

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

CRISPR THERAPEUTICS AG

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Switzerland

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

Not applicable

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

Baarerstrasse 14

6300 Zug

Switzerland

+41 61 228 7800

(Address of principal executive offices)

Not Applicable

(Zip Code)

CRISPR Therapeutics AG

2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan

(Full title of the plan)

Samarth Kulkarni, Ph.D.

Chief Executive Officer

c/o CRISPR Therapeutics, Inc.

105 West First Street

South Boston, MA 02127

(Name and address of agent for service)

617-315-4600

(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Robert E. Puopolo

Marishka DeToy

Goodwin Procter LLP

100 Northern Avenue

Boston, MA 02210

(617) 570-1000

James R. Kasinger

General Counsel and Secretary

CRISPR Therapeutics AG

Baarerstrasse 14

6300 Zug

Switzerland

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer,” “smaller reporting company” and “emerging growth company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Emerging growth company	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act. ☐

Part I

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Registration Statement on Form S-8 relating to the CRISPR Therapeutics AG 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (the “2018 Plan”) of CRISPR Therapeutics AG (the “Registrant”) is being filed for the purpose of registering an additional 1,700,000 of the Registrant’s common shares, CHF 0.03 per share, as other securities for which a Registration Statement on Form S-8 has previously been filed and is effective. Accordingly, this Registration Statement on Form S-8 incorporates by reference the contents of the Registration Statement on Form S-8 ([File No. 333-225369](#)) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 1, 2018 by the Registrant, the contents of the Registration Statement on Form S-8 ([File No. 333-232877](#)) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 29, 2019 by the Registrant, the contents of the Registration Statement on Form S-8 ([File No. 333-240120](#)) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 27, 2020 by the Registrant, and the contents of the Registration Statement on Form S-8 ([File No. 333-266636](#)) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 8, 2022 by the Registrant, each relating to the 2018 Plan except, in each case, for “Item 8. Exhibits.”

Part II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 8. Exhibits.

Exhibit Number	Description
4.1	Amended and Restated Articles of Association (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 9, 2023).
5.1*	Opinion of Walder Wyss AG, Swiss counsel of the Registrant, as to the validity of the common shares.
23.1*	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
23.2*	Consent of Walder Wyss AG (included in Exhibit 5.1).
24.1*	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page).
99.1	CRISPR Therapeutics AG 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed on June 1, 2018).
99.2	Amendment No.1 to the CRISPR Therapeutics AG 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Appendix A to the Registrant’s Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 30, 2019).
99.3	Amendment No. 2 to the CRISPR Therapeutics AG 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Appendix A to the Registrant’s Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 24, 2020).
99.4	Amendment No. 3 to the CRISPR Therapeutics AG 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Appendix A to the Registrant’s Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 25, 2022).
99.5	Amendment No. 4 to the CRISPR Therapeutics AG 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Appendix A to the Registrant’s Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on April 26, 2023).
99.6	Form of Incentive Stock Option Agreement under the CRISPR Therapeutics AG 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed on June 1, 2018).
99.7	Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Agreement for Company Employees under the CRISPR Therapeutics AG 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.3 to the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed on June 1, 2018).
99.8	Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Agreement for Non-Employee Directors under CRISPR Therapeutics AG’s 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.4 to the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed on June 1, 2018).
99.9	Form of Restricted Stock Award under the CRISPR Therapeutics AG 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.5 to the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed on June 1, 2018).

99.10	<u>Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement for Company Employees under the CRISPR Therapeutics AG 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.6 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed on June 1, 2018).</u>
99.11	<u>Form of Restricted Stock Award Agreement for Non-Employee Directors under the CRISPR Therapeutics AG 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.7 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed on June 1, 2018).</u>
107*	<u>Filing Fee Table</u>

*Filed herewith.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Boston, Commonwealth of Massachusetts on August 7, 2023.

CRISPR THERAPEUTICS AG

By: /s/ Samarth Kulkarni, Ph.D.

Name: Samarth Kulkarni, Ph.D.

