
**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): January 6, 2022

SORRENTO THERAPEUTICS, INC.
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

**Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)**

**001-36150
(Commission
File Number)**

**33-0344842
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)**

**4955 Directors Place
San Diego, CA 92121
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)**

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (858) 203-4100

**N/A
(Former Name, or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)**

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

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

Securities Registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Trading Symbol</u>	<u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u>
Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value	SRNE	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

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.

Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc. (the “Company”) is saddened to report that Najjam Asghar, the Company’s Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, passed away unexpectedly on January 6, 2022. Mr. Asghar had served as the Company’s Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since August 2020 and as the Company’s Chief Accounting Officer from June 2019 to August 2020. He will be greatly missed and the Company extends its sincere condolences to Ms. Asghar’s family.

Following Mr. Asghar’s unexpected death, the Company’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) has appointed Henry Ji, Ph.D., the Company’s Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer, to serve as the Company’s interim Chief Financial Officer. Upon commencement of his appointment, Dr. Ji assumed the duties of the Company’s principal financial officer and principal accounting officer until such time as his successor is appointed, or until his earlier resignation or removal. The biographical information for Dr. Ji required by Item 401 of Regulation S-K was previously disclosed under the heading “Proposal 1: Election of Directors” in the Company’s definitive proxy statement on Schedule 14A filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 5, 2021 (the “Proxy Statement”), and such information is incorporated herein by reference. There are no reportable family relationships or related party transactions (as defined in Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K) involving the Company and Dr. Ji other than compensation arrangements with Dr. Ji and a customary indemnification agreement between the Company and Dr. Ji, each of which is described in the Proxy Statement.

Item 8.01. Other Events.

On January 7, 2022, the Company issued a press release announcing Mr. Asghar’s unexpected death. A copy of the press release is filed herewith as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibit.

99.1 Press Release, dated January 7, 2022.

104 Cover Page Interactive Data File, formatted in Inline Extensible Business Reporting Language (iXBRL).

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.

SORRENTO THERAPEUTICS, INC.

Date: January 7, 2022

By: /s/ Henry Ji, Ph.D.
Name: Henry Ji, Ph.D.
Title: Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2022

SORRENTO THERAPEUTICS ANNOUNCES THE UNEXPECTED DEATH OF ITS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

SAN DIEGO, **January 7th, 2022** (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc. (Nasdaq: SRNE, "Sorrento") today announced the unexpected passing of Mr. Najjam Asghar, Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President. Mr. Asghar died of apparent natural causes on January 6, 2022.

"Sorrento is deeply saddened and shocked by the loss of our dear friend and colleague. Our immediate thoughts go to Najjam's family and friends," said Dr. Henry Ji, Sorrento's Chairman and CEO. "We appreciate and thank Najjam for his tremendous contributions to Sorrento and the San Diego life sciences community."

Mr. Asghar joined Sorrento in June 2019 from NuVasive, Inc., where he served as VP, Accounting and Finance since October 2015. At Sorrento, Mr. Asghar served as Chief Financial Officer, leading the functions of Finance, Accounting and Tax. Mr. Asghar started his career with PricewaterhouseCoopers, where he served various S&P 100 and S&P 500 clients in North America and Asia in the audit and assurance practice. Mr. Asghar received his Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Punjab, Pakistan.

Sorrento does not expect that Mr. Asghar's passing will have an impact on its ongoing or planned business.

About Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc.

Sorrento is a clinical and commercial stage biopharmaceutical company developing new therapies to treat cancer, pain (non-opioid treatments), autoimmune disease and COVID-19. Sorrento's multimodal, multipronged approach to fighting cancer is made possible by its extensive immuno-oncology platforms, including key assets such as fully human antibodies ("G-MAB™ library"), immuno-cellular therapies ("DAR-T™"), antibody-drug conjugates ("ADCs"), and oncolytic virus ("Seprevec™"). Sorrento is also developing potential antiviral therapies and vaccines against coronaviruses, including Abivertinib, COVI-AMG™, COVISHIELD™, COVI-MSC™ and COVIDROPS™; and diagnostic test solutions, including COVITRACK™ and COVISTIX™.

Sorrento's commitment to life-enhancing therapies for patients is also demonstrated by our effort to advance a first-in-class (TRPV1 agonist) non-opioid pain management small molecule, resiniferatoxin ("RTX"), and SP-102 (10 mg, dexamethasone sodium phosphate viscous gel) (SEMDEXA™), a novel, viscous gel formulation of a widely used corticosteroid for epidural injections to treat lumbosacral radicular pain, or sciatica, and to commercialize ZTlido® (lidocaine topical system) 1.8% for the treatment of post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN). RTX has cleared for Phase II trial for intractable pain associated with cancer and a Phase II trial in osteoarthritis patients. SEMDEXA announced highly statistically significant positive top-line results from its Phase III Pivotal Trial C.L.E.A.R Program for its novel, non-opioid product for the treatment of lumbosacral radicular pain (sciatica). ZTlido® was approved by the FDA on February 28, 2018.

For more information visit www.sorrentotherapeutics.com

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements related to Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc. under the safe harbor provisions of Section 21E of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. Forward-looking statements include those regarding the passing of Mr. Asghar and its impact on the company's ongoing and planned business. Risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially and adversely from those expressed in our forward-looking statements, include, but are not limited to: risks related to Sorrento's and its subsidiaries', affiliates' and partners' technologies and prospects and collaborations with partners; risks related to seeking regulatory approvals and conducting clinical trials; risks related to leveraging the expertise of its employees, subsidiaries, affiliates and partners to assist the company in the execution of its COVID-19 product candidates' strategies; risks related to the global impact of COVID-19; and other risks that are described in Sorrento's most recent periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including Sorrento's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2020, and subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the risk factors set forth in those filings. Investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this release and we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement in this press release except as required by law.

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Media and Investor Relations

Contact: Dorman Followwill

Email: mediarelations@sorrentotherapeutics.com

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