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)

November 4, 2014

CAPRICOR THERAPEUTICS, INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation) 001-34058 (Commission File Number) 88-0363465 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

8840 Wilshire Blvd., 2nd Floor, Beverly Hills, CA (Address of principal executive offices) 90211 (Zip Code)

(310) 358-3200

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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

□ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

□ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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

Capricor Therapeutics, Inc. (the "Company") held the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") on November 4, 2014 at the Company's principal executive offices located at 8840 Wilshire Blvd., 2nd Floor, Beverly Hills, California 90211. At the Annual Meeting, the Company's stockholders were asked to vote upon:

- The election of nine nominees to the Company's Board of Directors to serve until the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders. The nominees for election were Frank Litvack, M.D., Linda Marbán, Ph.D., David B. Musket, George W. Dunbar, Jr., Louis Manzo, Louis J. Grasmick, Earl M. (Duke) Collier, Jr., Gregory W. Schafer and Joshua Kazam;
- 2. The ratification of the appointment by the Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors of Rose, Snyder & Jacobs LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014;
- A non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation of the Company's named executive officers;
- A non-binding advisory vote on the frequency of future non-binding advisory votes to approve the compensation of the Company's named executive officers; and
- 5. The approval of the Company's 2012 Restated Equity Incentive Plan, as amended (the "2012 *Plan*").

The results of the matters voted on at the Annual Meeting, based on the presence in person or by proxy of holders of record of 7,259,851 shares of the 11,703,774 shares of the Company's common stock entitled to vote, were as follows:

1. The election of each of Dr. Litvack, Dr. Marbán, and Messrs. Musket, Dunbar, Manzo, Grasmick, Collier, Schafer, and Kazam, as directors of the Company to serve until the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders, and until his or her successor is elected, or until his or her earlier death, resignation or removal, was approved as follows:

| | FOR | WITHHELD | BROKER NON-VOTES |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------|
| Frank Litvack, M.D. | 6,239,198 | 60,739 | 959,914 |
| Linda Marbán, Ph.D. | 6,286,745 | 13,192 | 959,914 |
| David B. Musket | 6,286,256 | 13,681 | 959,914 |
| George W. Dunbar, Jr | 6,286,256 | 13,681 | 959,914 |
| Louis Manzo | 6,286,962 | 12,975 | 959,914 |
| Louis J. Grasmick | 6,285,869 | 14,068 | 959,914 |
| Earl M. (Duke) Collier, Jr. | 6,286,256 | 13,681 | 959,914 |
| Gregory W. Schafer | 6,293,257 | 6,680 | 959,914 |
| Joshua Kazam | 6,286,350 | 13,587 | 959,914 |

2. The ratification of the appointment by the Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors of Rose, Snyder & Jacobs LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014 was ratified as follows:

| FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN | BROKER NON-VOTES |
|-----------|---------|---------|-------------------------|
| 7,245,955 | 13,876 | 20 | 0 |

3. The compensation of the Company's named executive officers was approved, on a non-binding advisory basis, as follows:

| FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN | BROKER NON-VOTES |
|-----------|---------|---------|------------------|
| 6,213,719 | 85,934 | 284 | 959,914 |

4. The preferred frequency, on a non-binding advisory basis, of future non-binding advisory votes to approve the compensation of the Company's named executive officers was "Three Years" as follows:

| | THREE YEARS | TWO YEARS | ONE YEAR | ABSTAIN | BROKER NON-VOTES |
|----|--|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|
| | 4,953,496 | 39,437 | 1,293,005 | 13,999 | 959,914 |
| 5. | The 2012 Plan was approved as follows: | | | | |
| | FOR | | AGAINST | ABSTAIN | BROKER NON-VOTES |
| | 6,142,569 | | 142,902 | 14,466 | 959,914 |
| | 6,142,569 | | 142,902 | 14,466 | 959,914 |

The stockholders recommended a non-binding advisory vote on the compensation of the Company's named executive officers to occur once every three years. In light of the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Company and in accordance with the voting results, the Company will include a non-binding advisory vote on the compensation of the Company's named executive officers in its proxy materials once every three years until the next required non-binding advisory vote on the frequency of stockholder votes on the Company's named executive officer compensation. The Company is required to provide stockholders the opportunity to cast a non-binding advisory vote on the frequency of stockholder votes on the Company's named executive officer compensation at least once every six years.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

4.1 Capricor Therapeutics, Inc. 2012 Restated Equity Incentive Plan, as amended by the First Amendment, adopted February 12, 2014, and as further amended by the Second Amendment, adopted September 8, 2014.

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.

Date: November 6, 2014

Capricor Therapeutics, Inc.

By: <u>/s/ Linda Marbán, Ph.D.</u> Name: Linda Marbán, Ph.D. Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

CAPRICOR, INC.

2012 RESTATED EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

This 2012 Restated Equity Incentive Plan (the 'Plan') replaces the 2006 Stock Option Plan (the 'Former Plan') formerly adopted by Capricor, Inc. (the 'Company') with respect to Awards made on or after the date the Plan becomes effective.

1. Purposes of the Plan. The purposes of this Plan are:

- to attract and retain the best available personnel for positions of substantial responsibility,
- to provide additional incentive to Employees, Directors and Consultants, and
- to promote the success of the Company's business.

The Plan permits the grant of Incentive Stock Options, Nonstatutory Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units.

2. Definitions. As used herein, the following definitions will apply:

(a) "Administrator" means the Board or any of its Committees as will be administering the Plan, in accordance with Section 4 of the Plan.

(b) "<u>Applicable Laws</u>" means the requirements relating to the administration of equity-based awards under U.S. state corporate laws, U.S. federal and state securities laws, the Code, any stock exchange or quotation system on which the Common Stock is listed or quoted and the applicable laws of any foreign country or jurisdiction where Awards are, or will be, granted under the Plan.