Title: *Chief Executive Officer*

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENT, that each individual whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints each of Samarth Kulkarni, Raju Prasad and James R. Kasinger, as such person's true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for such person in such person's name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-8, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission granting unto each said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as such person might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that any said attorney-in-fact and agent, or any substitute or substitutes of any of them, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons on the date indicated below in the capacities indicated:

Signature	Title	Date
<u>/s/ Samarth Kulkarni</u> Samarth Kulkarni	Chief Executive Officer and Director (principal executive officer)	August 7, 2023
<u>/s/ Raju Prasad</u> Raju Prasad	Chief Financial Officer (principal financial and accounting officer)	August 7, 2023
<u>/s/ Rodger Novak</u> Rodger Novak	Chairman and Director	August 7, 2023
<u>/s/ Ali Behbahani</u> Ali Behbahani	Director	August 7, 2023
<u>/s/ Maria Fardis</u> Maria Fardis	Director	August 7, 2023
<u>/s/ H. Edward Fleming, Jr.</u> H. Edward Fleming, Jr.	Director	August 7, 2023
<u>/s/ Simeon J. George</u> Simeon J. George	Director	August 7, 2023
<u>/s/ John T. Greene</u> John T. Greene	Director	August 7, 2023
<u>/s/ Katherine A. High</u> Katherine A. High	Director	August 7, 2023
<u>/s/ Douglas A. Treco</u> Douglas A. Treco	Director	August 7, 2023
<u>/s/ James R. Kasinger</u> James R. Kasinger	Authorized Representative in the United States	August 7, 2023

Walder Wyss Ltd.
Seefeldstrasse 123
P.O. Box
8034 Zurich
Switzerland

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To:

CRISPR Therapeutics AG
Baarerstrasse 14
6300 Zug
Switzerland

Zurich, as of 7 August 2023

CRISPR Therapeutics AG – Swiss Legal Opinion (Registration Statement on Form S-8)

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

We have acted as Swiss counsel to CRISPR Therapeutics AG, Zug, Switzerland (the **Company**) in connection with the filing of a registration statement on Form S-8 (the **Registration Statement**, which term does not include any other document or agreement whether or not specifically referred to therein or attached as an exhibit or schedule thereto) by the Company with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the **Commission**) pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the **Securities Act**) on 7 August 2023 for the purpose of registering under the Securities Act the offer of 1,700,000 registered common shares, par value of currently CHF 0.03 each of the Company, which may be issued on the basis of the Plan (as defined below) under the Company's conditional share capital (such shares, the **Shares** and each a **Share**).

As such counsel, we have been requested to render an opinion as to certain matters of Swiss law.

1. Scope and Limitation of Opinion

Our opinion is strictly confined to matters of Swiss law as in force at the date hereof and as it is presently applied by the Swiss courts. Such law and its

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interpretation are subject to change. In the absence of explicit statutory law or established case law, we base our opinion solely on our independent professional judgment. Our opinion is strictly limited to the Documents (as defined below) and the matters stated herein and is not to be read as extending, by implication or otherwise, to any agreement or document referred to in any of the Documents or any other matter. For purposes of this opinion, we have not conducted any due diligence or similar investigation or verification as to any matters stated herein. In this opinion, Swiss legal concepts are expressed in English terms and not in their original language. These concepts may not be identical to the concepts described by the same English language terms as they exist under the laws of other jurisdictions.

2. Documents

For purposes of rendering the opinion expressed herein, we have received the following documents (the **Documents**):

