Vericel Corporation, a Michigan corporation (the “Company”), and [[FIRSTNAME]] [[LASTNAME]] (the “Participant”).

1. **Grant of Option.** The Company hereby grants to the Participant a non-qualified stock option (the “Option”) to purchase [[SHARESGRANTED]] shares of common stock of the Company, no par value (the “Shares”), at the exercise price of \$[[GRANTPRICE]] per Share (the “Exercise Price”). The Option is not intended to qualify as an incentive stock option under Section 422 of the Code.
 2. **Subject to the Plan.** This Agreement is subject to and governed by the terms and provisions of the Vericel Corporation 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the “Plan”), and, unless the context requires otherwise, terms used herein shall have the same meaning as in the Plan. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of the Plan and this Agreement, the Plan shall control.
 3. **Term of Option.** Unless the Option terminates earlier pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement, the Option shall expire on the tenth anniversary of the Grant Date.
 4. **Vesting.** Subject to the discretion of the Committee to accelerate the exercisability of the Option, the Option shall become vested and exercisable over a one year period following the grant date, in twelve (12) equal monthly installments, provided that the Participant is then providing services to the Company as a Director.
 5. **Exercise of Option**
 - (a) **Manner of Exercise.** To the extent vested, the Option may be exercised, in whole or in part, by delivering written notice to the Company in such form as the Company may require from time to time. Such notice shall specify the number of Shares subject to the Option as to which the Option is being exercised, and shall be accompanied by full payment of the Exercise Price of such Shares in a manner permitted under the terms of Section 5.5 of the Plan. The Option may be exercised only in multiples of whole Shares and no fractional Shares shall be issued.
 - (b) **Issuance of Shares.** As soon as practicable following the exercise of the Option, payment of the Exercise Price for the Shares as to which the Option is exercised and compliance to the satisfaction of the Committee with all requirements under applicable laws or regulations in connection with such transfer and with the requirements hereof and of the Plan, the Company shall issue to the Participant the applicable number of Shares in the form of fully paid and nonassessable Shares. The determination of the Committee as to such compliance shall be final and binding on the Participant.
 - (c) **Capitalization Adjustments.** The number of Shares subject to the Option and the Exercise Price shall be equitably and appropriately adjusted, if applicable, as provided in Section 11.2 of the Plan.
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6. Termination of Option.

(a) Termination of Service as a Board Member. Unless the Option has earlier terminated, the Option shall terminate in its entirety, regardless of whether the Option is vested, on the earlier of (i) twenty-four (24) months from the date that the Participant ceases to be a member of the Board of Directors or (ii) the original expiration date of the Option. Subject to the discretion of the Committee to permit continued vesting of the Option, if the Participant's services as a Director terminates for any reason other than due to the Participant's death or Disability prior to the satisfaction of the vesting conditions set forth in Paragraph 4 above, any portion of the Option that is not vested at the time the Participant ceases to be a Director shall immediately terminate and be of no further force or effect. Upon termination of the Participant's services as a Director due to the Participant's death or Disability, the restrictions and conditions of Paragraph 8(b) of this Agreement shall lapse as to 100% of the number of Shares subject to the Option. For purposes of this Award, "Disability" shall have the meaning set forth in Treas. Reg. Section 1.409A-3(i)(4).

(b) Extension of Exercise Period. Notwithstanding any provisions of paragraph (a) of this Section to the contrary, if exercise of the Option following termination of service during the time period set forth in the applicable paragraph or sale during such period of the Shares acquired on exercise would violate any of the provisions of the federal securities laws (or any Company policy related thereto), the time period to exercise the Option shall be extended until the later of (i) forty-five (45) days after the date that the exercise of the Option or sale of the Shares acquired on exercise would not be a violation of the federal securities laws (or a related Company policy), or (ii) the end of the time period set forth in the applicable paragraph.

7. Change in Control.

(a) Effect on Option. In the event of a Change in Control, the Option shall (i) vest and become exercisable on the day prior to the date of the Change in Control if the Participant is then providing services to the Company or an Affiliate and (ii) terminate on the date of the Change in Control.

(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, if on the date of the Change in Control the Fair Market Value of one Share is less than the Exercise Price, then the Option shall terminate as of the date of the Change in Control, except as otherwise determined by the Committee.

8. Miscellaneous.

(a) No Rights of Stockholder. The Participant shall not have any of the rights of a stockholder with respect to the Shares subject to this Option until such Shares have been issued to him or her upon the due exercise of the Option.

