

**Category:** Notifications issued to company members **Sub-category:** Invitation to the General Meeting

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#### **Publishing entity**

RELIEF THERAPEUTICS Holding SA, avenue de Sécheron 15, 1202 Genève

# **Invitation to the extraordinary general meeting RELIEF THERAPEUTICS Holding SA**

#### **Organisation concerned:**

RELIEF THERAPEUTICS Holding SA CHE-113.516.874 avenue de Sécheron 15 1202 Genève

#### General meeting details:

26.04.2024, 15:00 Uhr, Campus Biotech, chemin des Mines 9, 1202 Genève

#### Invitation/Agenda:

- 1. Election of new members of the Board of Directors
- 2. Capital Reduction by Reduction of Nominal Value
- 3. Reinstatement and Extension of the Capital Band
- 4. Increase of the Conditional Share Capital
- 5. Votes on the compensation of the members of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee
- 6. Discharge of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee
- 7. Amendments to the Articles of Association related to the New Corporate Law

To the Shareholders of RELIEF THERAPEUTICS Holding SA:

# Invitation to the Extraordinary Shareholders' Meeting of RELIEF THERAPEUTICS Holding SA

Friday, 26 April 2024, 03:00 p.m. CEST

at Campus Biotech, chemin des Mines 9, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

The Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of RELIEF THERAPEUTICS Holding SA (the "Company") will be held in accordance with articles 9 and subsequent articles of the Articles of Association on **Friday**, **26 April 2024**, **03:00 p.m. CEST** at Campus Biotech, chemin des Mines 9, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the election of three nominees to the Board of Directors (the "Board"). Additionally, the meeting aims to pass certain motions that were previously rejected at the Annual General Meeting held on 20 June 2023. Following constructive dialogue with the Company's largest shareholder, the Board is optimistic about securing increased support for the endorsement of these motions. Furthermore, the Board proposes reducing the nominal value of the Company's share capital to regain financing flexibility. It also seeks to increase the Company's capital band and conditional capital to enhance the Company's capacity for future financial operations and business opportunities.

#### Agenda Items and Proposals of the Board of Directors

#### 1. Election of new members of the Board of Directors

Shareholders will vote on the election of Mr. Peter de Svastich, Mr. Gregory Van Beek, and Mr. Thomas Elzinga as new members of the Board, for a term of office extending until completion of the next Annual General Meeting expected in June 2024. The three nominees are being proposed by Global Emerging Markets (GEM), the Company's largest shareholder with approximately 23% of the Company's outstanding share capital. The elections will be held individually.

Ms. Patrice Jean and Mr. Thomas Plitz, current Board members, announced their intent to conclude their service upon the election of the Board nominees. Mr. Selvaraju, Chairman of the Board, and Ms. Lock, member of the Board and interim CEO of the Company, will continue their service.

#### 1.1 Election of Mr. Peter de Svastich

Mr. de Svastich is a Managing Director at GEM. He has served on the Company's Board from May 2016 to December 2020. Mr. de Svastich has deep expertise in the areas of commercial banking, investment banking and alternative investments. For four decades he built banking and financial businesses in the U.S., Brazil, Chile, Spain, and France. He also founded WestHem International Group, a privately held investment management and financial services company. He has formed joint ventures in banking

and alternative investments with N.M. Rothschild & Sons (Spain), Banco Internacional y de Comercio Exterior (Chile), Banque Française de Commerce Extérieur (France), and Banque Nationale de Paris (Brazil).

Mr. de Svastich obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Art and Archeology from Princeton University, an LLB/JD from The Yale Law School, and was the recipient of a Latin American Teaching Fellowship - Fellow in International Law - from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

#### 1.2 Election of Mr. Gregory Van Beek

Mr. Van Beek is a Managing Director at GEM, focusing on special situation investments in both public capital markets and private opportunities. He has 25 years of experience in private equity, portfolio management, investment research and strategy. Previously, Mr. Van Beek was Senior Vice President at Franklin Templeton Investments. Prior to that, he was Director, Strategy at Temasek International Ltd., the Singaporean sovereign investor. He was also Director and Investment Officer for the firm with transactional responsibilities in various sectors and markets, both emerging and developed.

Mr. Van Beek holds degrees in Russian and Business from Southern Methodist University, and an MBA from the American Graduate School of International Management.

