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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

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**FORM 8-K**

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**CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): April 17, 2017**

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**Mast Therapeutics, Inc.**

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

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**Delaware**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

**001-32157**  
(Commission File Number)

**84-1318182**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**3611 Valley Centre Drive, Suite 500,  
San Diego, CA**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**92130**  
(Zip Code)

**Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: (858) 552-0866**

**Not Applicable**  
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in 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.

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 Instructions A.2. below):

- 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))
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## **Item 8.01 Other Events.**

As previously announced, on January 6, 2017, Mast Therapeutics, Inc. (“Mast” or the “Company”), Victoria Merger Corp., a Delaware corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mast (“Merger Sub”), and Savara Inc., a privately-held Delaware corporation focused on the development and commercialization of novel therapies for the treatment serious or life-threatening rare respiratory diseases (“Savara”), entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger and Reorganization (the “Merger Agreement”), pursuant to which, among other things, subject to approval of the stockholders of Mast and Savara and the satisfaction or waiver of the other conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement, Merger Sub will merge with and into Savara, with Savara becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company (the “Merger”).

Also as previously announced, on April 21, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time, Mast will hold a special meeting of its stockholders to vote upon the Merger and related proposals as set forth in the Company’s proxy statement/prospectus/information statement for the special meeting, dated March 15, 2017, a copy of which has been provided to the Company’s stockholders of record as of March 13, 2017.

On April 17, 2017, the Company issued a press release reminding its stockholders to vote “FOR” the Merger and the related proposals in the Company’s proxy statement/prospectus/information statement referred to above. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated by reference herein.

### ***Additional Information about the Merger and Where to Find It***

In connection with the Merger, the Company has filed relevant materials with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), including a registration statement on Form S-4 that contains a proxy statement, prospectus and information statement. The registration statement was declared effective by the SEC on March 15, 2017. The proxy statement/prospectus/information statement, other relevant materials, and any other documents filed by the Company with the SEC may be obtained free of charge at the SEC web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition, investors and security holders may obtain free copies of the documents filed by the Company with the SEC by directing a written request to: Mast Therapeutics, Inc., 3611 Valley Centre Drive, Suite 500, San Diego, CA 92130, Attention: Investor Relations. Investors and security holders are urged to read the proxy statement/prospectus/information statement and the other relevant materials before making any voting or investment decision with respect to the Merger.

*This communication shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities, nor shall there be any sale of securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction. No offering of securities shall be made except by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.*

### ***Participants in the Solicitation***

The Company and its directors and executive officers and Savara and its directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the stockholders of the Company in connection with the proposed transaction. Information regarding the special interests of these directors and executive officers in the merger is included in the proxy statement/prospectus/information statement referred to above. Additional information regarding the directors and executive officers of the Company is also included in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, which was filed with the SEC on March 6, 2017. These documents are available free of charge at the SEC web site ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)) and from the Company, Attn: Investor Relations, at the address described above.

## **Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

Reference is made to the Exhibit Index included with this Current Report on Form 8-K.

## 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.

Mast Therapeutics, Inc.

Date: April 17, 2017

By: /s/ Brandi L. Roberts

Brandi L. Roberts

Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President

## Exhibit Index

**Exhibit  
Number**

**Description**

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99.1 Press release, dated April 17, 2017





**MAST REMINDS STOCKHOLDERS TO VOTE FOR  
THE PROPOSED MERGER WITH SAVARA**

- **Of the Votes Received to Date, More than 90% Are Voting in Favor of the Merger**
- **More Votes Are Needed to Reach 50% of the Outstanding Shares Required for Merger to Go Forward**
- **Every Vote Is Important to Avoid Delay in Completion of the Merger**

**SAN DIEGO – April 17, 2017** – Mast Therapeutics, Inc. (NYSE MKT: MSTX) would like to thank its stockholders for their support of the proposed merger with Savara Inc. (“Savara”) and remind those stockholders that have not yet voted to vote without delay **“FOR”** the merger and the other proposals in the Company’s proxy statement/prospectus/ information statement for the special meeting of its stockholders to be held on April 21, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

“The overwhelming majority of Mast stockholders who have submitted their votes have voted in favor of the merger. However, more votes are needed to meet the required threshold for the merger to be completed,” stated Brian M. Culley, Chief Executive Officer of Mast.

“Mast has more than 30,000 stockholders and many of them hold relatively small positions. For the merger to go forward, it is necessary also for stockholders with smaller positions to submit their votes in favor of the proposals. Larger stockholders cannot carry this forward alone,” continued Mr. Culley. “I encourage everyone who owned Mast shares on March 13th, the record date for this meeting, to exercise their right to vote and help make this merger with Savara come to fruition, as has been unanimously recommended by independent proxy advisors, ISS and Glass Lewis, and the boards of directors of both companies.”

Mast stockholders should note that the merger proposal (Proposal 1), the reverse stock split proposal (Proposal 2) and the name change proposal (Proposal 3) must all be approved for the merger to be completed. **If any of those proposals is not approved, the merger will not go forward. Failure to vote or an abstention from voting will have the same effect as a vote “AGAINST” the merger and related proposals.** All stockholders are asked to vote “FOR” all proposals now. If you previously voted against any of these proposals and would now like to change your vote, you can do so by contacting Mast’s proxy solicitor.