(c) "Award" means, individually or collectively, a grant under the Plan of Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock, or Restricted Stock Units.

(d) "Award Agreement" means the written or electronic agreement setting forth the terms and provisions applicable to each Award granted under the Plan. The Award Agreement is subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan.

(e) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Company.

(f) "Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Any reference to a section of the Code herein will be a reference to any successor or amended section of the Code.

(g) "Committee" means a committee of Directors or of other individuals satisfying Applicable Laws appointed by the Board, or by the Compensation Committee of the Board, in accordance with Section 4 hereof.

(h) "Common Stock" means the common stock of the Company.

(i) "Company" means Capricor, Inc., a Delaware corporation, or any successor thereto.

(j) "Compensation Committee" means the Compensation Committee appointed by the Board.

(k) "<u>Consultant</u>" means any individual, including an advisor, engaged by the Company or a Parent or Subsidiary to render services to such entity. For the avoidance of doubt, the term "Consultant" shall not include any entity or any non-natural person.

(1) "<u>Corporate Transaction</u>" means (i) the dissolution or liquidation of the Company or a merger, consolidation, or reorganization of the Company with one or more other entities in which the Company is not the surviving entity, (ii) a sale of substantially of all of the assets of the Company to another person or entity, or (iii) any transaction (including without limitation a merger or reorganization in which the Company is the surviving entity) which results in any person or entity (other than persons who are shareholders or affiliates immediately prior to the transaction) owning 50% or more the combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a transaction will not be deemed a Corporate Transaction unless the transaction qualifies as a change in control event within the meaning of Code Section 409A, as it has been and may be amended from time to time, and any proposed or final Treasury Regulations and Internal Revenue Service guidance that has been promulgated or may be promulgated thereunder from time to time.

Further and for the avoidance of doubt, a transaction will not constitute a Corporate Transaction if: (i) its sole purpose is to change the state of the Company's incorporation, or (ii) its sole purpose is to create a holding company that will be owned in substantially the same proportions by the persons who held the Company's securities immediately before such transaction.

(m) "Director" means a member of the Board.

(n) "Disability" means total and permanent disability as defined in Code Section 22(e)(3), provided that in the case of Awards other than Incentive Stock Options, the Administrator in its discretion may determine whether a permanent and total disability exists in accordance with uniform and non-discriminatory standards adopted by the Administrator from time to time.

(o) "Employee" means any person, including officers and Directors, employed by the Company or any Parent or Subsidiary of the Company. Neither service as a Director nor payment of a director's fee by the Company will be sufficient to constitute "employment" by the Company.

(p) "Exchange Act" means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

(q) "Exchange Program" means a program under which (i) outstanding Awards are surrendered or cancelled in exchange for Awards of the same type (which may have higher or lower exercise prices and different terms), Awards of a different type, and/or cash, (ii) Participants would have the opportunity to transfer any outstanding Awards to a financial institution or other person or entity selected by the Administrator, and/or (iii) the exercise price of an outstanding Award is reduced or increased. The Administrator will determine the terms and conditions of any Exchange Program in its sole discretion.

(r) "<u>Fair Market Value</u>" means the value of a share of Common Stock, determined as follows: if on the Grant Date or other determination date the Common Stock is listed on an established national or regional stock exchange, is admitted to quotation on The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. or is publicly traded on an established securities market, the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock shall be the closing price of the Common Stock in such exchange or in such market (if there is more than one such exchange or market the Board shall determine the appropriate exchange or market) on the Grant Date or such other determination date (or if there is no such reported closing price, the Fair Market Value shall be the mean between the highest bid and lowest asked prices or between the high and low sale prices on such trading day) or, if no sale of Common Stock is reported for such trading day, on the next preceding day on which any sale shall have been reported. If the Common Stock is not listed on such an exchange, quoted on such system or traded on such a market, Fair Market Value shall be the value of the Common Stock as determined by the Board in good faith.

(s) "Former Plan" means the 2006 Stock Option Plan of the Company.

(t) "<u>Grant Date</u>" means, as determined by the Board or the applicable Committee, the latest to occur of (i) the date as of which the Board or such Committee approves an Option, (ii) the date on which the recipient of an Option first becomes eligible to receive an Option under Section 5 hereof, or (iii) such other date as may be specified by the Board or such Committee.

(u) "Incentive Stock Option" means an Option that by its terms qualifies and is otherwise intended to qualify as an incentive stock option within the meaning of Code Section 422 and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

(v) "Nonstatutory Stock Option" means an Option that by its terms does not qualify or is not intended to qualify as an Incentive Stock Option.

(w) "Option" means a stock option granted pursuant to the Plan.

- (x) "Parent" means a "parent corporation," whether now or hereafter existing, as defined in Code Section 424(e).
- (y) "Participant" means the holder of an outstanding Award.

(z) "<u>Period of Restriction</u>" means the period during which the transfer of Shares of Restricted Stock are subject to restrictions and therefore, the Shares are subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture. Such restrictions may be based on the passage of time, the achievement of target levels of performance, or the occurrence of other events as determined by the Administrator.

(aa) "Plan" means this 2012 Restated Equity Incentive Plan.

(bb) "<u>Restricted Stock</u>" means Shares issued pursuant to an Award of Restricted Stock under Section 8 of this Plan, or issued pursuant to the early exercise of an Option.

(cc) "<u>Restricted Stock Unit</u>" means a bookkeeping entry representing an amount equal to the Fair Market Value of one Share, granted zursuant to Section 9. Each Restricted Stock Unit represents an unfunded and unsecured obligation of the Company.

(dd) "Service Provider" means an Employee, Director or Consultant.

