Filed by: NantKwest, Inc.

Pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act of 1933 and deemed filed pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Subject Company: NantKwest, Inc. Commission File No.: 001-37507

The following letter was mailed to certain stockholders of NantKwest, Inc. on March 2, 2021:



March 1, 2021

Dear Stockholder:

We recently delivered to you a proxy statement of NantKwest, Inc. ("NantKwest") wherein your support is requested, for among other matters, the proposal to approve the merger contemplated by the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of December 21, 2020, by and among NantKwest, Nectarine Merger Sub, Inc. and ImmunityBio, Inc. (the "Merger Proposal") as detailed in the proxy statement. We urge your support for all the proposals to be voted upon at the special meeting of stockholders to be held on March 8, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. Pacific Time in virtual format. As of the date of this letter, your shares of NantKwest remain unvoted.

The NantKwest Special Committee and the NantKwest Board of Directors recommend that stockholders vote "FOR" each of the proposals being submitted to a vote at the NantKwest special meeting of stockholders.

## Please Vote Your NantKwest Shares Today!

Regardless of the number of shares you own your vote is very important. We encourage all stockholders to have their voices heard. The approval of the Merger Proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of all of the outstanding shares of NantKwest common stock as of the NantKwest record date, other than shares of NantKwest common stock held by certain NantKwest significant stockholders or any of their respective controlled affiliates or any directors or executive officers of NantKwest or ImmunityBio as described in the proxy statement. Failure to vote or a vote to abstain will have the same effect as a vote against the Merger Proposal.

There are three ways to vote your shares of NantKwest—each only taking a few moments:

- By Telephone Stockholders in the United States can submit their vote by calling 866-249-5381 to submit your proxy instructions at any
  time before the NantKwest special meeting; please have your control number located on the enclosed vote instruction form available when
  calling;
- By Internet Stockholders can submit their vote via internet at www.proxyvote.com at any time before the NantKwest special meeting;
   please have the control number located on the enclosed vote instruction form available; or
- By Mail Stockholders can vote by mail by signing, dating and returning the enclosed vote instruction form in the postage-paid envelope provided.

If you need assistance in voting your shares or have questions regarding the special meeting of stockholders, please contact NantKwest's proxy solicitor, MacKenzie Partners, Inc., at (800) 322-2885 (toll-free) or (212) 929-5500 (collect), or email at proxy@mackenziepartners.com.

We thank you for your continued support of NantKwest.

Sincerely,

NantKwest, Inc.

## **Forward Looking Statements**

This communication contains forward-looking statements relating to the proposed transaction involving NantKwest and ImmunityBio, including statements as to the expected timing, completion and effects of the proposed transaction. Statements in this communication that are not statements of historical fact are considered forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), which are usually identified by the use of words such as "anticipates," "believes," "continues", "could", "estimates," "expects," "intends," "may," "plans," "potential", "predicts", "projects," "seeks," "should," "will," and variations of such words or similar expressions. These forward-looking statements are neither forecasts, promises nor guarantees, and are based on the current beliefs of NantKwest's management and ImmunityBio's management as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to NantKwest and ImmunityBio. Such statements reflect the current views of NantKwest and ImmunityBio with respect to future events and are subject to known and unknown risks, including business, regulatory, economic and competitive risks, uncertainties, contingencies and assumptions about NantKwest and ImmunityBio, including, without limitation, (i) inability to complete the proposed transaction because, among other reasons, conditions to the closing of the proposed transaction may not be satisfied or waived, (ii) uncertainty as to the timing of completion of the proposed transaction, (iii) potential adverse effects or changes to relationships with employees, suppliers or other parties resulting from the announcement or completion of the proposed transaction, (iv) the outcome of any legal proceedings that may be instituted against the parties and others related to the potential transaction between NantKwest and ImmunityBio, (v) possible disruptions from the proposed transaction that could harm NantKwest's or ImmunityBio's respective business, including current plans and operations, (vi) unexpected costs, charges or expenses resulting from the proposed transaction, (vii) uncertainty of the expected financial performance of the combined company following completion of the proposed transaction, including the possibility that the expected synergies and value creation from the proposed transaction will not be realized or will not be realized within the expected time period, (viii) the ability of each of NantKwest or ImmunityBio to continue its planned preclinical and clinical development of its respective development programs, and the timing and success of any such continued preclinical and clinical development and planned regulatory submissions, (ix) inability to retain and hire key personnel, and (x) the unknown future impact of the COVID-19 pandemic delay on certain clinical trial milestones and/or NantKwest's or ImmunityBio's operations or operating expenses. More details about these and other risks that may impact NantKwest's business are described under the heading "Risk Factors" in NantKwest's most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and in subsequent filings made by NantKwest with the SEC, which are available on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. NantKwest and ImmunityBio caution you not to place undue reliance on any forwardlooking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. NantKwest and ImmunityBio do not undertake any duty to update any forward-looking statement or other information in this communication, except to the extent required by law.

## No Offer or Solicitation

This communication is not intended to and does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, sell or solicit any securities or any proxy, vote or approval in any jurisdiction pursuant to or in connection with the proposed transaction or otherwise, nor shall there be any sale of securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction. No offer of securities shall be deemed to be made except by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10 of the Securities Act.

### Additional Information and Where to Find It

In connection with the proposed transaction, NantKwest filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-4 (the "registration statement"), which included a prospectus and joint proxy / solicitation statement of NantKwest and ImmunityBio (the "solicitation statement/prospectus"). The registration statement was declared effective on February 1, 2021 and the solicitation statement/prospectus was first mailed to stockholders of NantKwest on or about February 5, 2021. NantKwest may also file other documents regarding the proposed transaction with the SEC. This communication does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities or a solicitation of any vote or approval. This communication is not intended to be, and is not, a substitute for such filings or for any other document that NantKwest may file with the SEC in connection with the proposed transaction. BEFORE MAKING ANY VOTING OR INVESTMENT DECISION, INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS ARE URGED TO CAREFULLY READ THE ENTIRE REGISTRATION STATEMENT AND SOLICITATION STATEMENT / PROSPECTUS, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE SEC, AS WELL AS ANY AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS TO THESE DOCUMENTS, CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN OR WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION. Investors and security holders are able to obtain free copies of the registration statement and solicitation statement/prospectus and other documents once they are filed with the SEC by NantKwest through the website maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov. In addition, investors and security holders are able to obtain free copies of the prospectus and other documents filed with the SEC on NantKwest's website at www.ir.nantkwest.com.

# Participants in the Solicitation

NantKwest and certain of its respective directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from stockholders of NantKwest in connection with the proposed transaction under the rules of the SEC. Investors may obtain information regarding the names, affiliations and interests of directors and executive officers of NantKwest in NantKwest's proxy statement for its 2020 annual meeting of stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on April 24, 2020, and the definitive proxy statement, which was filed with the SEC on February 2, 2021, as well as its other filings with the SEC. Other information regarding the participants in the proxy solicitation and a description of their direct and indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, are included in the registration statement, solicitation statement / prospectus and other relevant materials to be filed with the SEC by NantKwest regarding the proposed transaction (if and when they become available). You may obtain free copies of these documents at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. Copies of documents filed with the SEC will also be available free of charge from NantKwest using the sources indicated above.

If you have questions or need assistance in voting your shares, please contact:



1407 Broadway, 27th Floor New York, New York 10018 (212) 929-5500 or

Call Toll-Free (800) 322-2885

Email: proxy@mackenziepartners.com