

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

)	
GRANITE POINT CAPITAL, Individually)	Case No.
and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,)	
Plaintiff,)	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>
vs.)	COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF
)	THE FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS
PROTHENA CORPORATION PLC., GENE)	
G. KINNEY, TRAN B. NGUYEN, and)	<u>DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</u>
SARAH NOONBERG,)	
Defendants.)	
)	

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff Granite Point Capital, Granite Point Capital Master Fund, LP, Granite Point Capital Panacea Global Healthcare, and Granite Point Capital Scorpion Focused Ideas Fund (collectively, “Granite Point” or “Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, alleges the following based on personal knowledge as to Plaintiff and Plaintiff’s own acts, and upon information and belief as to all other matters based upon the investigation conducted by and through Plaintiff’s attorneys, which included, among other things, a review of press releases and other public statements issued by Prothena Corporation plc (“Prothena” or the “Company”), Prothena’s filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), and media and analyst reports about the Company. Plaintiff believes that substantial additional evidentiary support will exist for the allegations set forth herein after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

1. This is a securities class action on behalf of all persons or entities that purchased Prothena's publicly traded common stock between October 15, 2015 and April 20, 2018, inclusive (the "Class Period"). The claims asserted herein are alleged against Prothena and certain of the Company's senior executives (collectively, "Defendants"), and arise under Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") and Rule 10b-5, promulgated thereunder.

2. Prothena is a development-stage biotechnology company. During the Class Period, Prothena's principal asset was NEOD001, a monoclonal antibody designed to treat amyloid light chain amyloidosis ("AL amyloidosis"), a debilitating disease that can lead to organ failure and death. This matter arises from Defendants' misrepresentations and material omissions regarding NEOD001's clinical trial results and prospects for approval. Throughout the Class Period, Defendants cited the "best response" results of Prothena's ongoing Phase 1/2 clinical study of NEOD001 as evidence that the drug was effective, while withholding relevant trial data showing that NEOD001 was not an effective treatment for AL amyloidosis. In addition, Defendants made misleading comparisons of NEOD001's "best response" rates against prior studies that measured sustained responses after a specified period of time, and falsely told investors that Prothena's ongoing Phase 1/2 study provided a strong basis for late-stage Phase 2b and Phase 3 studies of NEOD001. In truth, the full Phase 1/2 study data demonstrated that NEOD001 was not an effective treatment for AL amyloidosis and did not provide an adequate basis for the late-stage Phase 2b and Phase 3 studies.

3. The Class Period begins on October 15, 2015, when Prothena issued a press release announcing the start of its late-stage Phase 2b "PRONTO" study and the expansion of its

ongoing Phase 1/2 clinical trial for NEOD001. The press release explained that the Phase 2b PRONTO study was “a global trial of NEOD001 in previously-treated patients with AL amyloidosis and persistent cardiac dysfunction.” During the Company’s October 15, 2015 conference call to discuss the launch of the PRONTO clinical trial, Prothena’s then President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Dale Schenk (“Schenk”), highlighted to investors that the PRONTO trial was “informed by the results of our ongoing Phase 1/2 trial” presented earlier that year, which “showed that 60% of renal evaluable patients treated with NEOD001 achieved a response, and 57% of cardiac evaluable treated patients achieved a response.” Schenk compared the Phase 1/2 results favorably to prior studies by third parties, stating that “these best response rates for both renal and cardiac evaluable patients were more than double the published historical rates reported in multiple AL amyloidosis studies.”

4. On July 5, 2016, Prothena announced new data from the expanded Phase 1/2 clinical trial of NEOD001. This included “best response” rates of 53% in total cardiac patients and 63% in renal-evaluable patients. According to Prothena, the 53% cardiac best response rate and 63% renal best response rate “compared favorably” to cardiac response rates of 0% to 15% and renal response rates of 17% to 29% from available published historical data in patients previously-treated with chemotherapy or other plasma cell directed therapy, and were consistent with the Company’s prior best response study results. During a conference call held that same day to discuss the new data, Schenk confirmed that these results went beyond “reassuring safety and tolerability findings” and demonstrated “improvements in all three organ systems measured in this study: cardiac, renal, and peripheral nerves.” Also during the call, Defendant Dr. Gene Kinney (“Kinney”), the Company’s then-Chief Operating Officer and Chief Scientific Officer, cited the new Phase 1/2 results as a proxy for the likely success of Prothena’s late-stage studies,

including the Phase 2b “PRONTO” study, by underscoring “the relevance of the new Phase 1/2 results to our ongoing late-stage studies.”

5. Throughout the Class Period, Defendants continued to tout the interim results of the Company’s Phase 1/2 study to create the impression that NEOD001 would obtain final approval after completion of its late-stage Phase 2b PRONTO and Phase 3 VITAL studies. For example, on September 12, 2016, during the Morgan Stanley Global Healthcare Conference, Defendant Tran B. Nguyen (“Nguyen”), the Company’s Chief Financial Officer, stated that the “exciting findings” from the Phase 1/2 expansion study “has to go back to what does it say about PRONTO and VITAL.” Analysts accepted Defendants’ positive statements regarding NEOD001’s efficacy and the Phase 1/2 study results, and viewed the Company’s Phase 1/2 study results as indicative of the likely success of the ongoing Phase 2b and Phase 3 trials. For example, on December 5, 2016, a Credit Suisse analyst noted that the final Phase 1/2 study results helped “derisk the ongoing PRONTO and VITAL studies.”