(ee) "Share" means a share of the Common Stock, as adjusted in accordance with Section 12 of the Plan.

(ff) "Stock Appreciation Right" means an Award, granted alone or in connection with an Option, that pursuant to Section 7 is designated as a Stock Appreciation Right.

(gg) "Subsidiary" means a "subsidiary corporation," whether now or hereafter existing, as defined in Code Section 424(f).

3. Stock Subject to the Plan.

(a) <u>Stock Subject to the Plan</u>. Subject to the provisions of Section 12 of the Plan, the maximum aggregate number of Shares that may be subject to Awards and sold under the Plan, when combined with the number of Shares that may be subject to Awards and sold under the Former Plan, is 2,000,000 Shares. The Shares may be authorized but unissued, or reacquired Common Stock.

(b) Lapsed Awards. If an Award expires or becomes unexercisable without having been exercised in full, is surrendered pursuant to an Exchange Program, or, with respect to Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units, is forfeited to or repurchased by the Company due to the failure to vest, the unpurchased Shares (or for Awards other than Options or Stock Appreciation Rights the forfeited or repurchased Shares) which were subject thereto will become available for future grant or sale under the Plan (unless this Plan has terminated). With respect to Stock Appreciation Rights, only Shares actually issued pursuant to a Stock Appreciation Right will cease to be available under the Plan; all remaining Shares under Stock Appreciation Rights will remain available for future grant or sale under the Plan (unless the Plan under any Award will not be returned to the Plan and will not become available for future distribution under the Plan; such Shares issued pursuant to Awards of Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units are repurchased by the Company or are forfeited to the Company due to the failure to vest, such Shares will become available for future grant or sale under the Plan. Shares used to pay the exercise price of an Award or to satisfy the tax withholding obligations related to an Award will become available for future grant or sale under the Plan. To the extent an Award under the Plan is paid out in cash rather than Shares, such cash payment will not result in reducing the number of Shares available for issuance under the Plan. Notwithstanding the foregoing and, subject to adjustment as provided in Section 12, the maximum number of Shares that may be issued upon the exercise of Incentive Stock Options will equal the aggregate Share number stated in Section 3(a), plus, to the extent allowable under Code Section 422 and the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder, any Shares that become available for issuance under the Plan pursuant to Section 3(b).

(c) Share Reserve. The Company, during the term of this Plan, will at all times reserve and keep available such number of Shares as will be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Plan.

4. Administration of the Plan.

(a) Procedure.

(i) <u>Multiple Administrative Bodies</u>. Different Committees with respect to different groups of Service Providers may administer the Plan.

(ii) Other Administration. Other than as provided above, the Plan will be administered by (A) the Board or (B) a Committee, which Committee will be constituted to satisfy Applicable Laws.

(b) Powers of the Administrator. Subject to the provisions of the Plan, and in the case of a Committee, subject to the specific duties delegated by the Board to such Committee, the Administrator will have the authority, in its discretion:

(i) to determine the Fair Market Value;

(ii) to select the Service Providers to whom Awards may be granted hereunder;

(iii) to determine the number of Shares to be covered by each Award granted hereunder;

(iv) to approve forms of Award Agreements for use under the Plan;

(v) to determine the terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the terms of the Plan, of any Award granted hereunder. Such terms and conditions include, but are not limited to, the exercise price, the time or times when Awards may be exercised (which may be based on performance criteria), any vesting acceleration or waiver of forfeiture restrictions, and any restriction or limitation regarding any Award or the Shares relating thereto, based in each case on such factors as the Administrator will determine;

(vi) to institute and determine the terms and conditions of an Exchange Program;

(vii) to construe and interpret the terms of the Plan and Awards granted pursuant to the Plan;

(viii) to prescribe, amend and rescind rules and regulations relating to the Plan, including rules and regulations relating to sub-plans established for the purpose of satisfying applicable foreign laws or for qualifying for favorable tax treatment under applicable foreign laws;

(ix) to modify or amend each Award (subject to Section 17(c) of the Plan), including but not limited to the discretionary authority to extend the posttermination exercisability period of Awards and to extend the maximum term of an Option (subject to Section 6(d));

(x) to allow Participants to satisfy withholding tax obligations in a manner prescribed in Section 13;

(xi) to authorize any person to execute on behalf of the Company any instrument required to effect the grant of an Award previously granted by the

Administrator;

(xii) to allow a Participant to defer the receipt of the payment of cash or the delivery of Shares that otherwise would be due to such Participant under an

Award; and

(xiii) to make all other determinations deemed necessary or advisable for administering the Plan.

(c) Effect of Administrator's Decision. The Administrator's decisions, determinations and interpretations will be final and binding on all Participants and any other holders of Awards.

5. Eligibility. Nonstatutory Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock, and Restricted Stock Units may be granted to Service Providers. Incentive Stock Options may be granted only to Employees.

6. Stock Options.

(a) Grant of Options. Subject to the terms and provisions of the Plan, the Administrator, at any time and from time to time, may grant Options in such amounts as the Administrator, in its sole discretion, will determine.

(b) Option Agreement. Each Award of an Option will be evidenced by an Award Agreement that will specify the exercise price, the term of the Option, the number of Shares subject to the Option, the exercise restrictions, if any, applicable to the Option, and such other terms and conditions as the Administrator, in its sole discretion, will determine.

(c) <u>Limitations</u>. Each Option will be designated in the Award Agreement as either an Incentive Stock Option or a Nonstatutory Stock Option. Notwithstanding such designation, however, to the extent that the aggregate Fair Market Value of the Shares with respect to which Incentive Stock Options are exercisable for the first time by the Participant during any calendar year (under all plans of the Company and any Parent or Subsidiary) exceeds one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), such Options will be treated as Nonstatutory Stock Options. For purposes of this Section 6(c), Incentive Stock Options will be taken into account in the order in which they were granted, the Fair Market Value of the Shares will be determined as of the time the Option with respect to such Shares is granted, and calculation will be performed in accordance with Code Section 422 and Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder.