(b) Nontransferability of Option. Except to the extent and under such terms and conditions as determined by the Committee, the Option shall be nontransferable otherwise than by will or the laws of descent and distribution, and during the lifetime of the Participant, the Option may be exercised only by the Participant or, during the period the Participant is under a legal disability, by the Participant's guardian or legal representative. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Participant may, by delivering written notice to the Company, in a form provided

by or otherwise satisfactory to the Company, designate a third party who, in the event of the Participant's death, shall thereafter be entitled to exercise the Option.

(c) Severability. If any provision of this Agreement shall be held unlawful or otherwise invalid or unenforceable in whole or in part by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall (i) be deemed limited to the extent that such court of competent jurisdiction deems it lawful, valid and/or enforceable and as so limited shall remain in full force and effect, and (ii) not affect any other provision of this Agreement or part thereof, each of which shall remain in full force and effect.

(d) Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by, and interpreted in accordance with, the laws of the State of Michigan, other than its conflict of laws principles.

(e) Headings. The headings in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

(f) Notices. All notices required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be sufficiently made or given if hand delivered or mailed by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid. Notice by mail shall be deemed delivered on the date on which it is postmarked.

Notices to the Company should be addressed to:

Vericel Corporation
64 Sidney Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
Attention: Chief Financial Officer

Notice to the Participant should be addressed to the Participant at the Participant's address as it appears on the Company's records.

The Company or the Participant may by writing to the other party, designate a different address for notices. If the receiving party consents in advance, notice may be transmitted and received via telecopy or via such other electronic transmission mechanism as may be available to the parties. Such notices shall be deemed delivered when received.

(g) No Obligation to Continue as a Director. Neither the Plan nor this Option confers upon the Participant any rights with respect to continuance as a Director.

(g) Agreement Not a Contract. This Agreement (and the grant of the Option) is not an employment or service contract, and nothing in the Option shall be deemed to create in any way whatsoever any obligation on Participant's part to continue his or her service, or of the Company or an Affiliate to continue Participant's service.

(h) Entire Agreement; Modification. The Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter contained herein and may not be modified, except as provided in the Plan or in a written document signed by each of the parties hereto, and may be rescinded only by a written agreement signed by both parties.

(i) Data Privacy Consent. In order to administer the Plan and this Agreement and to implement or structure future equity grants, the Company, its subsidiaries and affiliates and certain agents thereof (together, the “Relevant Companies”) may process any and all personal or professional data, including but not limited to Social Security or other identification number, home address and telephone number, date of birth and other information that is necessary or desirable for the administration of the Plan and/or this Agreement (the “Relevant Information”). By entering into this Agreement, the Participant (i) authorizes the Company to collect, process, register and transfer to the Relevant Companies all Relevant Information; (ii) waives any privacy rights the Participant may have with respect to the Relevant Information; (iii) authorizes the Relevant Companies to store and transmit such information in electronic form; and (iv) authorizes the transfer of the Relevant Information to any jurisdiction in which the Relevant Companies consider appropriate. The Participant shall have access to, and the right to change, the Relevant Information. Relevant Information will only be used in accordance with applicable law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed the Agreement as of the date first above written.

VERICEL CORPORATION

By: _____
Title: President and CEO

PARTICIPANT

Vericel Corporation 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan
Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement for Company Employees

Name of Participant:

No. of Restricted Stock Units:

Grant Date:

Vesting Start Date:

Pursuant to the Vericel Corporation 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan as amended through the date hereof (the "Plan"), Vericel Corporation (the "Company") hereby grants an award of the number of Restricted Stock Units listed above (an "Award") to the Participant named above. Each Restricted Stock Unit shall relate to one share of common stock, no par value per share (each, a "Share") of the Company.

1. Restrictions on Transfer of Award. This Award may not be sold, transferred, pledged, assigned or otherwise encumbered or disposed of by the Participant, and any Shares issuable with respect to the Award may not be sold, transferred, pledged, assigned or otherwise encumbered or disposed of until (i) the Restricted Stock Units have vested as provided in Paragraph 2 of this Agreement and (ii) Shares have been issued to the Participant in accordance with the terms of the Plan and this Agreement.