6. In truth, Prothena’s “best response” analyses did not present a fair representation of the efficacy of NEOD001, particularly when compared to prior studies. What Prothena referred to as the “best response” rate was selected by the Company from among all the data points in their study. After cherry-picking the best response among the available data points for each patient, Prothena then compared that result to studies that used a single data point at the end of a predetermined length of time, creating a false impression that NEOD001 was effective. Prothena never disclosed the full results of its Phase 1/2 testing – namely, the month-to-month response rate of each patient during the study – which would have permitted investors to conduct a fair comparison against the historical data.

7. On April 23, 2018, before the market opened, Prothena stunned investors by announcing that it was ending all development of NEOD001 after data from its Phase 2b PRONTO trial showed that NEOD001 failed to reach either its primary or secondary endpoints, and was substantially less effective than a placebo. In response to this news, Prothena stock fell 69%.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

8. The claims asserted herein arise under Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b) and 78t(a)) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the SEC, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337, and Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa.

9. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b). Substantial acts in furtherance of the alleged fraud or the effects of the fraud have occurred in this Judicial District. Many of the acts charged herein, including the preparation and/or dissemination of materially false and/or misleading information, occurred in substantial part in this Judicial District. Prothena transacts business in this District, and the Company's stock trades in this District on the NASDAQ Stock Market ("NASDAQ").

10. In connection with the acts alleged in this complaint, Defendants, directly or indirectly, used the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, including, but not limited to, the mails, interstate telephone communications, and the facilities of the national securities markets.

PARTIES

11. Plaintiff Granite Point is a hedge fund that manages approximately \$246 million in assets. As set forth in the attached Certification, Granite Point, through several controlled investment funds, purchased Prothena securities on the NASDAQ at artificially inflated prices

during the Class Period and suffered damages as a result of the violations of the federal securities.

12. Defendant Prothena is incorporated in Ireland with its U.S. operations headquartered in the city of South San Francisco, California. The Company's common stock trades on the NASDAQ under ticker symbol "PRTA." Prothena currently has over 39 million shares of stock outstanding.

13. Defendant Kinney served as President, Chief Executive Officer, and a Director at Prothena since September 2016. Prior to that, Kinney served as the Company's Chief Operating Officer and Chief Scientific Officer since the Company's founding in 2012.

14. Defendant Nguyen was, at all relevant times, Prothena's Chief Financial Officer. Nguyen joined Prothena as its Chief Financial Officer in 2013.

15. Defendant Sarah Noonberg, M.D., Ph.D. ("Noonberg") was Prothena's Chief/Medical Officer from May 16, 2017 until February 2, 2018.

16. Defendants Kinney, Nguyen, and Noonberg are also collectively referred to hereinafter as the "Individual Defendants." The Individual Defendants, because of their positions with Prothena (collectively, "Defendants"), possessed the power and authority to control the contents of the Company's reports to the SEC, press releases, and presentations to securities analysts, money and portfolio managers, and institutional investors. Each of the Individual Defendants was provided with copies of the Company's reports and press releases alleged herein to be misleading prior to, or shortly after, their issuance and had the ability and opportunity to prevent their issuance or cause them to be corrected. Because of their positions and access to material non-public information available to them, each of the Individual Defendants knew that the adverse facts specified herein had not been disclosed to, and were

being concealed from, the public, and that the positive representations which were being made were then materially false and/or misleading.

SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

Background

17. Prothena is a development-stage biotechnology company. During the Class Period, the Company's value was largely derived from its principal asset, NEOD001, an antibody designed to treat AL amyloidosis, a rare, progressive and typically fatal disease involving the heart, kidneys, and other vital organs. According to Prothena, there are no approved treatments for AL amyloidosis and there is a large unmet need for therapies that focus on improving vital organ function in patients with this debilitating disease.

18. Antibodies similar to NEOD001 intended to target AL amyloidosis have been available since at least 2000, but have performed poorly in clinical testing. Among other things, AL amyloid deposits are too diverse for a single antibody to work consistently across patient populations, and organ-specific obstruction have hindered the ability of AL amyloid antibodies to achieve meaningful responses. Moreover, radioimaging studies have shown that even where candidate drugs appeared to have meaningful responses, i.e., binding between antibodies and amyloid deposits somewhere in the body, there is no effect on AL amyloid deposits in the heart, kidneys, or other vital organs.

19. Prothena claimed that its AL amyloidosis antibody, NEOD001, had unique characteristics that made it a potential cure for the disease. In 2012, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") granted NEOD001 "orphan drug" status and, in December 2014, granted NEOD001 "Fast Track" designation. A drug program with Fast Track designation permits early and frequent communications with the FDA in the development and review of the candidate, potentially leading to faster drug approval.

Materially False and Misleading Statements Issued During the Class Period

20. The Class Period begins on October 15, 2015, when Prothena issued a press release announcing the start of its late-stage Phase 2b “PRONTO” study for NEOD001 and the expansion of its ongoing Phase 1/2 study. According to the press release, the PRONTO study was a global, multi-center, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial for NEOD001 in previously-treated patients with AL amyloidosis and persistent cardiac dysfunction. The press release described the Phase 2b PRONTO study to investors as follows:

The global, multi-center, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 2b trial further exemplifies Prothena’s commitment to provide disease-modifying therapeutic alternatives for patients suffering from AL amyloidosis. The trial is designed to enroll approximately 100 patients with a primary diagnosis of AL amyloidosis and persistent cardiac dysfunction despite previous treatment with offlabel, plasma cell directed therapy. Patients will be randomized on a 1:1 basis to receive 24 mg/kg of NEOD001 or placebo via infusion every 28 days.