- (a) a .pdf copy of the Registration Statement;
- (b) a .pdf copy of a certain CRISPR Therapeutics AG 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (the **Plan**);
- (c) a .pdf copy of the public deed on the resolutions of the Company's ordinary shareholders' meeting dated 8 June 2023, approving, *inter alia*, certain changes to the Company's articles of association (the **AGM Resolution**);
- (d) a certified copy of the articles of association of the Company in their version of 25 July 2023 (the **Articles**);
- (e) a certified excerpt from the Commercial Register of the Canton of Zug dated 25 July 2023 relating the Company and its Articles (the **Excerpt**);
- (f) a .pdf copy of the resolution of the board of directors of the Company (the **Board**) dated 5 March 2019, approving, *inter alia*, the changes to the Plan (the **First Amendment Board Resolution**);
- (g) a .pdf copy of the resolution of the Board dated 10 March 2020, approving, *inter alia*, further changes to the Plan (the **Second Amendment Board Resolution**);
- (h) a .pdf copy of the resolution of the Board dated 10 March 2022, approving, *inter alia*, further changes to the Plan (the **Third Amendment Board Resolution**); and
- (i) a .pdf copy of the resolution of the Board dated 9 March 2023, approving, *inter alia*, further changes to the Plan (the **Fourth Amendment Board Resolution** and together with the First Amendment Board Resolution, the Second Amendment Board Resolution and the Third Amendment Board Resolution, the **Board Resolutions**).

No documents have been reviewed by us in connection with this opinion other than the Documents listed in this Section 2 (*Documents*).

All terms used in this opinion in uppercase form shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Registration Statement, unless otherwise defined herein.

3. Assumptions

In rendering the opinion below, we have assumed:

- (a) the conformity to the Documents of all documents produced to us as copies, fax copies or via e-mail, and that the original was executed in the manner appearing on the copy of the draft;
- (b) the genuineness and authenticity of the signatures on all copies of the original Documents thereof which we have examined, and the accuracy of all factual information contained in, or statements given in connection with, the Documents;
- (c) the AGM Resolution has been duly resolved in a meeting duly convened and has not been rescinded or amended and is and will remain in full force and effect;
- (d) the Board Resolutions have been duly resolved in a meeting duly convened, or, respectively, in duly executed circular resolutions and have not been rescinded or amended and are and will remain in full force and effect;
- (e) the Articles and the Excerpt are unchanged and correct as of the date hereof and no changes have been made which should have been or should be reflected in the Articles and the Excerpt as of the date hereof;
- (f) the legal capacity, power and authority of each of the parties (other than the Company) to enter into and perform its obligations under the Plan as well as the due authorization, execution and delivery of the Plan or any document thereunder by each of the parties thereto (including the Company) and that all consents or approvals from and filings, registrations and notifications with or to all governmental authorities (other than in Switzerland) required in connection with the execution, delivery and performance of the Plan have been obtained or made and are in full force and effect;
- (g) the Plan is in full force and effect, has not been rescinded, either in whole or in part, and that there is no matter affecting the authority of the Board to approve the adoption or assumption of the Plan and filing of the registration statement which would have any adverse implication in relation to the opinions expressed herein;
- (h) the Plan constitutes legal, valid, binding and enforceable obligations of the Company under the governing law;
- (i) all authorizations, approvals, consents, licenses, exemptions and other requirements, other than those required under the laws of Switzerland, for the legality, validity and enforceability of the Plan have been duly obtained and are and will remain in full force and effect;
- (j) the exercise of the options under the Plan will be in accordance with the Plan;
- (k) the exercise price of any option granted is at least the current par value of CHF 0.03 per Share and is paid by the option holder to the Company;
- (l) at the time of any issuance of Shares under the Plan, the Company will have according to article 3c of the Articles sufficient conditional share capital to issue the required

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number of new Shares to be delivered to option holders exercising options granted under the Plan; and

- (m) the (i) requisite reports of the Company's auditors according to article 653f of the Swiss Code of Obligations (the **CO**); (ii) the amendments to the Articles according to article 653g CO; and (iii) the entry of the corresponding share capital increase into the Commercial Register of the Canton of Zug will be given or made.

4. Opinion

Based upon the foregoing and subject to the qualifications set out below, we are of the following opinion:

The Shares, if and when issued and paid for in accordance with the Articles and, provided the issue price for such Shares has been fully paid-in, will be validly issued, fully paid-in and non-assessable.

