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): May 31, 2023

APTOSE BIOSCIENCES INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Canada	**001-32001**	**98-1136802**
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

251 Consumers Road, Suite 1105
Toronto, Ontario M2J 4R3
Canada
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

(647) 479-9828
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

(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 Shares, no par value	APTO	Nasdaq Capital 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 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On May 31, 2023, the Registrant issued a press release, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

In accordance with General Instruction B.2 of Form 8-K, the information in the press release attached as Exhibit 99.1 hereto shall not be deemed to be "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), nor shall such information be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

99.1	Press Release dated May 31, 2023
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

SIGNATURE

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.

Aptose Biosciences Inc.

Date: May 31, 2023

By: /s/ William G. Rice, Ph.D.
William G. Rice, Ph.D.
Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer

EXHIBIT 99.1

Aptose to Hold Interim Clinical Update Webcast on Saturday, June 10, 2023

EHA Abstract on Tuspetinib and Venetoclax Recently Published

SAN DIEGO and TORONTO, May 31, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Aptose Biosciences Inc. ("Aptose" or the "Company") (NASDAQ: APTO, TSX: APS), a clinical-stage precision oncology company developing highly differentiated oral targeted agents to treat hematologic malignancies, announced today that the company management team will provide a clinical update on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at 12:00 PM EST / 6:00 PM CEST, in conjunction with EHA 2023 International Congress of the European Hematology Association in Frankfurt, Germany. The webcast event will include an interim review of Aptose's lead compound tuspetinib, a myeloid kinase inhibitor, currently being tested as a monotherapy and in combination with venetoclax in the phase 1/2 APTIVATE trial.

Tuspetinib, administered as a once-daily oral tablet, is a precision targeted kinase inhibitor designed to suppress a select handful of kinases known to drive proliferation of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) while maintaining a favorable safety profile. Aptose management will highlight additional insights from the completed Phase 1/2 dose escalation clinical trial of tuspetinib and review early trends from the ongoing APTIVATE trial.

Aptose Clinical Update Webcast Details

Date & Time: Saturday, June 10, 2023, 12:00 PM ET

Participant Webcast Link: Link

Participant Dial-in:

Toll Free Investors Dial: 1-877-407-9039

Toll/International Investors Dial: 1-201-689-8470

Conference ID: 13739137

The slides will be available on Aptose's website here and the webcast of the presentation will be archived shortly after the conclusion of the event.

In addition, an abstract on tuspetinib was recently published in EHA's open access library here:

Abstract: PB1766

Title: IN VITRO ACQUIRED RESISTANCE TO THE ORAL MYELOID KINASE INHIBITOR TUSPETINIB CREATES SYNTHETIC LETHAL VULNERABILITY TO VENETOCLAX

Session Title: Acute myeloid leukemia - Biology & Translational Research

Tuspetinib (TUS) is a once daily, oral agent that potently inhibits JAK1/2, SYK, RSK1/2, wildtype and mutant forms of FLT3, and mutant forms of KIT kinases, thereby simultaneously suppressing multiple oncogenic signaling pathways that mediate resistance to various drugs. TUS as a single agent has generated complete remissions in relapsed/refractory (R/R) acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients with diverse mutations and demonstrated favorable safety in a Phase 1 trial (NCT03850574). TUS is now in a Phase 1/2 expansion trial (APTIVATE) for R/R AML patients with high unmet need as a monotherapy and as a doublet in combination with venetoclax. The clinical activity against diverse mutational subpopulations led us to investigate alterations in AML cells that may give rise to TUS resistance, and to understand the sensitivity of resistant isolates to venetoclax and other agents used to treat AML.

Resistance to TUS in MOLM-14 cells required prolonged high-level drug exposure, but ultimately yielded a stable phenotype. **Strikingly, acquired TUS resistance generated a synthetic lethal vulnerability in which the cells were unusually hypersensitive to venetoclax. This suggests that concurrent administration of TUS and venetoclax may be advantageous clinically as TUS and venetoclax could act in concert to discourage the emergence of drug resistance during treatment.**

For full published abstract, please visit: https://library.ehaweb.org/eha/2023/eha2023-congress/386894/himangshu.sonowal.in.vitro.acquired.resistance.to.the.oral.myeloid.kinase.html

About Aptose

Aptose Biosciences is a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing precision medicines addressing unmet medical needs in oncology, with an initial focus on hematology. The Company's small molecule cancer therapeutics pipeline includes products designed to provide single agent efficacy and to enhance the efficacy of other anti-cancer therapies and regimens without overlapping toxicities. The Company has two clinical-stage oral kinase inhibitors under development for hematologic malignancies: tuspetinib (HM43239), an oral, myeloid kinase inhibitor being studied as monotherapy and in combination therapy in the APTIVATE international Phase 1/2 expansion trial in patients with relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukemia (AML); and luxeptinib (CG-806), an oral, dual lymphoid and myeloid kinase inhibitor in Phase 1 a/b stage development for the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory hematologic malignancies. For more information, please visit www.aptose.com.

Forward Looking Statements

This press release may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Canadian and U.S. securities laws, including, but not limited to, statements relating to the therapeutic potential of tuspetinib and its clinical development as well as statements relating to the Company's plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements including words such as "continue", "expect", "intend", "will", "should", "would", "may", and other similar expressions. Such statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are subject to risks and uncertainties and are necessarily based upon a number of estimates and assumptions that, while considered reasonable by us are inherently subject to significant business, economic, competitive, political and social uncertainties and contingencies. Many factors could cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements described in this press release. Such factors could include, among others: our ability to obtain the capital required for research and operations and to continue as a going concern; the inherent risks in early stage drug development including demonstrating efficacy; development time/cost and the regulatory approval process; the progress of our clinical trials; our ability to find and enter into agreements with potential partners; our ability to attract and retain key personnel; changing market conditions; inability of new manufacturers to produce acceptable batches of GMP in sufficient quantities; unexpected manufacturing defects; and other risks detailed from time-to-time in our ongoing quarterly filings, annual information forms, annual reports and annual filings with Canadian securities regulators and the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should the assumptions set out in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in our filings with Canadian securities regulators and the United States Securities and Exchange Commission underlying those forward-looking statements prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described herein. These forward-looking statements are made as of the date of this press release and we do not intend, and do not assume any obligation, to update these forward-looking statements, except as required by law. We cannot assure you that such statements will prove to be accurate as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Investors are cautioned that forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and accordingly investors are cautioned not to put undue reliance on forward-looking statements due to the inherent uncertainty therein.

For further information, please contact:

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