
**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): March 6, 2018

CARA THERAPEUTICS, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-36279
(Commission
File Number)

75-3175693
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**4 Stamford Plaza
107 Elm Street, 9th Floor
Stamford, Connecticut**
(Address of principal executive offices)

06902
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (203) 406-3700

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 (see General Instruction A.2.):

- 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))

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.

On March 6, 2018, Dean Slagel, a member of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Cara Therapeutics, Inc. (the “Company”), delivered his notice of resignation to the Board, effective as of March 7, 2018. Mr. Slagel’s decision to resign was not as a result of any disagreement with the Company. Prior to his resignation, Mr. Slagel was the longest tenured director of the Company, having joined the Board in connection with Esperante AB’s initial investment in the Company in 2005. The Board thanks Mr. Slagel for his many years of leadership and service to the Company.

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.

CARA THERAPEUTICS, INC.

By: /s/ Mani Mohindru
Mani Mohindru, Ph.D.
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Date: March 12, 2018