The primary endpoint is NT-proBNP best response as measured over 12 months. Secondary endpoints include evaluations of Short-form 36 (SF-36, quality of life measure), six-minute walk test, and renal function as assessed by proteinuria. Prothena designed the study with 80% power to detect a difference of 26.5% in NTproBNP best response rate between the treatment and placebo groups with a twosided alpha of 0.05.

21. At that time, in addition to the ongoing Phase 1/2 study, Prothena had another late stage trial of NEOD001 underway - the Phase 3 “VITAL” study. According to the Company, the VITAL study was a multi-center, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial in patients with AL amyloidosis that was intended to evaluate NEOD001 in newly-diagnosed, treatment-naïve patients. Prothena’s press release asserted that Prothena’s new Phase 2b PRONTO study, when combined with the ongoing Phase 1/2 study, could expedite the candidate drug’s approval: “[t]he PRONTO trial was designed to align with feedback from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) related to The VITAL Amyloidosis Study, a global Phase 3

registrational trial. When combined with data from the ongoing NEOD001 Phase 1/2 trial, the PRONTO trial has the potential to expedite patient access.

22. Also on October 15, 2015, during the Company's conference call with analysts and investors to explain the new study, Schenk cited the Phase 1/2 trial results as a proxy for the success of the late-stage studies stating, "the PRONTO trial was also informed by the results of our ongoing Phase 1/2 trial presented at both the American Society for Clinical Oncology and the European Hematology Association conferences earlier this year." Schenk also said during this call that "[t]hese data showed that 60% of renal evaluable patients treated with NEOD001 achieved a response, and 57% of cardiac evaluable treated patients achieved a response." Finally, Schenk compared the recent Phase 1/2 data to prior historical test results, stating that these "best response rates for both renal and cardiac evaluable patients were more than double the published historical rates reported in multiple AL amyloidosis studies."

23. On February 8, 2016, at the Biotechnology Industry Organization CEO & Investor Conference, Schenk continued to highlight to investors the "very good overall cardiac response rate" of 57% from the NEOD001 Phase 1/2 trial, and "renal response rate" of 60% that was "way above what any of the typical studies currently show." Schenk emphasized that the Phase 1/2 results were "encouraging" and "of course, as a result, we've gotten into the – set up the phase 2B and the phase 3s."

24. On February 11, 2016, at the Leerink Partners Global Healthcare Conference, Defendant Kinney assured investors that Phase 1/2 participants were improving, stating that these patients "had sufficient cardiac involvement that we could look for potential improvement after intervention with NEOD001 and 57% of those patients showed improvement based on predefined criteria." Defendant Kinney further linked Phase 1/2 results as a barometer for the

ongoing late stage studies: “yes, we think about the program obviously in the totality and clearly we think about how the Phase 1/2 derisks first our Phase 2b study, which is our PRONTO study and then further how PRONTO, as well as the phase 1/2 derisks the Phase 3 study.”

25. On February 18, 2016, Prothena issued a press release, which was also filed with the SEC on Form 8-K, announcing the Company’s financial results for the fourth quarter 2015 and full year 2015. Schenk is quoted in the press release highlighting the “encouraging” clinical results from the Company’s NEOD001 Phase 1/2 trial, stating that NEOD001 Phase 1/2 patients, “achieved more than double the cardiac and renal biomarker responses when compared to historical data in patients treated solely with off-label standard of care.”

26. On February 25, 2016, Prothena filed with the SEC its annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015. In its 2015 Form 10-K, Prothena favorably compared the NEOD001 test results for the Phase 1/2 study to historical studies: “In June 2015, we reported results from the ongoing Phase 1/2 study that showed 8 of 14 cardiac-evaluable patients (57.1%) treated with NEOD001 demonstrated a cardiac response, defined as more than 30% and 300 pg/mL decrease in levels of NT-proBNP from baseline and the remaining 6 patients (42.9%) achieved stable disease ... 57.1% cardiac best response rate compares favorably with the expected cardiac best response rate of a 26.5% from historical data in patients treated solely with off-label standard of care (Comenzo, *et al.*, *Leukemia*. 2012; 26:2317-2325).”

27. As part of the March 11, 2016 Future Leaders in the Biotech Industry conference, Prothena produced a written presentation which reiterated the results of the Phase 1/2 trial, specifically the “best response” results of 57% and 60% for cardiac and renal patients, respectively. Additionally, Prothena stated in this presentation that the cardiac and renal

response rates from its Phase 1/2 study “were more than double historical rates of 26.5% (cardiac) and 24% (renal) reported in AL amyloidosis studies.”