5. The above opinions are subject to the following qualifications:

- (a) The lawyers of our firm are members of the Swiss bar and do not hold themselves to be experts in any laws other than the laws of Switzerland. Accordingly, we are opining herein as to Swiss law only and we express no opinion with respect to the applicability thereto, or the effect thereon, of the laws of any other jurisdiction.
- (b) This opinion is based on the current provisions of the laws of Switzerland and the regulations thereunder in effect on the date hereof and only as currently interpreted in Switzerland. Such laws and their interpretation are subject to change.
- (c) We express no opinion as regards the withdrawal of the shareholders' preferential subscription rights (*Vorwegzeichnungsrechte*) in connection with any issuance of Shares.
- (d) When used in this opinion, the term "non-assessable" means that no further contributions have to be made to the Company by the relevant holder of the Shares.
- (e) We express no opinion as to the future availability of conditional share capital of the Company.
- (f) We express no opinion as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in the Registration Statement.
- (g) It should be noted that pursuant to article 706 and 706a of the CO, the shareholders are entitled to challenge resolutions adopted by the shareholders' meeting (*Generalversammlungsbeschlüsse*) that violate the law or a company's articles of association by initiating legal proceedings against a company within two months following such meeting. Such period has not lapsed with respect to the AGM Resolution.
- (h) We express no opinion as to any commercial, calculating, auditing or other non-legal matters. Further, we express no opinion as to tax law.

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6. Miscellaneous

- (a) We do not assume any obligation to advise you of any changes in applicable law or any other matter that may come to our attention after the date hereof that may affect our opinion expressed herein.
- (b) We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion on the date hereof with the Commission as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the incorporation by reference of this opinion in the Registration Statement. In giving this consent, we do not admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act.
- (c) This opinion and all matters relating to this opinion are governed by and shall be construed in accordance with the substantive laws of Switzerland, the ordinary Courts of Zurich having exclusive jurisdiction.

Yours faithfully,
Walder Wyss AG

/s/ Alex Nikitine

Alex Nikitine

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Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-8) pertaining to the 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan of CRISPR Therapeutics AG of our reports dated February 21, 2023, with respect to the consolidated financial statements of CRISPR Therapeutics AG and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of CRISPR Therapeutics AG included in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2022, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Boston, Massachusetts
August 7, 2023

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

CRISPR Therapeutics AG (Exact name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Table 1: Newly Registered (Form S-8)

Security Type	Security Class Title	Fee Calculation	Amount Registered (1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Fee Rate	Amount of Registration Fee
Equity	Common Shares, CHF 0.03 per share	457(c) & 457(h)	1,700,000	(2) \$ 52.025	(3) \$ 88,442,500	(3) 0.0001102	\$ 9,746.36
Total Offering Amounts					\$ 88,442,500	0.0001102	\$ 9,746.36
Total Fee Offsets							\$ —
Net Fee Due							\$ 9,746.36

(1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), this Registration Statement shall also cover any additional common shares which become issuable under the above-named plan by reason of any stock dividend, stock split, recapitalization or any other similar transaction effected without the receipt of consideration which results in an increase in the number of our outstanding shares of common stock. Pursuant to Rule 416(c) under the Securities Act, this Registration Statement shall also cover an indeterminate amount of interests to be offered or sold pursuant to the employee benefit plan described herein.

(2) Represents an increase to the number of shares available for future issuance under the CRISPR Therapeutics AG 2018 Stock Option and Incentive Plan, as amended by the Amendment No. 1, Amendment No. 2 and Amendment No. 3 thereto, and as further amended by the Amendment No. 4 thereto (such plan and Amendment No. 1, Amendment No. 2 and Amendment No. 3, the “2018 Plan” and such Amendment No. 4, the “Plan Amendment”). Shares available for issuance under the 2018 Plan were previously registered on a registration statement on Form S-8 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) on June 1, 2018, on a registration statement on Form S-8 filed with the Commission on July 29, 2019, on a registration statement on Form S-8 filed with the Commission on July 27, 2020 and on a registration statement on Form S-8 filed with the Commission on August 8, 2022.

(3) Estimated pursuant to Rule 457(c) and Rule 457(h) solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee. The proposed maximum offering price per share and proposed maximum aggregate offering price are based on the average of the high and low sale prices of the Registrant’s common stock as reported on The Nasdaq Global Market on August 3, 2023.