(d) <u>Term of Option</u>. The term of each Option will be stated in the Award Agreement; provided, however, that the term will be no more than ten (10) years from the date of grant thereof. In the case of an Incentive Stock Option granted to a Participant who, at the time the Incentive Stock Option is granted, owns stock representing more than ten percent (10%) of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any Parent or Subsidiary, the term of the Incentive Stock Option will be five (5) years from the date of grant or such shorter term as may be provided in the Award Agreement.

(e) Option Exercise Price and Consideration.

(i) Exercise Price. The per Share exercise price for the Shares to be issued pursuant to the exercise of an Option will be determined by the Administrator, but will be no less than one hundred percent (100%) of the Fair Market Value per Share on the date of grant. In addition, in the case of an Incentive Stock Option granted to an Employee who owns stock representing more than ten percent (10%) of the voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any Parent or Subsidiary, the per Share exercise price will be no less than one hundred ten percent (110%) of the Fair Market Value per Share on the date of grant. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section 6(e)(i), Options may be granted with a per Share exercise price of less than one hundred percent (100%) of the Fair Market Value per Company or any Parent or Subsidiary pursuant to a transaction described in, and in a manner consistent with, Code Section 424(a).

(ii) <u>Waiting Period and Exercise Dates</u>. At the time an Option is granted, the Administrator will fix the period within which the Option may be exercised and will determine any conditions that must be satisfied before the Option may be exercised.

(iii) Form of Consideration. The Administrator will determine the acceptable form of consideration for exercising an Option, including the method of payment. In the case of an Incentive Stock Option, the Administrator will determine the acceptable form of consideration. Such consideration may consist entirely of: (1) cash; (2) check; (3) promissory note, to the extent permitted by Applicable Laws, (4) other Shares, provided that such Shares have a Fair Market Value on the date of surrender equal to the aggregate exercise price of the Shares as to which such Option will be exercised and provided further that accepting such Shares will not result in any adverse accounting consequences to the Company, as the Administrator determines in its sole discretion; (5) consideration received by the Company under cashless exercise program (whether through a broker or otherwise) implemented by the Company in connection with the Plan; (6) by net exercise, (7) such other consideration and method of payment for the issuance of Shares to the extent permitted by Applicable Laws, or (8) any combination of the foregoing methods of payment. In making its determination as to the type of consideration to accept, the Administrator will consider if acceptance of such consideration may be reasonably expected to benefit the Company.

(f) Exercise of Option.

(i) <u>Procedure for Exercise; Rights as a Stockholder</u>. Any Option granted hereunder will be exercisable according to the terms of the Plan and at such times and under such conditions as determined by the Administrator and set forth in the Award Agreement. An Option may not be exercised for a fraction of a Share.

An Option will be deemed exercised when the Company receives: (i) notice of exercise (in such form as the Administrator may specify from time to time) from the person entitled to exercise the Option, and (ii) full payment for the Shares with respect to which the Option is exercised (together with applicable tax withholding). Full payment may consist of any consideration and method of payment authorized by the Administrator and permitted by the Award Agreement and the Plan. Shares issued upon exercise of an Option will be issued in the name of the Participant or, if requested by the Participant, in the name of the Participant and his or her spouse. Until the Shares are issued (as evidenced by the appropriate entry on the books of the Company or of a duly authorized transfer agent of the Company), no right to vote or receive dividends or any other rights as a stockholder will exist with respect to the Shares subject to an Option, notwithstanding the exercise of the Option. The Company will issue (or cause to be issued) such Shares promptly after the Option is exercised. No adjustment will be made for a dividend or other right for which the record date is prior to the date the Shares are issued, except as provided in Section 12 of the Plan.

Exercising an Option in any manner will decrease the number of Shares thereafter available, both for purposes of the Plan and for sale under the Option, by the number of Shares as to which the Option is exercised.

(ii) <u>Termination of Relationship as a Service Provider</u>. If a Participant ceases to be a Service Provider, other than upon the Participant's termination as the result of the Participant's death or Disability, the Participant may exercise his or her Option within ninety (90) days of termination, or such longer period of time as is specified in the Award Agreement or as determined by the Administrator (but in no event later than the expiration of the term of such Option as set forth in the Award Agreement) to the extent that the Option is vested on the date of termination. Unless otherwise provided by the Administrator, if on the date of termination the Participant is not vested as to his or her entire Option, the Shares covered by the unvested portion of the Option will revert to the Plan. If after termination the Participant does not exercise his or her Option within the time specified by the Administrator, the Option will terminate, and the Shares covered by such Option will revert to the Plan.

(iii) <u>Disability of Participant</u>. If a Participant ceases to be a Service Provider as a result of the Participant's Disability, the Participant may exercise his or her Option within one (1) year of termination, or such longer period of time as is specified in the Award Agreement or as determined by the Administrator (but in no event later than the expiration of the term of such Option as set forth in the Award Agreement) to the extent the Option is vested on the date of termination. Unless otherwise provided by the Administrator, if on the date of termination the Participant is not vested as to his or her entire Option, the Shares covered by the unvested portion of the Option will revert to the Plan. If after termination the Participant does not exercise his or her Option within the time specified herein, the Option will terminate, and the Shares covered by such Option will revert to the Plan.