28. Then, on July 5, 2016, Prothena issued a press release announcing new data from its expanded Phase 1/2 clinical trial of NEOD001. According to the July 5, 2016 press release, which was filed with the SEC on Form 8-K, the new Phase 1/2 data showed “best response rates of 53% and 63%” in cardiac and renal-evaluable patients, which were “consistent with those previously reported.” Additionally, Prothena stated in the press release that these rates “compare favorably” to response rates in “available published historical data in patients previously-treated with plasma cell directed therapy.” Schenk is quoted in the press release as stating “[w]e now have a robust data set of nearly 70 patients that informs our ongoing NEOD001 clinical development program” adding that the results “increase our confidence in the design and powering assumptions for both the PRONTO and VITAL studies.”

29. On a conference call with analysts and investors held on July 5, 2016, to discuss the new Phase 1/2 study results, Defendant Kinney commented on the relevance of the results to the PRONTO and VITAL studies. Regarding PRONTO specifically, Defendant Kinney stated: “I would like to comment on the relevance of the new Phase 1/2 results to our ongoing late-stage studies the consistency of the results from the larger patient pool we are reporting today increases our confidence in the initial design and powering of PRONTO.”

30. As part of the July 5, 2016 conference call to discuss new Phase 1/2 test results, Prothena produced a written presentation which reiterated the results of the trial, specifically the “best response” results of 53% and 63% for cardiac and renal patients, respectively, and an 82% response rate for neuropathy patients. Additionally, Prothena stated in this presentation that the

cardiac and renal response rates from its Phase 1/2 study “[c]ompare favorably to published historical response rates in patients previously-treated with plasma cell directed therapy.”

31. On July 12, 2016, at the Cantor Fitzgerald Healthcare Conference, Defendants touted the new clinical trial results presented a week earlier. Defendant Kinney highlighted cardiac and renal response rates of 53% and 63% respectively, as well as the new neuropathy element of the study. Defendant Kinney underscored that, “now, with cardiac, renal and peripheral neuropathy improvement, we see three organ systems that are all moving in the same direction following intervention with NEOD001. So again, this gives us, I think, increased confidence in our ongoing pivotally designed studies, those being our Phase 2b PRONTO and our Phase 3 VITAL studies.”

32. On August 2, 2016, Prothena filed its quarterly report for the second quarter 2016 with the SEC on Form 10-Q. The second quarter 2016 Form 10-Q reiterated the results of the Phase 1/2 study Prothena announced on July 5, 2016, reporting best response rates of 53% and 63% for cardiac and renal patients, respectively, which were “consistent with the interim analyst from the dose-escalation phase published February 2016 in the Journal of Clinical Oncology.” Additionally, the Form 10-Q reported an 82% response rate for patients with peripheral neuropathy.

33. On September 12, 2016, at the Morgan Stanley Global Healthcare Conference, Defendant Nguyen highlighted the “exciting” results of its ongoing Phase 1/2 trial and expressed confidence in the success of late-stage NEOD001 clinical trials. Defendant Nguyen stated, “we continue to see very consistent results from our dose escalation versus our expansion, and so that was very exciting for us. We saw greater than 50% response rates for cardiac and we saw greater

than 60% response rates for kidney.” Defendant Nguyen additionally highlighted the “very exciting” peripheral neuropathy results of the trial.

34. During the Morgan Stanley Global Healthcare Conference, Nguyen also represented to investors that the results of the Phase 1/2 trial had positive implications for NEOD001’s late-stage VITAL and PRONTO studies due to positive data seen across three different organs. Defendant Nguyen stated:

But in this case, we were actually showing improvements in eight patients, which was really exciting to us. And two of those eight patients actually completely resolved. So again, that was with the really exciting findings from the Phase I/II data that we shared in Sweden. But of course, all of that has to go back to what does it say about PRONTO and VITAL to us.

* * *

And what’s important about the Phase I/II, just to draw the back -- build a bridge back to the PRONTO trial and also VITAL is that when we see improvements now in all three organs in these patients, we feel that with the Short-form 36, which is quality of life, and 6-minute walk, it is – those are integrated endpoints that account for the heart, the kidney, and also now peripheral neuropathy.

35. On November 2, 2016, Prothena filed its quarterly report for the third quarter 2016 with the SEC on Form 10-Q. The report reiterated the results of the Phase 1/2 study Prothena announced on July 5, 2016, reporting best response rates of 53% and 63% for cardiac and renal patients, respectively, which were “consistent with the interim analyst from the dose-escalation phase published February 2016 in the Journal of Clinical Oncology.” Additionally, the Form 10-Q reported an 82% response rate for patients with peripheral neuropathy.

36. On December 4, 2016, Prothena presented its final Phase 1/2 trial results, concluding that the “best response rates are better than those reported for patients treated with plasma cell-directed therapies” and that “Encouraging results have now been observed across 3 organ systems.” Prothena reported final best response figures of 53% and 64% for cardiac and

renal patients, respectively, and an 82% response rate for neuropathy patients. Also on December 4, 2016, the Company published an investor presentation titled “Organ Biomarker Responses in Patients With Light Chain Amyloidosis Treated With NEOD001 Are Independent of Previous Hematologic Responses.” Through the presentation, the Company reassured the market that NEOD001 organ responses are not related to “Time since best or last HR,” “Depth of best or last HR,” “Time since last PCD therapy,” and “Type of last PCD therapy.”