2. Vesting of Restricted Stock Units. The restrictions and conditions of Paragraph 1 of this Agreement shall lapse as to 25% of the number of Restricted Stock Units on each of the first four anniversaries of the Vesting Start Date (each such date, a "Vesting Date"), provided that the Participant remains an employee of the Company or an Affiliate on the relevant Vesting Date. Subject to the terms of the Plan, the Committee may at any time accelerate the vesting schedule specified in this Paragraph 2.

3. Termination of Employment. Subject to the discretion of the Committee to permit continued vesting of the Restricted Stock Units, if the Participant's employment with the Company and its Affiliates terminates for any reason prior to the satisfaction of the vesting conditions set forth in Paragraph 2 above, any Restricted Stock Units that have not vested as of such date shall automatically and without notice terminate and be forfeited, and neither the Participant nor any of his or her successors, heirs, assigns, or personal representatives will thereafter have any further rights or interests in such unvested Restricted Stock Units.

4. Issuance of Shares. As soon as practicable following each Vesting Date (but in no event later than two and one-half months after the end of the year in which the Vesting Date occurs), the Company shall issue to the Participant the number of Shares equal to the aggregate number of Restricted Stock Units that have vested pursuant to Paragraph 2 of this Agreement on such date and the Participant shall thereafter have all the rights of a stockholder of the Company with respect to such Shares.

5. Change in Control.

(a) Effect on Award. In the event of a Change in Control, to the extent the successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) does not assume or substitute for the Award on substantially the same terms and conditions, the Award shall (i) vest and become nonforfeitable on the day prior to the date of the Change in Control if the Participant is then employed by the Company or an Affiliate and (ii) terminate on the date of the Change in Control. In the event of a Change in Control, to the extent the successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) assumes or substitutes for the Award on substantially the same terms and conditions (which may include providing for settlement in the common stock of the successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof)), if within twelve (12) months following the date of the Change in Control the Participant's employment is terminated by the Company or an Affiliate (or the successor company or a subsidiary or parent thereof) without Cause or by the Participant for Good Reason, the Award shall become fully vested and nonforfeitable on the date the Participant's employment is terminated.

(b) Cause. For purposes of this Agreement, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (d) of this Section, "Cause" shall mean a determination by the Committee that the Participant has (i) materially breached his or her employment or service contract with the Company, (ii) been engaged in disloyalty to the Company or an Affiliate, including, without limitation, fraud, embezzlement, theft, commission of a felony or proven dishonesty in the course of his or her employment or service, which will materially harm the interests of the Company or the Affiliate, (iii) disclosed trade secrets or confidential information of the Company to persons not entitled to receive such information, (iv) breached any written noncompetition or nonsolicitation agreement between the Participant and the Company or an Affiliate in a manner which the Committee determines will cause material harm to the interests of the Company or an Affiliate, or (v) engaged in such other behavior materially detrimental to the interests of the Company, in each case as the Committee determines. The Committee's determination of the reason for termination of the Participant's employment shall be conclusive and binding on the Participant and his or her representatives or legatees.

(c) Good Reason. For purposes of this Agreement, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (d) of this Section, "Good Reason" shall mean (i) a reduction by the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) of more than 10% in Participant's rate of annual base salary as in effect immediately prior to such Change in Control; (ii) a reduction by the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) of more than 10% of the Participant's individual annual target or bonus opportunity, except under circumstances where the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) implement changes to the bonus structure of similarly situated employees, including but not limited to changes to the bonus structure designed to integrate the Company's or Affiliate's personnel with other personnel of the successor company (or an subsidiary or parent thereof); (iii) a significant and substantial reduction by the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) of the Participant's responsibilities and authority, as compared with the Participant's responsibilities and authority in effect immediately preceding the Change in Control; or (iv) any requirement of the Company or an Affiliate or a successor company (or a subsidiary or parent thereof) that Participant be based anywhere more than fifty (50) miles from Participant's primary office location at the time of the Change in Control; provided the Participant provides at least

ninety (90) days' notice to the Company following the initial occurrence of any such event and the Company fails to cure such event within thirty (30) days thereafter.

(d) Other Agreement or Plan. The provisions of this Section (including the definitions of Cause and Good Reason), shall be superseded by the specific provisions, if any, of a written employment or severance agreement between the Participant and the Company or a severance plan of the Company covering the Participant, including a change in control severance agreement or plan, to the extent such a provision provides a greater benefit to the Participant.