#### 1.3 Election of Mr. Thomas Elzinga

Mr. Elzinga is an Investment Associate at GEM. He is responsible for evaluating both public and private investment opportunities, as well as managing portfolio businesses. Prior to GEM, Mr. Elzinga was a Senior Associate for the Boston Consulting Group (BCG). He began his career as a consultant for Ernst & Young.

Mr. Elzinga holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the Olin Business School at Washington University in Saint Louis.

#### 2. Capital Reduction by Reduction of Nominal Value

The Board proposes:

- i. to reduce the ordinary share capital of the Company from CHF 56'163'348.00 to CHF 1'404'083.70 by reducing the nominal value of each share from CHF 4.00 to CHF 0.10;
- ii. to allocate the reduction proceeds of CHF 54'759'264.30 to the accumulated losses; and, therefore,
- iii. to amend the relevant articles of association consequently as follows:

Old version	New version
Article 3 Share Capital	Article 3 Share Capital
The share capital of the Company amounts to CHF 56'163'348, divided into 14'040'837 registered shares with a par value of CHF 4.00	CHF 1'404'083.70, divided into 14'040'837 registered shares with a par value of CHF 0.10
each. The shares are fully paid up.	each. The shares are fully paid up.

#### Article 3ater Capital Band

1 The Board of Directors shall be authorized, at any time until 30 May 2024, to increase the share capital at any time and as often as desired within the lower limit of CHF 56'163'348.00 and the upper limit of CHF 66'163'348.00 by issuance of up to 2'500'000 fully paid in registered shares with a nominal value of CHF 4.00 each (capital band).

[...]

#### **Article 3ater Capital Band**

[voided]

#### Article 3bbis Conditional share capital

- 1 The share capital of the Company may be increased by the issuance of up to 264'424 registered shares to be fully paid up, each with a par value of CHF 4.00 to the nominal value of CHF 1'057'696.00 through the exercise of options granted to employees, members of the Board of Directors and consultants of the Company or its subsidiaries. [rest of article 3bbis para. 1 remains unchanged]
- 2 The Company's share capital may be increased by the issuance of up to 3'907'500 registered shares to be fully paid up, each with a par value of CHF 4.00 to a nominal value of CHF 15'630'000.00 by the exercising of conversion or option rights granted to entitled parties in connection with bonds and similar financial instruments or loans of the Company or its subsidiaries that allow for conversion into shares of the Company, or option rights granted to existing and/or new shareholders in connection with capital increases. [rest of article 3bbis para. 2 remains unchanged]

#### Article 3bbis Conditional share capital

- 1 The share capital of the Company may be increased by the issuance of up to 264'424 registered shares to be fully paid up, each with a par value of **CHF 0.10** to the nominal value of **CHF 26'442.40** through the exercise of options granted to employees, members of the Board of Directors and consultants of the Company or its subsidiaries. [rest of article 3bbis para. 1 remains unchanged]
- 2 The Company's share capital may be increased by the issuance of up to 3'907'500 registered shares to be fully paid up, each with a par value of **CHF 0.10** to a nominal value of **CHF 390'750.00** by the exercising of conversion or option rights granted to entitled parties in connection with bonds and similar financial instruments or loans of the Company or its subsidiaries that allow for conversion into shares of the Company, or option rights granted to existing and/or new shareholders in connection with capital increases. [rest of article 3b<sup>bis</sup> para. 2 remains unchanged]

An audit certificate pursuant to article 653p para. 1 of the Swiss Code of Obligations ("CO") will be issued for the meeting by the Company's statutory auditor MAZARS SA.

**Explanation:** This technical adjustment comes as the share currently quotes at a price below its par value. This situation presents practical implications, most notably limiting the Company's ability to raise financing effectively. The number of outstanding shares, as well as shareholders' financial and patrimonial rights, will not be affected by the reduction in par value. There will be no repayment of the reduction amount to the shareholders. The Swiss security number (125112599) and the ISIN (CH1251125998) of the Company's shares (SIX:RLF) will remain unchanged.

In accordance with article 653v para. 1 CO, the modification of the share capital shall render the capital band provisions under article 3a<sup>ter</sup> of the Articles of Association void. The Board proposes under the following agenda item to reinstate a capital band should the reduction of nominal value be approved.