37. On February 14, 2017, Prothena held a conference call with analysts and investors to discuss the Company’s earnings for the fourth quarter and full year 2016. On that conference call, Defendant Kinney stated “Data from the study also demonstrated improvement in three organ systems: cardiac, renal, and peripheral nerve. Specifically, the results of the best-response analysis showed that 53%, or 19 of 36 of the cardiac-evaluable patients, demonstrated a cardiac response, and 64%, or 23 of the 36 renal-evaluable patients, demonstrated a renal response.” Furthermore, Defendant Kinney highlighted the fact that the Phase 1/2 trial results were a good sign for success in future phases, stating: “[b]ased on these positive data from the Phase 1/2 study, we remain confident in the design and powering of our two ongoing clinical studies, the PRONTO and VITAL amyloidosis studies.”

38. Defendant Kinney also stated during the February 14, 2017 conference call that the “response rates, achieved across three organ systems in our study, compared favorably to published historical response rates in patients previously treated with plasma cell-directed therapy.” In order to assure investors that the Company’s response rates were not the result of previous therapy, Defendant Kinney added, “a post-hoc subset analysis of the NEOD001 Phase 1/2 study results demonstrated that organ responses were not related to the time or depth of

hematologic response achieved from previous plasma cell-directed therapy, nor were they related to the time or type of prior therapy.”

39. On February 27, 2017, Prothena filed with the SEC its annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016. In addition to reporting the final results of Prothena’s Phase 1/2 study, reiterating the best response results of 53% and 64% for cardiac and renal patients, respectively, and an 82% response rate for neuropathy patients, Prothena continued to favorably compare its findings to historical studies, stating in the 2016 Form 10-K:

In a best response analysis of patients in the Phase 1/2 study who received NEOD001, 53% or 19 of 36 total cardiac-evaluable patients demonstrated a cardiac response, defined as more than 30% and 300 pg/mL decrease in levels of NTproBNP. These cardiac best response rates compared favorably to cardiac response rates of 0% to 15% from available published historical data in patients previously treated with plasma cell directed therapy, and were consistent with the best response rate of 57%, or 8 of 14 cardiac-evaluable patients, reported in the interim analysis of the dose escalation phase (n=27) of the NEOD001 Phase 1/2 study published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology in February 2016.

In a best response analysis of patients in the Phase 1/2 study who received NEOD001, 64%, or 23 of 36 total renal-evaluable patients, demonstrated a renal response, defined as a 30% decrease in proteinuria in the absence of estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) worsening. These renal best response rates compared favorably to renal response rates of 17% to 29% from published historical data in patients previously treated with plasma cell directed therapy, and were consistent with the best response rate of 60%, or 9 of 15 renal-evaluable patients, reported in the interim analysis of the dose-escalation phase (n=27) of the NEOD001 Phase 1/2 study published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology in February 2016.

40. On March 21, 2017, at the Oppenheimer Healthcare Conference, Defendant Kinney gave a presentation where he emphasized the results of Prothena’s Phase 1/2 trial, specifically best response results of 53% and 64% for cardiac and renal-evaluable patients, respectively, and an 82% response rate for neuropathy patients. Additionally, Defendant Kinney discussed during this conference the relevance of the Phase 1/2 results to the Phase 2b PRONTO

study, stating that PRONTO is “very similar to the Phase 1/2 study in as much as we’re looking at patients that have previously had standard of care, but still have ongoing organ dysfunction.”

41. On May 3, 2017, at the Deutsche Bank Health Care Conference, Defendant Kinney once again cited the results of the Phase 1/2 study, stating “in the Phase I/II study, over 50% of our patients who had received some chemotherapy targeting the plasma cell previously but hadn’t had cardiac improvement showed cardiac improvement once they started on NEOD001.” Defendant Kinney added that “[o]ver 60% of the renal patients that’ve been evaluated showed improvement in renal function. And almost -- I think it was 82% of our peripheral neuropathy patients showed some improvement by the definition of response for neuropathy.”

42. On November 16, 2017, at Prothena’s R&D Day, Defendant Noonberg touted the results of Prothena’s NEOD001 Phase 1/2 study, stating “in this first in-human study, we also observed organ responses in the 3 main organ systems I talked about earlier: cardiac, renal and the peripheral nervous system” adding that “the Phase I/II study gave us confidence then for PRONTO.” The same day, the Company assured investors that its best response analysis was an appropriate framework for analyzing efficacy. Defendant Kinney told investors that “when you have patients at all different parts of their disease trajectory, then a best response analysis against the progressive background of disease is appropriate.”

43. On January 10, 2018, at the JPMorgan Healthcare Conference, Prothena continued to reassure investors regarding its best response framework. In responding to an analyst question during the conference about presenting Phase 1/2 trial results over time, as opposed to best response results, Defendant Nguyen represented that such a figure “wouldn’t be

a good predictor. It just wouldn't." Additionally, Defendant Nguyen stated that best response criteria was appropriate because otherwise "you might miss a response."

44. On February 14, 2018, during a conference call with analysts and investors regarding Prothena's fourth quarter and full year 2017 earnings, Defendant Kinney again assured the market that the Company's best response analysis was appropriate, stating:

Question – Kennen B. MacKay: Got you And then just one more quick followup as it relates to doing some sort of historical comparisons throughout the trial landscape here. Can you talk a little bit about the sort of best response analysis for NT-proBNP that's been used sort of in a landscape fashion at a specific time point versus a best response over a period of time? And how that relates to the trials that you had run as well as some of the trials across the, again, historical landscape here and really, how we should think about sort of reconciling between these 2 different endpoints?