(iv) Death of Participant. If a Participant dies while a Service Provider, the Option may be exercised within one (1) year following the Participant's death, or within such longer period of time as is specified in the Award Agreement or as determined by the Administrator (but in no event later than the expiration of the term of such Option as set forth in the Award Agreement) to the extent that the Option is vested on the date of death, by the Participant's designated beneficiary, provided such beneficiary has been designated prior to the Participant's death in a form acceptable to the Administrator. If no such beneficiary has been designated by the Participant's estate or by the person(s) to whom the Option is transferred pursuant to the Participant's will or in accordance with the laws of descent and distribution. Unless otherwise provided by the Administrator, if at the time of death Participant is not vested as to his or her entire Option, the Shares covered by the unvested portion of the Option will revert to the Plan.

(v) Early Exercise of Options. The Participant may elect at any time, subject to the provisions of Sections 6(f)(ii), 6(f)(iii), and 6(f)(iv) of the Plan, to exercise the Option as to any part or all of the shares of Common Stock subject to the Option prior to the full vesting of the Option. Any unvested shares of Common Stock so purchased shall be subject to a repurchase right in favor of the Company or to any other restriction the Board determines to be appropriate.

(vi) <u>Repurchase Limitation</u>. The repurchase price for unvested shares of Common Stock shall be the lower of (i) the Fair Market Value of the shares of Common Stock on the date of repurchase or (ii) their original purchase price. However, if and to the extent that the Company elects to exercise its repurchase right, the Company shall not exercise its repurchase right until at least six (6) months (or such longer or shorter period of time necessary to avoid classification of the Award as a liability for financial accounting purposes) have elapsed following delivery of shares of Common Stock subject to the Award, unless otherwise specifically provided by the Board.

7. Stock Appreciation Rights.

(a) Grant of Stock Appreciation Rights. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan, a Stock Appreciation Right may be granted to Service Providers at any time and from time to time as will be determined by the Administrator, in its sole discretion.

(b) Number of Shares. The Administrator will have complete discretion to determine the number of Shares subject to any Award of Stock Appreciation

Rights.

(c) <u>Exercise Price and Other Terms</u>. The per Share exercise price for the Shares that will determine the amount of the payment to be received upon exercise of a Stock Appreciation Right as set forth in Section 7(f) will be determined by the Administrator and will be no less than one hundred percent (100%) of the Fair Market Value per Share on the date of grant. Otherwise, the Administrator, subject to the provisions of the Plan, will have complete discretion to determine the terms and conditions of Stock Appreciation Rights granted under the Plan.

(d) <u>Stock Appreciation Right Agreement</u>. Each Stock Appreciation Right grant will be evidenced by an Award Agreement that will specify the exercise price, the term of the Stock Appreciation Right, the conditions of exercise, and such other terms and conditions as the Administrator, in its sole discretion, will determine.

(e) Expiration of Stock Appreciation Rights. A Stock Appreciation Right granted under the Plan will expire upon the date determined by the Administrator, in its sole discretion, and set forth in the Award Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the rules of Section 6(d) relating to the maximum term and Section 6(f) relating to exercise also will apply to Stock Appreciation Rights.

(f) Payment of Stock Appreciation Right Amount. Upon exercise of a Stock Appreciation Right, a Participant will be entitled to receive payment from the Company in an amount determined by multiplying:

(i) The difference between the Fair Market Value of a Share on the date of exercise over the exercise price; times

(ii) The number of Shares with respect to which the Stock Appreciation Right is exercised.

At the discretion of the Administrator, the payment upon Stock Appreciation Right exercise may be in cash, in Shares of equivalent value, or in some combination thereof.

8. Restricted Stock.

(a) Grant of Restricted Stock. Subject to the terms and provisions of the Plan, the Administrator, at any time and from time to time, may grant Shares of Restricted Stock to Service Providers in such amounts as the Administrator, in its sole discretion, will determine.

(b) <u>Restricted Stock Agreement</u>. Each Award of Restricted Stock will be evidenced by an Award Agreement that will specify the Period of Restriction, the number of Shares granted, and such other terms and conditions as the Administrator, in its sole discretion, will determine. Unless the Administrator determines otherwise, the Company as escrow agent will hold Shares of Restricted Stock until the restrictions on such Shares have lapsed.

(c) <u>Transferability</u>. Except as provided in this Section 8 or as the Administrator determines, Shares of Restricted Stock may not be sold, transferred, pledged, assigned, or otherwise alienated or hypothecated until the end of the applicable Period of Restriction.

(d) Other Restrictions. The Administrator, in its sole discretion, may impose such other restrictions on Shares of Restricted Stock as it may deem advisable or appropriate.

(e) <u>Removal of Restrictions</u>. Except as otherwise provided in this Section 8, Shares of Restricted Stock covered by each Restricted Stock grant made under the Plan will be released from escrow as soon as practicable after the last day of the Period of Restriction or at such other time as the Administrator may determine. The Administrator, in its discretion, may accelerate the time at which any restrictions will lapse or be removed.

(f) <u>Voting Rights</u>. During the Period of Restriction, Service Providers holding Shares of Restricted Stock granted hereunder may exercise full voting rights with respect to those Shares, unless the Administrator determines otherwise.

(g) <u>Dividends and Other Distributions</u>. During the Period of Restriction, Service Providers holding Shares of Restricted Stock will be entitled to receive all dividends and other distributions paid with respect to such Shares, unless the Administrator provides otherwise. If any such dividends or distributions are paid in Shares, the Shares will be subject to the same restrictions on transferability and forfeitability as the Shares of Restricted Stock with respect to which they were paid.

(h) <u>Return of Restricted Stock to Company</u>. On the date set forth in the Award Agreement, the Restricted Stock for which restrictions have not lapsed will revert to the Company and again will become available for grant under the Plan.

9. Restricted Stock Units.

(a) Grant. Restricted Stock Units may be granted at any time and from time to time as determined by the Administrator. After the Administrator determines that it will grant Restricted Stock Units, it will advise the Participant in an Award Agreement of the terms, conditions, and restrictions related to the grant, including the number of Restricted Stock Units.