#### 3. Reinstatement and Extension of the Capital Band

Subject to and contingent upon the approval of the second agenda item regarding the reduction of the nominal value of the share capital, the Board proposes to reinstate and increase the Company's capital band, and extend its duration until 25 April 2029, reinstating and amending article 3a<sup>ter</sup> para. 1, 2 and 3 of the Articles of Association, as well as to introduce article 3a<sup>ter</sup> para. 4 as follows:

Old version	New version
After adjusting for the reduction in nominal value	
Article 3a <sup>ter</sup> Capital Band	Article 3a <sup>ter</sup> Capital Band
1 [voided]	1 The Board of Directors shall be authorized, at any time until 25 April 2029, to increase the share capital at any time and as often as desired within the lower limit of CHF 1'404'083.70 and the upper limit of CHF 2'104'083.70 by issuance of up to 7'000'000 fully paid in registered shares with a nominal value of CHF 0.10 each (capital band). A capital reduction shall be excluded. An increase in partial amounts is permitted. Furthermore, within the limits of Article 659 and ss. of the Swiss Code of Obligations, an increase by original subscription of shares by the Company for the purpose of subsequent offers to shareholders or third parties or distribution among them is permitted. The Board of Directors will determine the appropriate issue price, the date of dividend entitlement and the way of contribution. The Board of Directors may issue new shares by means of underwriting or in any other manner by one or more banks and subsequent offer to shareholders or third parties. The Board of Directors is authorized to permit, to restrict or to deny the trade of subscription rights. The Board of Directors may forfeit unexercised subscription rights, or it can distribute these or the shares for which subscription rights have been granted but not exercised at market conditions or otherwise use them in the interest of the Company.
2 [voided]	2 The Board of Directors is entitled to restrict or exclude the subscription rights of shareholders and to allocate them to third parties, or to the

	Company, in the event of the use of shares: (1) for
	the acquisition of companies, parts of companies
	or participations, for the acquisition of products,
	intellectual property or licenses, or for investment
	projects or for the financing or refinancing of such
	transactions through a placement of shares; or (2)
	for the purpose of broadening the shareholder
	constituency or in connection with a listing of
	shares on domestic or foreign stock exchanges; or
	(3) for the participation of employees, members of
	the Board of Directors and consultants of the
	Company or its subsidiaries in accordance with
	one or more regulations adopted by the Board of
	Directors; or (4) in connection with an offering of
	securities in order to cover the green shoe option
	(surplus allocation option) granted to one or more
	banks; or (5) for investment projects and/or
	financial instruments which are used in national or
	international capital markets, or (6) for raising
	capital in a fast and flexible manner, which would
	hardly be achievable without the exclusion of the
	statutory subscription rights of the existing
	shareholders.
3 [voided]	3 If the Company assumes commitments to serve
	convertible bonds, loans or similar financial
	instruments in the context of acquisitions of
	businesses, business divisions or participations, or
	of investment projects, the Board of Directors is
	entitled to issue new shares under exclusion of the
	subscription rights of shareholders in order to fulfil
	the corresponding delivery obligations.
	the corresponding delivery obligations.
	4 If the share capital increases as a result of an
	4 If the share capital increases as a result of an
	4 If the share capital increases as a result of an increase from conditional capital pursuant to
	4 If the share capital increases as a result of an increase from conditional capital pursuant to article 3bbis para. 1 or 2 of these Articles of
	4 If the share capital increases as a result of an increase from conditional capital pursuant to article 3bbis para. 1 or 2 of these Articles of Association, the upper and lower limits of the
	4 If the share capital increases as a result of an increase from conditional capital pursuant to article 3bbis para. 1 or 2 of these Articles of Association, the upper and lower limits of the capital band shall increase in an amount

**Explanation:** The Board proposes to maintain a capital band authorizing capital increases of around but not more than 50% of the ordinary share capital. The reinstatement and extension of the capital band allows the Board to maintain full flexibility in connection with possible future financing and business opportunities.

#### 4. Increase of the Conditional Share Capital

Subject to and contingent upon the approval of the second agenda item regarding the reduction of the nominal value of the share capital, the Board proposes to increase the existing conditional share capital as per article 3b<sup>bis</sup> of the Articles of Association as follows:

Old version	New version
After adjusting for the reduction in nominal value	
Article 3bbis Conditional share capital	Article 3bbis Conditional share capital
1 The share capital of the Company may be increased by the issuance of up to 264'424 registered shares to be fully paid up, each with a par value of CHF 0.10 to the nominal value of CHF 26'442.40 through the exercise of options granted to employees, members of the Board of Directors and consultants of the Company or its subsidiaries. [rest of article 3bbis para. 1 remains unchanged]	1 The share capital of the Company may be increased by the issuance of up to 1'000'000 registered shares to be fully paid up, each with a par value of CHF 0.10 to the nominal value of CHF 100'000.00 through the exercise of options granted to employees, members of the Board of Directors and consultants of the Company or its subsidiaries. [rest of article 3bbis para. 1 remains unchanged]
2 The Company's share capital may be increased by the issuance of up to 3'907'500 registered shares to be fully paid up, each with a par value of CHF 0.10 to a nominal value of CHF 390'750.00 by the exercising of conversion or option rights granted to entitled parties in connection with bonds and similar financial instruments or loans of the Company or its subsidiaries that allow for conversion into shares of the Company, or option rights granted to existing and/or new shareholders in connection with capital increases. [rest of article 3bbis para. 2 remains unchanged]	2 The Company's share capital may be increased by the issuance of up to 6'000'000 registered shares to be fully paid up, each with a par value of CHF 0.10 to a nominal value of CHF 600'000.00 by the exercising of conversion or option rights granted to entitled parties in connection with bonds and similar financial instruments or loans of the Company or its subsidiaries that allow for conversion into shares of the Company, or option rights granted to existing and/or new shareholders in connection with capital increases. [rest of article 3b <sup>bis</sup> para. 2 remains unchanged]

**Explanation:** The Board proposes to maintain a total conditional share capital of around but not more than 50% of the ordinary share capital.

The proposed increase of conditional share capital to 1'000'000 shares will enable the Company to continue to attract and retain key employees, directors, and other personnel, and to align their interests with those of the Company's shareholders.

The increase in conditional share capital as per article 3b<sup>bis</sup> para. 2 to 6'000'000 shares is intended for the future financing of the Company through financial instruments carrying derivative features as may be required in connection with future projects and strategic business opportunities.

As of the date of this invitation, the Company had 101'324 options issued under its conditional share capital as per article 3b<sup>bis</sup> para. 1 and 1'500'000 options issued under its conditional share capital as per article 3b<sup>bis</sup> para. 2. Additionally, the Company is committed to issuing 320'000 options under

article 3b<sup>bis</sup> para. 1 in relation to certain employment contracts and 3'350'000 options under article 3b<sup>bis</sup> para. 2 in relation to the share subscription facility arrangement with GEM (c.f. ad hoc announcement dated 28 February 2024 available on www. relieftherapeutics.com/news-and-events). This issuance is contingent upon the availability of conditional share capital and the approval of the reduction in the nominal value of the Company's share capital. All the aforementioned options grant, or will grant, the right for holders to acquire an equivalent number of ordinary shares at a predetermined price, subject to the applicable vesting period, if any.

### 5. Votes on the compensation of the members of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee

The Board proposes a separate vote on the compensation of the Board and of the Executive Committee.

# 5.1 Binding vote on the total compensation of the members of the Board of Directors for the period from the Annual General Meeting 2023 until the Annual General Meeting 2024

The Board recommends that the General Meeting approves a maximum amount of CHF 500'000 (both fixed and variable compensation, including stock options and other benefits, but excluding employer social security contributions) for the members of the Board for the period from the Annual General Meeting 2023 until the Annual General Meeting 2024.

**Explanation:** Pursuant to article 698 para. 3 no. 4 CO, the General Meeting is responsible for approving the maximum compensation of the Board. A description of the Company's compensation principles and actual and approved compensation amounts for the members of the Board can be found in the 2022 compensation report, which can be accessed and downloaded from the Company's website at www.relieftherapeutics.com.

## 5.2 Binding vote on the total remuneration of the members of the Executive Committee for the financial year 2024

The Board recommends that the General Meeting approves a maximum amount of CHF 4'000'000 (both fixed and variable compensation, including stock options and other benefits, but excluding employer social security contributions) for the members of the Executive Committee for the financial year 2024.

**Explanation:** Pursuant to article 698 para. 3 no. 4 CO, the Annual General Meeting is responsible for approving the maximum remuneration of the Executive Committee. A description of the Company's compensation principles and actual and approved amounts of compensation for the members of the Executive Committee can be found in the 2022 compensation report.

#### 6. Discharge of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee

The Board proposes that the General Meeting grants discharge to each and all members of the Board and of the Executive Committee, including former members, for the financial years 2022 and 2023.