Answer – Gene G. Kinney: Yes, sure. So there -- so when people have looked at NT-proBNP response, they've done it multiple different ways. They've done it at various time points, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months. People have used best response. And I think what we can say is across all of those analyses, without any exception that I'm aware of, NT-proBNP response predicts survival following intervention.

45. The foregoing statements during the Class Period were materially false and misleading. First, Defendants deliberately withheld relevant trial data – i.e., month-to-month data that showed patient response rates over a full study period – that cut against Defendants' consistently positive statements. Instead, Prothena released only best response data selected to support Defendants' representations regarding NEOD001's efficacy. Second, Defendants made misleading comparisons of NEOD001's best response rates to prior studies that evaluated patient response after a specified period of time, and without consistently identifying those studies. Third, Defendants touted the results of its ongoing Phase 1/2 trial as a strong predicate for the launch and likely success of the Phase 2b PRONTO study and Phase 3 VITAL study, despite

knowing from the full results of the Phase 1/2 study that NEOD001 was not effective, particularly when evaluated under customary standards.

The Truth Begins to Emerge

46. On June 29, 2017, the investment research firm Muddy Waters published a report questioning whether NEOD001 was effective and openly accused Prothena of presenting the early trial data in a misleading manner and having “selectively designed their trials to skew results.” On this news, the price of Prothena stock fell 10% on intraday trading – the largest intraday decline in the preceding five months.

47. On November 8, 2017, Kerrisdale, another investment research firm, published a 27-page report that further exposed why Prothena’s Phase 1/2 study results were misleading. The Kerrisdale report detailed why Prothena’s best response measure “is a poor indicator of efficacy” and presents “blatant apples-to-oranges” comparison with prior studies, because Prothena compared its best response endpoint with published data that relies on a single fixed-duration measurement. On this news, the price of Prothena stock declined from \$60.96 per share on November 7, 2017, to \$56.24 per share on November 8, 2017, a drop of 7.8%.

48. On February 2, 2018, Prothena abruptly announced that its Chief Medical Officer, Defendant Noonberg, had resigned. As reported by Seeking Alpha, investors believed that “the exit of Sarah Noonberg, M.D., Ph.D., bodes ill for Phase 2 data on lead candidate NEOD001.” On this news, the price of Prothena stock declined from \$39.60 per share on February 2, 2018, to close at \$32.14 per share when trading resumed on February 5, 2018, a drop of 19%.

49. On April 23, 2018, before the market opened, Prothena announced that it was ending all development of NEOD001 after data from its Phase 2b PRONTO trial showed that NEOD001 failed to reach either its primary or secondary endpoints. With regards to the primary endpoint, NEOD001 patients exhibited a cardiac best response rate of only 39.4%, which was

substantially below the 47.6% response rate of the placebo group. Accordingly, the independent data monitoring committee determined that it would be futile to continue the Phase 3 study, and recommended that it should be abandoned. On this news, the price of Prothena stock fell from \$36.84 per share on April 20, 2018, the prior trading day, to close at \$11.50 per share on April 23, 2018, a drop of 69%.

50. Investment analysts covering the Company expressed shock. Deutsche Bank called the trials results “disappointing and unexpected,” Barclays stated that “[w]e wrongly thought the prior phase 1/2 data would predict success for the Phase 2b PRONTO Trial,” and Evercore commented that “clearly [we] did not fully appreciate the significant risks.” The market was also surprised that the unfavorable Phase 2b trial results led Prothena to end all NEOD001 development. For example, BTIG stated that “the discontinuation of the entire 001 program” was “unexpected,” and RBC Capital Markets similarly underscored that “more surprising is the interimfutility of the VITAL trial & full halt of NEOD001.”

ADDITIONAL SCIENTER ALLEGATIONS

51. During the Class Period, as alleged herein, the Individual Defendants acted with scienter in that the Individual Defendants knew or were reckless as to whether the public documents and statements issued or disseminated in the name of the Company during the Class Period were materially false and misleading; knew or were reckless as to whether such statements or documents would be issued or disseminated to the investing public; and knowingly and substantially participated or acquiesced in the issuance or dissemination of such statements or documents as primary violations of the federal securities laws.

52. The Individual Defendants permitted Prothena to release these false and misleading statements and failed to file the necessary corrective disclosures, which artificially inflated the value of the Company’s common stock.

53. As set forth herein, the Individual Defendants, by virtue of their receipt of information reflecting the true facts regarding Prothena, their control over, receipt, and/or modification of Prothena's allegedly materially misleading statements and omissions, and/or their positions with the Company that made them privy to confidential information concerning Prothena, participated in the fraudulent scheme alleged herein.

54. The Individual Defendants are liable as participants in a fraudulent scheme and course of conduct that operated as a fraud or deceit on purchasers of Prothena common stock by disseminating materially false and misleading statements and/or concealing material adverse facts. The scheme deceived the investing public regarding Prothena's business, operations, and management and the intrinsic value of Prothena common stock and caused Plaintiff and members of the Class to purchase Prothena common stock at artificially inflated prices.