***THE MERGER WILL NOT GO FORWARD UNLESS  
THE MERGER, REVERSE STOCK SPLIT AND NAME CHANGE PROPOSALS  
ARE ALL APPROVED.***

**MAST STOCKHOLDERS – PLEASE VOTE TODAY!**

**How to Vote**

Mast stockholders as of the close of business on March 13, 2017 are entitled to vote at the special meeting and have received copies of the Company’s proxy statement/prospectus/ information statement dated March 15, 2017.

If you are a Mast stockholder and you have questions or require assistance in submitting your proxy or voting your shares, please contact Mast’s proxy solicitor:

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**ADVANTAGE PROXY, INC.**  
**Toll Free: 1-877-870-8565**  
**Collect: 1-206-870-8565**  
**Email: [ksmith@advantageproxy.com](mailto:ksmith@advantageproxy.com)**

In addition, Mast's proxy solicitor may contact stockholders on behalf of the Company. If you are a Mast stockholder and you have not yet voted, please anticipate and answer these incoming calls and messages.

#### **About Mast Therapeutics**

Mast Therapeutics, Inc. is a publicly traded biopharmaceutical company headquartered in San Diego, California. Mast's lead product candidate, AIR001, is a sodium nitrite solution for intermittent inhalation via nebulization in Phase 2 clinical development for the treatment of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF). More information can be found on Mast's web site at [www.masttherapeutics.com](http://www.masttherapeutics.com). Mast Therapeutics™ and the corporate logo are trademarks of Mast Therapeutics, Inc.

#### **About Savara**

Savara Inc. is a clinical-stage specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of novel therapies for the treatment of serious or life-threatening rare respiratory diseases. Savara's pipeline comprises AeroVanc, a Phase 3 ready inhaled vancomycin, and Molgradex, a Phase 2/3 stage inhaled granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor, or GM-CSF. Savara's strategy involves expanding its pipeline of best-in-class products through indication expansion, strategic development partnerships and product acquisitions, with the goal of becoming a leading company in its field. Savara's management team has significant experience in orphan drug development and pulmonary medicine, in identifying unmet needs, creating and acquiring new product candidates, and effectively advancing them to approvals and commercialization. More information can be found at [www.savarapharma.com](http://www.savarapharma.com).

#### **Additional Information about the Proposed Merger and Where to Find It**

In connection with the proposed merger, Mast Therapeutics has filed relevant materials with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, including a registration statement on Form S-4 that contains a proxy statement, prospectus and information statement. The registration statement was declared effective by the SEC on March 15, 2017. The proxy statement/prospectus/information statement and other relevant materials, and any other documents filed by Mast with the SEC, may be obtained free of charge at the SEC web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition, investors and security holders may obtain free copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Mast by directing a written request to: Mast Therapeutics, Inc. 3611 Valley Centre Drive, Suite 500, San Diego, California 92130, Attn: Investor Relations. Investors and security holders of Mast and Savara urged to read the proxy statement/prospectus/information statement and other relevant materials before making any voting or investment decision with respect to the proposed merger.

This communication shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities, nor shall there be any sale of securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction. No offering of securities in connection with the proposed merger shall be made except by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

#### **Participants in the Solicitation**

Mast and its directors and executive officers and Savara and its directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the stockholders of Mast and Savara in connection with the proposed transaction. Information regarding the special interests of these directors and executive officers in the proposed merger is included in the proxy statement/prospectus/information statement referred to above. Additional information regarding the directors and executive officers of Mast is also included in Mast's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, which was filed with the SEC on March 6, 2017. These documents are available free of charge at the SEC web site ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)) and from Investor Relations at Mast at the address described above.

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## **Forward Looking Statements**

Mast and Savara caution you that statements in this press release that are not a description of historical fact are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements may be identified by the use of words referencing future events or circumstances such as "expect," "intend," "plan," "anticipate," "believe," and "will," among others. Such statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding the structure, timing and completion of the proposed merger; expectations regarding listing and trading of Mast's common stock on the NYSE MKT and of the combined organization's common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market; the capitalization, resources, ownership structure of the combined organization; the nature, strategy and focus of the combined organization; the safety, efficacy and projected development timeline and commercial potential of any product candidates; the executive officer and board structure of the combined organization; and the expectations regarding voting by Mast stockholders. Mast and/or Savara may not actually achieve the proposed merger, or any plans or product development goals in a timely manner, if at all, or otherwise carry out the intentions or meet the expectations or projections disclosed in the forward-looking statements, and you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Because such statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based upon Mast's and Savara's current expectations and involve assumptions that may never materialize or may prove to be incorrect. Actual results and the timing of events could differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements as a result of various risks and uncertainties, which include, without limitation, risks and uncertainties associated with stockholder approval of and the ability to consummate the proposed merger through the process being conducted by Mast and Savara, the ability to project future cash utilization and reserves needed for contingent future liabilities and business operations, the availability of sufficient resources for combined company operations and to conduct or continue planned clinical development programs, the timing and ability of Mast or Savara to raise additional equity capital to fund continued operations; the ability to successfully develop any of Mast's and/or Savara's product candidates, and the risks associated with the process of developing, obtaining regulatory approval for and commercializing drug candidates that are safe and effective for use as human therapeutics. Risks and uncertainties facing Mast, Savara and the combined organization and risks related to the proposed merger are described more fully in the proxy statement/prospectus/information statement referred to above. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date on which they were made. Neither Mast nor Savara undertakes any obligation to update such statements to reflect events that occur or circumstances that exist after the date on which they were made, except as may be required by law.

Contact:

Ioana C. Hone ([ir@mastthera.com](mailto:ir@mastthera.com))

858-552-0866 Ext. 303

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