#### 6.1 Discharge for the financial year 2022

#### 6.2 Discharge for the financial year 2023

**Explanation:** Pursuant to article 698 para. 2 no. 7 CO, the General Meeting is responsible for the discharge resolution. The discharge for the financial year 2023 will be limited to facts disclosed by the Company or known by the Company's shareholders as of the time of the meeting.

#### 7. Amendments to the Articles of Association related to the New Corporate Law

Following its adoption by the Swiss Parliament, the revised corporate law entered into force on 1 January 2023. The Board proposes the following amendments to article 23 para. 1 and article 25 para. 3 of the Articles of Association for alignment with the new corporate law.

Old version	New version
Auticle 22 Additional Amount	Auticle 22 Additional Amount
Article 23 Additional Amount	Article 23 Additional Amount
1 In case of insufficient compensation, the	1 In case of insufficient compensation, the
Company or the companies controlled by it shall	Company or the companies controlled by it shall
be empowered to pay an additional amount for	be empowered to pay an additional amount for
the duration of the remuneration periods already	the duration of the remuneration periods already
approved to any member who joins the Executive	approved to any member who joins the Executive
Committee or is promoted within the Executive	Committee after remuneration has been
Committee after remuneration has been approved	approved by the general meeting. [rest of
by the general meeting. [rest of article 23 remains	article 23 remains unchanged]
unchanged]	

**Explanation:** The restriction of the payment of the additional amount to new members of the Executive Committee to the exclusion of members promoted within the Executive Committee after the remuneration has been approved reflects the requirements of the new corporate law.

Old version	New version
Article 25 Contracts	Article 25 Contracts
1 – 2 [unchanged]	1 – 2 [unchanged]
3 The Company or companies controlled by it may	3 The Company or companies controlled by it may
enter into non-compete agreements with each	enter into non-compete agreements with each
member of the Executive Committee for the time	member of the Executive Committee for the time
after termination of the employment agreement	after termination of the employment agreement
for a duration of up to one year. The compensation	for a duration of up to one year. The compensation
for such agreements shall not exceed the total	for such agreements shall not exceed the average
annual compensation of such member of the	annual compensation of such member of the
Executive Committee during his last year of	Executive Committee during the last three
employment.	financial years.

**Explanation:** The amendments reflect the text of the new corporate law.

#### **Organizational Notes**

This General Meeting will be held by way of a physical meeting of the shareholders at Campus Biotech, chemin des Mines 9, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

**Entitlement to vote.** Those shareholders who are registered in the share register on 10 April 2024, 05:00 p.m. CEST, are entitled to vote. No registration in the share register will be made from that date through the General Meeting date. Shareholders who sell all or part of their shares prior to the General Meeting will no longer be entitled to vote to that extent.

**Admission Tickets.** Shareholders shall confirm their attendance by returning the enclosed registration form by mail, or by ordering their admission ticket through Investor Portal, no later than 20 April 2024. Admission tickets will be sent by 23 April 2024 to shareholders who registered for the General Meeting.

**Proxy Appointment.** A shareholder may only be represented at the General Meeting of shareholders by his legal representative, who does not have to be a shareholder, or by means of a written or electronic proxy, or another shareholder with voting rights, or the independent proxy (by way of a written or electronic proxy). All shares held by one shareholder must be represented by only one representative. The Company shall only accept one representative per share.

**Independent Proxy.** The shareholders may give voting instructions to the independent proxy, Mr. Thomas Hua, esq., partner at gbf Avocats SA, route de Pré-Bois 20, 1215 Genève Aéroport, Switzerland, and exercise certain other shareholder rights through him. This may be done in writing, by mail or electronically. For the electronic instructions to the independent representative, the necessary information and login details can be found in the enclosure. Instructions transmitted electronically should be executed no later than 24 April 2024, 11.59 p.m. CEST.

Web portal "Investor Portal". The Company offers its shareholders the use of the "Investor Portal" shareholder platform to order their admission ticket, appoint a proxy and give voting instructions. Shareholders registered in the Company's share register receive the login codes with the invitation to the General Meeting. If you have questions, please contact Computershare Switzerland Ltd, operator of the online portal, by email at <a href="mailto:business.support@computershare.ch">business.support@computershare.ch</a> or by phone at +41 62 205 77 50 (8:00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m. CEST).

**Proposals from Shareholders on Agenda Items.** Proposals from shareholders on agenda items are only permissible if they are put to the General Meeting by the shareholders themselves or by an individual proxy acting on their behalf. The independent proxy cannot act as individual proxy in this sense.

Annexes:

Registration form / Proxy with return envelope Instruction form