(b) <u>Vesting Criteria and Other Terms</u>. The Administrator will set vesting criteria in its discretion, which, depending on the extent to which the criteria are met, will determine the number of Restricted Stock Units that will be paid out to the Participant. The Administrator may set vesting criteria based upon the achievement of Company-wide, business unit, or individual goals (including, but not limited to, continued employment or service), or any other basis determined by the Administrator in its discretion.

(c) <u>Earning Restricted Stock Units</u>. Upon meeting the applicable vesting criteria, the Participant will be entitled to receive a payout as determined by the Administrator. Notwithstanding the foregoing, at any time after the grant of Restricted Stock Units, the Administrator, in its sole discretion, may reduce or waive any vesting criteria that must be met to receive a payout.

(d) Form and Timing of Payment Payment of earned Restricted Stock Units will be made as soon as practicable after the date(s) determined by the Administrator and set forth in the Award Agreement. The Administrator, in its sole discretion, may settle earned Restricted Stock Units in cash, Shares, or a combination of both.

(e) Cancellation. On the date set forth in the Award Agreement, all unearned Restricted Stock Units will be forfeited to the Company.

10. <u>Compliance With Code Section 409A</u>. Awards will be designed and operated in such a manner that they are either exempt from the application of, or comply with, the requirements of Code Section 409A, except as otherwise determined in the sole discretion of the Administrator. The Plan and each Award Agreement under the Plan is intended to meet the requirements of Code Section 409A and will be construed and interpreted in accordance with such intent, except as otherwise determined in the sole discretion of the Administrator. To the extent that an Award or payment, or the settlement or deferral thereof, is subject to Code Section 409A the Award will be granted, paid, settled or deferred in a manner that will meet the requirements of Code Section 409A, such that the grant, payment, settlement or deferral will not be subject to the additional tax or interest applicable under Code Section 409A.

11. Limited Transferability of Awards.

(a) Unless determined otherwise by the Administrator, Awards may not be sold, pledged, assigned, hypothecated, or otherwise transferred in any manner other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and may be exercised, during the lifetime of the Participant, only by the Participant. If the Administrator makes an Award transferable, such Award may only be transferred (i) by will, (ii) by the laws of descent and distribution, or (iii) as permitted by Rule 701 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act").

(b) Further, until the Company becomes subject to the reporting requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, or after the Administrator determines that it is, will, or may no longer be relying upon the exemption from registration under the Exchange Act as set forth in Rule 12h-1(f) promulgated under the Exchange Act, an Option, or prior to exercise, the Shares subject to the Option, may not be pledged, hypothecated or otherwise transferred or disposed of, in any manner, including by entering into any short position, any "put equivalent position" or any "call equivalent position" (as defined in Rule 16a-1(h) and Rule 16a-1(b) of the Exchange Act, respectively), other than to (i) persons who are "family members" (as defined in Rule 701(c)(3) of the Securities Act) through gifts or domestic relations orders, a trust in which the Participant or any of such persons have the entire beneficial interest, or any other entity in which the Participant or any of such persons own the entire beneficial interest, or (ii) to an executor or guardian of the Participant upon the death or disability of the Participant. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, the Administrator, in its sole discretion, may determine to permit transfers to the Company or in connection with a Corporate Transaction or other acquisition transactions involving the Company to the extent permitted by Rule 12h-1(f).

12. Adjustments; Dissolution or Liquidation; Corporate Transaction

(a) <u>Adjustments</u>. In the event that any dividend or other distribution (whether in the form of cash, Shares, other securities, or other property), recapitalization, stock split, reverse stock split, reorganization, merger, consolidation, split-up, spin-off, combination, repurchase, or exchange of Shares or other securities of the Company, or other change in the corporate structure of the Company affecting the Shares occurs, the Administrator, in order to prevent diminution or enlargement of the benefits or potential benefits intended to be made available under the Plan, will adjust the number and class of Shares that may be delivered under the Plan and/or the number, class, and price of Shares covered by each outstanding Award; provided, however, that the Administrator will make such adjustments to an Award required by Section 25102(o) of the California Corporations Code to the extent the Company is relying upon the exemption afforded thereby with respect to the Award.

(b) <u>Dissolution or Liquidation</u>. In the event of the proposed dissolution or liquidation of the Company, the Administrator will notify each Participant as soon as practicable prior to the effective date of such proposed transaction. To the extent it has not been previously exercised, an Award will terminate immediately prior to the consummation of such proposed action.

(c) <u>Corporate Transaction</u>. In the event of a Corporate Transaction, the vesting of each outstanding Award will be accelerated so that Awards shall vest (and, to the extent applicable, become exercisable) as to the Shares that otherwise would have been unvested. The Administrator may, in addition to accelerating vesting as provided in the previous sentence, arrange or otherwise provide for the payment of cash or other consideration to Participants in exchange for the satisfaction and cancellation of all or some Awards (whether vested or unvested) (based on the Fair Market Value, on the date of the Corporate Transaction, of the Award being cancelled, as determined by any reasonable valuation method selected by the Administrator). The Administrator may, in lieu of the acceleration of vesting or cancelation of Awards as provided in the preceding sentences, in its sole and absolute discretion cause each outstanding Award to be assumed, or cause substantially equivalent awards to be substituted, by the acquiring or succeeding corporate Transaction. The Administrator shall have the power and authority to make such other modifications, adjustments or amendments to outstanding Awards or this Plan as the Administrator deems necessary or appropriate, subject however to the terms set forth above.

Notwithstanding anything in this Section 12(c) to the contrary, if a payment under an Award Agreement is subject to Code Section 409A and if the "Corporate Transaction" definition contained in the Award Agreement does not comply with the definition of "change of control" for purposes of a distribution under Code Section 409A, then any payment of an amount that is otherwise accelerated under this Section will be delayed until the earliest time that such payment would be permissible under Code Section 409A without triggering any penalties applicable under Code Section 409A.

