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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION  
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under § 240.14a-12

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**CARA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if Other Than the Registrant)

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Payment of Filing Fee (Check all boxes that apply):

- No fee required.
  - Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
  - Fee computed on table in exhibit required by Item 25(b) per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11
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# Your **Vote** Counts!

**CARA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**

2023 Annual Meeting

Vote by May 31, 2023

11:59 PM ET

CARA THERAPEUTICS, INC.  
4 STAMFORD PLAZA  
107 ELM STREET, 9TH FLOOR  
STAMFORD, CT 06902



V12816-P92611

## You invested in CARA THERAPEUTICS, INC. and it's time to vote!

You have the right to vote on proposals being presented at the Annual Meeting. **This is an important notice regarding the availability of proxy material for the stockholder meeting to be held on June 1, 2023.**

### Get informed before you vote

View the Notice and Proxy Statement and Form 10-K online OR you can receive a free paper or email copy of the material(s) by requesting prior to May 18, 2023. If you would like to request a copy of the material(s) for this and/or future stockholder meetings, you may (1) visit [www.ProxyVote.com](http://www.ProxyVote.com), (2) call 1-800-579-1639 or (3) send an email to [sendmaterial@proxyvote.com](mailto:sendmaterial@proxyvote.com). If sending an email, please include your control number (indicated below) in the subject line. Unless requested, you will not otherwise receive a paper or email copy.



For complete information and to vote, visit [www.ProxyVote.com](http://www.ProxyVote.com)

Control #

#### Smartphone users

Point your camera here and vote without entering a control number



#### Vote Virtually at the Meeting\*

June 1, 2023  
12:00 PM EDT

Virtually at:  
[www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/CARA2023](http://www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/CARA2023)

\*Please check the meeting materials for any special requirements for meeting attendance.

V1.2

## THIS IS NOT A VOTABLE BALLOT

This is an overview of the proposals being presented at the upcoming stockholder meeting. Please follow the instructions on the reverse side to vote these important matters.

Voting Items	Board Recommends
1. Election of the Board of Directors' two nominees for director to serve until the 2026 Annual Meeting and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. <b>Nominees:</b> 01) Martin Vogelbaum 02) Lisa von Moltke, M.D.	✔ For
2. Advisory vote to approve the compensation of our named executive officers.	✔ For
3. Ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023.	✔ For

**NOTE:** Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

You may attend and vote during the Annual Meeting via the Internet. Have the information that is printed in the box marked with the arrow on your proxy card or Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials available and follow the instructions.

Prefer to receive an email instead? While voting on [www.ProxyVote.com](http://www.ProxyVote.com), be sure to click "Delivery Settings".