LOSS CAUSATION/ECONOMIC LOSS

55. During the Class Period, as detailed herein, Prothena and Individual Defendants made false and misleading statements and engaged in a scheme to deceive the market and a course of conduct that artificially inflated the prices of Prothena common stock, and operated as a fraud or deceit on Class Period purchasers of Prothena common stock by misrepresenting the Company's business and prospects. Later, when Defendants' prior misrepresentations and fraudulent conduct became known to the market, the price of Prothena common stock declined as the prior artificial inflation came out of the price over time. As a result of their purchases of Prothena common stock during the Class Period, Plaintiff and other members of the Class suffered economic loss, *i.e.*, damages, under the federal securities laws.

APPLICABILITY OF PRESUMPTION OF RELIANCE: FRAUD ON THE MARKET

56. Plaintiff will rely upon the presumption of reliance established by the fraud-on-the-market doctrine in that, among other things:

- (a) Defendants made public misrepresentations or failed to disclose material facts during the Class Period;
- (b) the omissions and misrepresentations were material;
- (c) the Company's stock traded in an efficient market;
- (d) the misrepresentations alleged would tend to induce a reasonable investor to misjudge the value of the Company's stock; and
- (e) Plaintiff and other members of the Class purchased Prothena common stock between the time Defendants misrepresented or failed to disclose material facts and the time the true facts were disclosed, without knowledge of the misrepresented or omitted facts.

57. At all relevant times, the markets for Prothena common stock were efficient for the following reasons, among others:

- (a) as a regulated issuer, Prothena filed periodic public reports with the SEC;
- (b) Prothena regularly communicated with public investors via established market communication mechanisms, including through regular disseminations of press releases on the major news wire services and through other wide-ranging public disclosures, such as communications with the financial press, securities analysts, and other similar reporting services;
- (c) Prothena was followed by several securities analysts employed by major brokerage firm(s) who wrote reports that were distributed to the sales force and certain customers of their respective brokerage firm(s) and that were publicly available and entered the public marketplace; and

(d) Prothena common stock was actively traded in an efficient market, namely the NASDAQ, under the ticker symbol “PRTA.”

58. As a result of the foregoing, the market for Prothena common stock promptly digested current information regarding Prothena from publicly available sources and reflected such information in Prothena’s stock price. Under these circumstances, all purchasers of Prothena common stock during the Class Period suffered similar injury through their purchase of Prothena common stock at artificially inflated prices and the presumption of reliance applies.

59. Further, to the extent that the Defendants concealed or improperly failed to disclose material facts with regard to the Company, Plaintiff is entitled to a presumption of reliance in accordance with *Affiliated Ute Citizens of Utah v. United States*, 406 U.S. 128, 153 (1972).

NO SAFE HARBOR

60. The statutory safe harbor provided for forward-looking statements under certain circumstances does not apply to any of the allegedly false statements pleaded in this Complaint. The statements alleged to be false and misleading herein all relate to then-existing facts and conditions. In addition, to the extent certain of the statements alleged to be false may be characterized as forward looking, they were not identified as “forward-looking statements” when made and there were no meaningful cautionary statements identifying important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the purportedly forward-looking statements. In the alternative, to the extent that the statutory safe harbor is determined to apply to any forward-looking statements pleaded herein, Defendants are liable for those false forward-looking statements because at the time each of those forward-looking statements were made, the speaker had actual knowledge that the forward-looking statement was materially false or

misleading, and/or the forward-looking statement was authorized or approved by an executive officer of Prothena who knew that the statement was false when made.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

61. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of all persons or entities who purchased or otherwise acquired Prothena common stock between October 15, 2015 and April 20, 2018, inclusive (the “Class”). Excluded from the Class are Defendants, members of the immediate family of each of the Individual Defendants, any subsidiary or affiliate of Prothena, and the directors and officers of Prothena and their families and affiliates at all relevant times.

62. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. The disposition of their claims in a class action will provide substantial benefits to the parties and the Court.

63. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact involved in this case. Questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class which predominate over questions which may affect individual Class members include:

- (a) Whether the Exchange Act was violated by Defendants;
- (b) Whether Defendants omitted and/or misrepresented material facts;
- (c) Whether Defendants’ statements omitted material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading;
- (d) Whether Defendants knew or recklessly disregarded that their statements were false and misleading;
- (e) Whether the price of Prothena common stock was artificially inflated; and

(f) The extent of damage sustained by Class members and the appropriate measure of damages.

64. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of the Class because Plaintiff and the Class sustained damages from Defendants' wrongful conduct.

65. Plaintiff will adequately protect the interests of the Class and has retained counsel experienced in securities class action litigation. Plaintiff has no interests that conflict with those of the Class.

66. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I

For Violation of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Against All Defendants

67. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

68. During the Class Period, Defendants disseminated or approved the false statements specified above, which they knew or recklessly disregarded were misleading in that they contained misrepresentations and failed to disclose material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

69. Defendants violated Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 in that they:

- (a) Employed devices, schemes, and artifices to defraud;
- (b) Made untrue statements of material facts or omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or

(c) Engaged in acts, practices, and a course of business that operated as a fraud or deceit upon Plaintiff and others similarly situated in connection with their purchases of Prothena common stock during the Class Period.

70. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered damages in that, in reliance on the integrity of the market, they paid artificially inflated prices for Prothena common stock. Plaintiff and the Class would not have purchased Prothena common stock at the prices they paid, or at all, if they had been aware that the market prices had been artificially and falsely inflated by Defendants' misleading statements.

71. As a direct and proximate result of these Defendants' wrongful conduct, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class suffered damages in connection with their purchases of Prothena common stock during the Class Period.