6. Incorporation of Plan. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, this Agreement shall be subject to and governed by all the terms and conditions of the Plan, including the powers of the Committee set forth in Section 4.2 of the Plan. Capitalized terms in this Agreement shall have the meaning specified in the Plan, unless a different meaning is specified herein.

7. Tax Withholding. The Participant shall, not later than the date as of which the receipt of this Award becomes a taxable event for Federal income tax purposes, pay to the Company or make arrangements satisfactory to the Committee for payment of any Federal, state, and local taxes required by law to be withheld on account of such taxable event. Unless otherwise determined by the Committee, the Company shall cause the required tax withholding obligation to be satisfied by withholding from Shares to be issued to the Participant a number of Shares with an aggregate Fair Market Value that would satisfy the withholding amount due.

8. Section 409A of the Code. This Agreement shall be interpreted in such a manner that all provisions relating to the settlement of the Award are exempt from the requirements of Section 409A of the Code as "short-term deferrals" as described in Section 409A of the Code.

9. Severability. If any provision of this Agreement shall be held unlawful or otherwise invalid or unenforceable in whole or in part by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall (i) be deemed limited to the extent that such court of competent jurisdiction deems it lawful, valid and/or enforceable and as so limited shall remain in full force and effect, and (ii) not affect any other provision of this Agreement or part thereof, each of which shall remain in full force and effect.

10. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by, and interpreted in accordance with, the laws of the State of Michigan, other than its conflict of laws principles.

11. Headings. The headings in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

12. Notices. All notices required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be sufficiently made or given if hand delivered or mailed by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid. Notice by mail shall be deemed delivered on the date on which it is postmarked.

Notices to the Company should be addressed to:

Vericel Corporation
64 Sidney Street

Notice to the Participant should be addressed to the Participant at the Participant's address as it appears on the Company's records.

The Company or the Participant may by writing to the other party, designate a different address for notices. If the receiving party consents in advance, notice may be transmitted and received via telecopy or via such other electronic transmission mechanism as may be available to the parties. Such notices shall be deemed delivered when received.

13. No Obligation to Continue Employment. Neither the Company nor any Affiliate is obligated by or as a result of the Plan or this Agreement to continue the Participant in employment and neither the Plan nor this Agreement shall interfere in any way with the right of the Company or any Affiliate to terminate the employment of the Participant at any time.

14. Entire Agreement; Modification. The Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter contained herein and may not be modified, except as provided in the Plan or in a written document signed by each of the parties hereto, and may be rescinded only by a written agreement signed by both parties.

15. Data Privacy Consent. In order to administer the Plan and this Agreement and to implement or structure future equity grants, the Company, its subsidiaries and affiliates and certain agents thereof (together, the "Relevant Companies") may process any and all personal or professional data, including but not limited to Social Security or other identification number, home address and telephone number, date of birth and other information that is necessary or desirable for the administration of the Plan and/or this Agreement (the "Relevant Information"). By entering into this Agreement, the Participant (i) authorizes the Company to collect, process, register and transfer to the Relevant Companies all Relevant Information; (ii) waives any privacy rights the Participant may have with respect to the Relevant Information; (iii) authorizes the Relevant Companies to store and transmit such information in electronic form; and (iv) authorizes the transfer of the Relevant Information to any jurisdiction in which the Relevant Companies consider appropriate. The Participant shall have access to, and the right to change, the Relevant Information. Relevant Information will only be used in accordance with applicable law.

Vericel Corporation 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan
Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement for Non-Employee Directors

Name of Participant:

No. of Restricted Stock Units:

Grant Date:

Vesting Start Date:

Pursuant to the Vericel Corporation 2019 Omnibus Incentive Plan as amended through the date hereof (the "Plan"), Vericel Corporation (the "Company") hereby grants an award of the number of Restricted Stock Units listed above (an "Award") to the Participant named above. Each Restricted Stock Unit shall relate to one share of common stock, no par value per share (each, a "Share") of the Company.

1. Restrictions on Transfer of Award. This Award may not be sold, transferred, pledged, assigned or otherwise encumbered or disposed of by the Participant, and any Shares issuable with respect to the Award may not be sold, transferred, pledged, assigned or otherwise encumbered or disposed of until (i) the Restricted Stock Units have vested as provided in Paragraph 2 of this Agreement and (ii) Shares have been issued to the Participant in accordance with the terms of the Plan and this Agreement.

