



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

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

February 8, 2012

Via E-mail

Russell H. Ellison  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Ventrus Biosciences, Inc.  
99 Hudson Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10013

**Re: Ventrus Biosciences, Inc.  
Registration Statement on Form S-3  
Filed January 31, 2012  
File No. 333-179259**

Dear Mr. Ellison:

We have limited our review of your registration statement to those issues we have addressed in our comments. Please respond to this letter by amending your registration statement and providing the requested information. Where you do not believe our comments apply to your facts and circumstances or do not believe an amendment is appropriate, please tell us why in your response.

After reviewing any amendment to your registration statement and the information you provide in response to these comments, we may have additional comments.

1. Please file the form of indenture for the debt securities in a pre-effective amendment.
2. Please amend your filing to incorporate by reference the company's Form 8-Ks filed March 18, 2011 and May 3, 2011.

We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes the information the Securities Act of 1933 and all applicable Securities Act rules require. Since the company and its management are in possession of all facts relating to a company's disclosure, they are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosures they have made.

Notwithstanding our comments, in the event you request acceleration of the effective date of the pending registration statement please provide a written statement from the company acknowledging that:

- should the Commission or the staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, declare the filing effective, it does not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filing;

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- the action of the Commission or the staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, in declaring the filing effective, does not relieve the company from its full responsibility for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filing; and
- the company may not assert staff comments and the declaration of effectiveness as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States.

Please refer to Rules 460 and 461 regarding requests for acceleration. We will consider a written request for acceleration of the effective date of the registration statement as confirmation of the fact that those requesting acceleration are aware of their respective responsibilities under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as they relate to the proposed public offering of the securities specified in the above registration statement. Please allow adequate time for us to review any amendment prior to the requested effective date of the registration statement.

Please contact Johnny Gharib at (202) 551-3170 or me at (202) 551-3715 with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffrey Riedler

Jeffrey Riedler  
Assistant Director

cc: Alexander M. Donaldson  
Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP  
4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 300  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607