

**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): February 17, 2022

89bio, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-39122
(Commission
File Number)

36-4946844
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**142 Sansome Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104**
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(415) 500-4614
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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:

- 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))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share	ETNB	The Nasdaq Global Market

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.

Director Appointment

On February 17, 2022, the board of directors (the “Board”) of 89bio, Inc. (the “Company”) appointed Edward Morrow Atkinson III as a member of the Board, effective November 1, 2021. Dr. Atkinson will serve as a Class I Director until the Company’s 2023 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until his successor is duly elected and qualified, effective immediately.

Dr. Atkinson, age 56, has over 20 years of experience in biopharmaceutical development, launch, manufacturing and supply chain. Dr. Atkinson has served as Senior Vice President, Head of Commercial Manufacturing and Supply Chain for Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company, since July 2020. From 2012 to June 2020, Dr. Atkinson served in various roles at Bristol Myers Squibb, a biopharmaceutical company, including as Senior Vice President of Global Manufacturing Operations from September 2019 to June 2020, Vice President and Integration Leader of Manufacturing and Cell Therapy from January 2019 to September 2019, Vice President of Internal Manufacturing, Biologics from June 2017 to January 2019 and Vice President of Biologics Development and Clinical Manufacturing from 2012 to June 2017. Prior to that, Dr. Atkinson served in roles at Cook Pharmica, LLC (now Catalent), Eli Lilly & Co., Targeted Genetics Corporation and Geron Corporation. Dr. Atkinson earned his B.S. in Biology from Indiana University-Bloomington and Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Stanford University.

In accordance with the Company’s non-employee director compensation policy, which is described in the Company’s Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 15, 2021, Dr. Atkinson will receive an annual cash retainer of \$40,000 for his service as a member of the Board. In addition, Dr. Atkinson was granted an option to purchase 30,000 shares of the Company’s common stock at an exercise price equal to the closing price of the Company’s common stock on The Nasdaq Global Market on the date of grant. The equity award was made under the Company’s Amended and Restated 2019 Equity Incentive Plan. The shares underlying the option will vest and become exercisable on the first, second and third anniversary of February 17, 2022, subject to Dr. Atkinson’s continued service to the Company. Dr. Atkinson has entered into the Company’s standard form of indemnification agreement, which was previously filed by the Company as Exhibit 10.1 to the Company’s Form S-1 filed on October 11, 2019.

There are no arrangements or understandings between Dr. Atkinson and any other persons pursuant to which he was elected as a director of the Company. There are no family relationships between Dr. Atkinson and any director or executive officer of the Company, and he has no direct or indirect material interest in any transaction required to be disclosed pursuant to Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K.

On February 24, 2022, the Company issued a press release announcing Dr. Atkinson’s appointment. A copy of the press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) *Exhibits.* The following exhibit is being furnished herewith:

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release, dated February 24, 2022
104	Cover page interactive data file (embedded within the inline XBRL document)

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.

89bio, Inc.

Date: February 24, 2022

By: /s/ Rohan Palekar
Rohan Palekar
Chief Executive Officer



89bio Announces Appointment of E. Morrey Atkinson, Ph.D., to its Board of Directors

SAN FRANCISCO, February 24, 2022 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) — 89bio, Inc. (Nasdaq: ETNB), a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of innovative therapies for the treatment of liver and cardio-metabolic diseases, today announced the appointment of E. Morrey Atkinson, Ph.D., to its Board of Directors. Dr. Atkinson currently serves as Senior Vice President, Head of Commercial Manufacturing and Supply Chain of Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

“As a seasoned biopharmaceutical industry veteran with deep-rooted expertise, Morrey is a welcome addition to our Board of Directors,” said Rohan Palekar, Chief Executive Officer of 89bio. “Morrey brings extensive knowledge of biologic development, manufacturing, and scale-up, including direct experience with FGF-based therapies. Additionally, he has a strong track record for optimizing manufacturing and supply chain capabilities, as well as advancing and commercializing high-quality, differentiated drug candidates for patients. His strategic insights and broad operational experience will be invaluable as we execute on our ongoing clinical development program for pegozafermin.”

Dr. Atkinson added, “I am delighted to join the Board of Directors of 89bio, especially in light of the company’s recent positive data from the Phase 1b/2a study of pegozafermin. I am incredibly excited about pegozafermin’s compelling differentiated profile in NASH and SHTG, and I look forward to working towards real change for patients alongside 89bio’s exceptional team.”

Dr. Atkinson brings over 20 years of experience in biopharmaceutical development, launch, manufacturing and supply chain. Prior to his role at Vertex, Dr. Atkinson served in a number of roles at Bristol Myers Squibb, including most recently as Senior Vice President of Global Manufacturing Operations, where he helped lead the manufacturing and cell therapy integration team for Bristol Myers Squibb’s \$74 billion merger with Celgene. Prior to Bristol Myers Squibb, he served as Chief Scientific Officer at Cook Pharmica (now Catalent) and Head of Biologics Development & Manufacturing Sciences at Eli Lilly, where he specialized in biologics, manufacturing and development. Throughout his career, he has participated in the development, commercialization and manufacturing of multiple commercial products, including FORTEO®, TRULICITY®, TALTZ®, TRIKAFTA®, OPDIVO®, EMLICITI®, YERVOY®, ELIQUIS® AND ORENICA®. He has also been instrumental in spearheading the building and qualification of R&D and commercial manufacturing facilities across the United States and Europe. Dr. Atkinson holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University in Biological Sciences and a B.S. from Indiana University in Biology.

About 89bio

89bio is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of innovative therapies for the treatment of liver and cardio-metabolic diseases. The company’s lead product candidate, pegozafermin, is a specifically engineered glycoPEGylated analog of FGF21. Pegozafermin is being developed for the treatment of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) and severe hypertriglyceridemia (SHTG). 89bio is headquartered in San Francisco with operations in Herzliya, Israel. For more information, visit www.89bio.com or follow the company on [LinkedIn](#).

Investor Contact:

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