2. Vesting of Restricted Stock Units. The restrictions and conditions of Paragraph 1 of this Agreement shall lapse as to 100% of the number of Restricted Stock Units on the earlier of the first anniversary of the Vesting Start Date or the date of the first Annual Meeting of Stockholders following the Vesting Start Date (such date, the "Vesting Date"), provided that the Participant is providing services to the Company as a Director on the relevant Vesting Date. Subject to the terms of the Plan, the Committee may at any time accelerate the vesting schedule specified in this Paragraph 2.

3. Termination of Service. Subject to the discretion of the Committee to permit continued vesting of the Restricted Stock Units, if the Participant's services as a Director terminates for any reason other than due to the Participant's death or Disability prior to the satisfaction of the vesting conditions set forth in Paragraph 2 above, any Restricted Stock Units that have not vested as of such date shall automatically and without notice terminate and be forfeited, and neither the Participant nor any of his or her successors, heirs, assigns, or personal representatives will thereafter have any further rights or interests in such unvested Restricted Stock Units. Upon termination of the Participant's services as a Director due to the Participant's death or Disability, the restrictions and conditions of Paragraph 1 of this Agreement shall lapse as to 100% of the number of Restricted Stock Units. For purposes of this Award, "Disability" shall have the meaning set forth in Treas. Reg. Section 1.409A-3(i)(4).

4. Issuance of Shares. As soon as practicable following each Vesting Date (but in no event later than two and one-half months after the end of the year in which the Vesting Date occurs), the Company shall issue to the Participant the number of Shares equal to the aggregate number of Restricted Stock Units that have vested pursuant to Paragraph 2 of this Agreement on such date and the Participant shall thereafter have all the rights of a stockholder of the Company with respect to such Shares.

5. Change in Control. In the event of a Change in Control, the Award shall (i) become fully vested and nonforfeitable on the day prior to the date of the Change in Control if the Participant is then providing services to the Company as a Director and (ii) terminate on the date of the Change in Control.

6. Incorporation of Plan. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, this Agreement shall be subject to and governed by all the terms and conditions of the Plan, including the powers of the Committee set forth in Section 4.2 of the Plan. Capitalized terms in this Agreement shall have the meaning specified in the Plan, unless a different meaning is specified herein.

7. Section 409A of the Code. This Agreement shall be interpreted in such a manner that all provisions relating to the settlement of the Award are exempt from the requirements of Section 409A of the Code as “short-term deferrals” as described in Section 409A of the Code.

8. Severability. If any provision of this Agreement shall be held unlawful or otherwise invalid or unenforceable in whole or in part by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall (i) be deemed limited to the extent that such court of competent jurisdiction deems it lawful, valid and/or enforceable and as so limited shall remain in full force and effect, and (ii) not affect any other provision of this Agreement or part thereof, each of which shall remain in full force and effect.

9. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by, and interpreted in accordance with, the laws of the State of Michigan, other than its conflict of laws principles.

10. Headings. The headings in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

11. Notices. All notices required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be sufficiently made or given if hand delivered or mailed by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid. Notice by mail shall be deemed delivered on the date on which it is postmarked.

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64 Sidney Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
Attention: Chief Financial Officer

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12. No Obligation to Continue as a Director. Neither the Plan nor this Award confers upon the Participant any rights with respect to continuance as a Director.

13. Entire Agreement; Modification. The Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter contained herein and may not be modified, except as provided in the Plan or in a written document signed by each of the parties hereto, and may be rescinded only by a written agreement signed by both parties.

14. Data Privacy Consent. In order to administer the Plan and this Agreement and to implement or structure future equity grants, the Company, its subsidiaries and affiliates and certain agents thereof (together, the "Relevant Companies") may process any and all personal or professional data, including but not limited to Social Security or other identification number, home address and telephone number, date of birth and other information that is necessary or desirable for the administration of the Plan and/or this Agreement (the "Relevant Information"). By entering into this Agreement, the Participant (i) authorizes the Company to collect, process, register and transfer to the Relevant Companies all Relevant Information; (ii) waives any privacy rights the Participant may have with respect to the Relevant Information; (iii) authorizes the Relevant Companies to store and transmit such information in electronic form; and (iv) authorizes the transfer of the Relevant Information to any jurisdiction in which the Relevant Companies consider appropriate. The Participant shall have access to, and the right to change, the Relevant Information. Relevant Information will only be used in accordance with applicable law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed the Agreement as of the date first above written.

VERICEL CORPORATION

By:

Title: President and CEO

PARTICIPANT

_____ []