13. Tax Withholding.

(a) <u>Withholding Requirements</u>. Prior to the delivery of any Shares or cash pursuant to an Award (or exercise thereof), the Company will have the power and the right to deduct or withhold, or require a Participant to remit to the Company, an amount sufficient to satisfy federal, state, local, foreign or other taxes (including the Participant's FICA obligation) required to be withheld with respect to such Award (or exercise thereof).

(b) <u>Withholding Arrangements</u>. The Administrator, in its sole discretion and pursuant to such procedures as it may specify from time to time, may permit a Participant to satisfy such tax withholding obligation, in whole or in part by (without limitation) (i) paying cash, (ii) electing to have the Company withhold otherwise deliverable Shares having a Fair Market Value equal to the minimum statutory amount required to be withheld, (iii) delivering to the Company already-owned Shares having a Fair Market Value equal to the statutory amount required to be withheld, provided the delivery of such Shares will not result in any adverse accounting consequences, as the Administrator determines in its sole discretion, or (iv) selling a sufficient number of Shares otherwise deliverable to the Participant through such means as the Administrator may determine in its sole discretion (whether through a broker or otherwise) equal to the amount required to be withheld. The amount of the withholding requirement will be deemed to include any amount which the Administrator agrees may be withheld at the time the election is made, not to exceed the amount determined by using the maximum federal, state or local marginal income tax rates applicable to the Participant with respect to the Award on the date that the amount of tax to be withheld is to be determined. The Fair Market Value of the Shares to be withheld or delivered will be determined as of the date that the taxes are required to be withheld.

14. No Effect on Employment or Service. Neither the Plan nor any Award will confer upon a Participant any right with respect to continuing the Participant's relationship as a Service Provider with the Company, nor will they interfere in any way with the Participant's right or the Company's right to terminate such relationship at any time, with or without cause, to the extent permitted by Applicable Laws.

15. <u>Grant Date</u>. The Grant Date of an Award will be, for all purposes, the date on which the Administrator makes the determination granting such Award, or such other later date as is determined by the Administrator. Notice of the determination will be provided to each Participant within a reasonable time after the Grant Date.

16. Term of Plan. Subject to Section 20 of the Plan, the Plan will become effective upon its adoption by the Board (the Effective Date"). Options may be granted under this Plan for ten (10) years following the Effective Date, or such earlier date as this Plan is terminated under Section 17. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each Option granted under the Plan shall remain in effect for the applicable term of the Option until such Option has been satisfied by the issuance of shares or has been terminated in accordance with its terms and the terms of the Plan.

17. Amendment and Termination of the Plan.

(a) Amendment and Termination. The Board may at any time amend, alter, suspend or terminate the Plan.

(b) <u>Stockholder Approval</u>. The Company will obtain stockholder approval of any Plan amendment to the extent necessary and desirable to comply with Applicable Laws. The Board, in its sole discretion, may submit any other amendment to the Plan for stockholder approval.

(c) <u>Effect of Amendment or Termination</u>. No amendment, alteration, suspension or termination of the Plan will impair the rights of any Participant, unless mutually agreed otherwise between the Participant and the Administrator, which agreement must be in writing and signed by the Participant and the Company. Termination of the Plan will not affect the Administrator's ability to exercise the powers granted to it hereunder with respect to Awards granted under the Plan prior to the date of such termination.

18. Conditions Upon Issuance of Shares.

(a) Legal Compliance. Shares will not be issued pursuant to the exercise of an Award unless the exercise of such Award and the issuance and delivery of such Shares will comply with Applicable Laws and will be further subject to the approval of counsel for the Company with respect to such compliance.

(b) <u>Investment Representations</u>. As a condition to the exercise of an Award, the Company may require the person exercising such Award to represent and warrant at the time of any such exercise that the Shares are being purchased only for investment and without any present intention to sell or distribute such Shares if, in the opinion of counsel for the Company, such a representation is required.

19. Inability to Obtain Authority. The inability of the Company to obtain authority from any regulatory body having jurisdiction, which authority is deemed by the Company's counsel to be necessary to the lawful issuance and sale of any Shares hereunder, will relieve the Company of any liability in respect of the failure to issue or sell such Shares as to which such requisite authority will not have been obtained.

20. <u>Stockholder Approval</u>. The Plan will be subject to approval by the stockholders of the Company within twelve (12) months after the date the Plan is adopted by the Board. Such stockholder approval will be obtained in the manner and to the degree required under Applicable Laws.

21. Information to Participants. Beginning on the earlier of (i) the date that the aggregate number of Participants under this Plan is five hundred (500) or more and the Company is relying on the exemption provided by Rule 12h-1(f)(1) under the Exchange Act and (ii) the date that the Company is required to deliver information to Participants pursuant to Rule 701 under the Securities Act, and until such time as the Company becomes subject to the reporting requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, is no longer relying on the exemption provided by Rule 12h-1(f)(1) under the Exchange Act or is no longer required to deliver information to Participants pursuant to Rule 701 under the Securities Act, the Company shall provide to each Participant the information described in paragraphs (e)(3), (4), and (5) of Rule 701 under the Securities Act not less frequently than every six (6) months with the financial statements being not more than 180 days old and with such information provided either by physical or electronic delivery to the Participants or by written notice to the Participants of the availability of the information to be provided pursuant to this section confidential. If a Participant does not agree to keep the information to be provided the information unless otherwise required to gursuant to Rule 12h-1(f)(1) under the Exchange Act or Rule 701 of the Securities Act.