COUNT II
For Violation of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act
Against the Individual Defendants

72. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

73. The Individual Defendants acted as controlling persons of Prothena within the meaning of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. By virtue of their positions and their power to control public statements about Prothena, the Individual Defendants had the power and ability to control the actions of Prothena and its employees. By reason of such conduct, Defendants are liable pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

A. Declaring this action to be a proper class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23;

- B. Awarding Plaintiff and the members of the Class damages and interest;
- C. Awarding Plaintiff's reasonable costs, including attorneys' fees; and
- D. Awarding such equitable/injunctive or other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

DATED: July 16, 2018

LABATON SUCHAROW LLP

/s/ Christopher J. Keller

Christopher J. Keller

Eric J. Belfi

Francis P. McConville

David J. Schwartz

140 Broadway

New York, New York 10005

Telephone: (212) 907-0700

Facsimile: (212) 818-0477

Emails: ckeller@labaton.com

ebelfi@labaton.com

fmconville@labaton.com

dschwartz@labaton.com

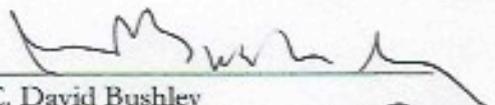
Attorneys for Plaintiff Granite Point Capital

CERTIFICATION

I, C. David Bushley, am a Principal and Chief Operating Officer of Granite Point Capital, and hereby certify as follows:

1. In my capacity as Principal and Chief Operating Officer of Granite Point Capital, I am personally authorized to enter into an execute this certification on behalf of Granite Point Capital Master Fund, LP, Granite Point Capital Panacea Global Healthcare, and Granite Point Capital Scorpion Focused Ideas Fund (together, "Granite Point").
2. I have reviewed a complaint filed against Prothena Corp plc ("Prothena") alleging violations of the federal securities laws, and generally adopt its allegations without waiving the right to alter the allegations in a consolidated and/or amended complaint;
3. Granite Point did not purchase common stock of Prothena at the direction of counsel or in order to participate in any private action under the federal securities laws;
4. Granite Point is willing to serve as a lead plaintiff and representative party in this matter, including providing testimony at deposition and trial, if necessary;
5. Granite Point's transactions in Prothena common stock during the Class Period are reflected in Exhibit A, attached hereto;
6. Granite Point has not sought to serve as a lead plaintiff in any class action filed under the federal securities laws during the last three years;
7. Beyond its pro rata share of any recovery, Granite Point will not accept payment for serving as a lead plaintiff and representative party on behalf of the Class, except the reimbursement of such reasonable costs and expenses (including lost wages) as ordered or approved by the Court.

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States, that the foregoing is true and correct this 27th day of June, 2018.



C. David Bushley
Principal and Chief Operating Officer
Authorized Signatory
Granite Point Capital

EXHIBIT A

TRANSACTIONS IN PROTHENA CORP. PLC

Fund	Transaction Type	Trade Date	Shares	Price Per Share	Cost/Proceeds
Granite Point Capital Master Fund, LP	Buy	11/20/2017	30,000.00	\$47.27	(\$1,418,247.00)
Granite Point Capital Master Fund, LP	Sell	12/19/2017	-26,200.00	\$35.78	\$937,415.04
Granite Point Capital Master Fund, LP	Sell	12/20/2017	-3,800.00	\$35.21	\$133,785.84
Granite Point Capital Master Fund, LP	Buy	2/5/2018	15,000.00	\$30.19	(\$452,896.50)
Granite Point Capital Master Fund, LP	Sell	2/6/2018	-15,000.00	\$28.23	\$423,426.00
Granite Point Capital Panacea Global Healthcare	Buy	10/2/2017	10,000.00	\$63.07	(\$630,738.00)
Granite Point Capital Panacea Global Healthcare	Buy	11/20/2017	10,000.00	\$48.24	(\$482,415.00)
Granite Point Capital Panacea Global Healthcare	Buy	11/20/2017	4,800.00	\$47.27	(\$226,919.52)
Granite Point Capital Panacea Global Healthcare	Buy	11/20/2017	3,700.00	\$47.27	(\$174,917.13)
Granite Point Capital Panacea Global Healthcare	Buy	11/20/2017	1,500.00	\$47.27	(\$70,912.35)
Granite Point Capital Panacea Global Healthcare	Sell	2/2/2018	-1,500.00	\$40.18	\$60,275.55
Granite Point Capital Panacea Global Healthcare	Buy	2/5/2018	20,000.00	\$30.19	(\$603,862.00)
Granite Point Capital Panacea Global Healthcare	Sell	2/6/2018	-2,400.00	\$31.01	\$74,418.00
Granite Point Capital Panacea Global Healthcare	Sell	2/6/2018	-17,600.00	\$28.23	\$496,819.84
Granite Point Capital Panacea Global Healthcare	Sell	2/6/2018	-2,400.00	\$28.23	\$67,748.16
Granite Point Capital Panacea Global Healthcare	Sell	2/8/2018	-1,300.00	\$29.28	\$38,066.99
Granite Point Capital Scorpion Focused Ideas Fund	Buy	2/5/2018	15,000.00	\$30.19	(\$452,896.50)
Granite Point Capital Scorpion Focused Ideas Fund	Sell	2/6/2018	-15,000.00	\$28.23	\$423,426.00