22. Miscellaneous Provisions.

(a) <u>Disclaimer of Rights</u>. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Plan to the contrary, unless otherwise stated in the applicable Award Agreement, no Award granted under the Plan shall be affected by any change of duties or position of the Participant, so long as such Participant continues to be a Service Provider. The obligation of the Company to pay any benefits pursuant to this Plan shall be interpreted as a contractual obligation to pay only those amounts described herein, in the manner and under the conditions prescribed herein. The Plan shall in no way be interpreted to require the Company to transfer any amounts to a third party trustee or otherwise hold any amounts in trust or escrow for payment to any Participant or beneficiary under the terms of the Plan.

(b) <u>Captions</u>. The use of captions in this Plan or any Award Agreement is for the convenience of reference only and shall not affect the meaning of any provision of the Plan or such Award Agreement.

(c) <u>Other Provisions</u>. Each Award granted under the Plan may contain such other terms and conditions not inconsistent with the Plan as may be determined by the Board, in its sole discretion.

(d) <u>Number And Gender</u>. With respect to words used in the Plan, the singular form shall include the plural form, the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender, etc., as the context requires.

(e) <u>Severability</u>. If any provision of the Plan or any Award Agreement shall be determined to be illegal or unenforceable by any court of law in any jurisdiction, the remaining provisions hereof and thereof shall be severable and enforceable in accordance with their terms, and all provisions shall remain enforceable in any other jurisdiction.

(f) <u>Governing Law</u>. The validity and construction of the Plan and the instruments evidencing the Award hereunder shall be governed by the laws of the State of Delaware, other than any conflicts or choice of law rule or principle that might otherwise refer construction or interpretation of this Plan and the instruments evidencing the Awards granted hereunder to the substantive laws of any other jurisdiction.

FIRST AMENDMENT TO CAPRICOR, INC. 2012 RESTATED EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN (Adopted February 12, 2014)

Capricor Therapeutics, Inc. (the "Company") maintains the Capricor, Inc. 2012 Restated Equity Incentive Plan, effective as of November 13, 2012 (the "Plan"), and, pursuant to Section 17 of the Plan, the Company's Board of Directors (the "Board") may at any time amend, alter, suspend or terminate the Plan.

The Board desires to adopt an amendment to the Plan to: (1) change the name of the Plan from the "Capricor, Inc. 2012 Restated Equity Incentive Plan" to the "Capricor Therapeutics, Inc. 2012 Restated Equity Incentive Plan"; (2) provide that all references to the "Company" (other than in the preamble) shall be deemed to refer to Capricor Therapeutics, Inc. and its Parent and Subsidiaries, as applicable; and (3) provide that all references in the Plan to "Common Stock" shall mean the common stock of Capricor Therapeutics, Inc., par value \$0.001 per share.

The Plan is hereby amended as follows:

1. The name of the Plan is amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

"Capricor Therapeutics, Inc. 2012 Restated Equity Incentive Plan"

2. The first sentence of the preamble is amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

"This 2012 Restated Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan") replaces the 2006 Stock Option Plan (the "Former Plan") formerly adopted by Capricor, Inc. with respect to Awards made on or after the date the Plan becomes effective."

3. Subsection (i) of Section 2 of the Plan is amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

""Company" means Capricor Therapeutics, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and its Parent and Subsidiaries, as applicable, or any successor thereto."

- 4. For purposes of clarity, all references in the Plan to "Common Stock" shall be deemed to mean the common stock of the Company.
- 5. The modifications set forth above shall not affect any other provisions of the Plan.

[Signature provided on following page.]

In Witness Whereof, the undersigned adopts this First Amendment to the Plan on behalf of the Company as of the date first written above.

CAPRICOR THERAPEUTICS, INC.

/s/ Linda Marbán, Ph.D.

By: Linda Marbán, Ph.D. Title: Chief Executive Officer

SECOND AMENDMENT TO CAPRICOR THERAPEUTICS, INC. 2012 RESTATED EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN (Adopted September 8, 2014)

Capricor Therapeutics, Inc. (the "Company") maintains the Capricor Therapeutics, Inc. 2012 Restated Equity Incentive Plan, effective as of November 13, 2012 and as amended to date (collectively, the "Plan"), and, pursuant to Section 17 of the Plan, the Company's Board of Directors (the "Board") may at any time amend, alter, suspend or terminate the Plan.

The Plan is hereby amended as follows:

1. Section 3(a) of the Plan is amended and restated in its entirety as follows:

"Stock Subject to the Plan. Subject to the provisions of Section 12 of the Plan, the maximum aggregate number of Shares that may be subject to Awards and sold under the Plan, when combined with the number of Shares that may be subject to Awards and sold under the Former Plan, is 2,000,000 Shares. The Shares may be authorized but unissued, or reacquired Common Stock. No one Participant may be granted options with respect to more than 1,000,000 Shares in any one calendar year. In addition, no one Participant may be granted Stock Appreciation Rights with respect to more than 1,000,000 Shares in any one calendar year. No more than 2,000,000 shares may be made subject to Incentive Stock Option grants."

2. Section 4(a)(i) of the Plan is amended and restated in its entirety to read as follows:

"<u>Multiple Administrative Bodies</u>. Different Committees with respect to different groups of Service Providers may administer the Plan. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, Award grants to any listed officer of the Company will be made by a committee consisting solely of two or more outside directors (as defined under Code Section 162(m) regulations), which shall be the "Committee" with respect to such grants."

3. The modifications set forth above shall not affect any other provisions of the Plan.

[Signature provided on following page.]

In Witness Whereof, the undersigned adopts this Second Amendment to the Plan on behalf of the Company as of the date first written above.

CAPRICOR THERAPEUTICS, INC.

/s/ Linda Marbán, Ph.D. By: Linda Marbán, Ph.D. Title: Chief Executive Officer