

**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 5, 2025**

**APTOSE BIOSCIENCES INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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

**001-32001**  
(Commission File Number)

**98-1136802**  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**66 Wellington Street West, Suite 5300  
TD Bank Tower, Box 48  
Toronto, Ontario M5K 1E6  
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	The Nasdaq Stock 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 5, 2025, 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.**

(d) Exhibits

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
<a href="#"><u>99.1</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Press Release dated May 5, 2025</u></a>
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

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**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 5, 2025

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

## **Aptose Provides Clinical Update for the Tuspentinib-based Triple Drug Frontline Therapy in Newly Diagnosed AML Patients from the Phase 1/2 TUSCANY Trial**

*Aptose is developing TUS+VEN+AZA as a one-of-a-kind safe and mutation agnostic frontline triple drug therapy for newly diagnosed AML patients*

*First two dose cohorts of TUS+VEN+AZA triplet demonstrate safety, complete remissions, and MRD negativity across patients with diverse mutations, including TP53-mutated/CK AML and FLT3-wildtype AML patients*

SAN DIEGO and TORONTO, May 05, 2025 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Aptose Biosciences Inc. ("Aptose" or the "Company") (TSX: APS; OTC: APTOF), a clinical-stage precision oncology company, today reported updated and new data from Aptose's Phase 1/2 TUSCANY trial in newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients dosed with a 40 mg or 80 mg dose of tuspentinib (TUS) in combination with standard of care dosing of venetoclax and azacitidine (TUS+VEN+AZA triplet). The TUS+VEN+AZA triplet is being developed as a safe and mutation agnostic frontline therapy to treat large, mutationally diverse populations of newly diagnosed AML patients who are ineligible to receive induction chemotherapy.

Earlier this year, Aptose announced the initiation of the TUSCANY trial and dosing in newly diagnosed AML patients at an initial dose of 40 mg TUS in the first cohort of four patients. The second cohort of patients is now receiving 80 mg TUS. Data from the first two cohorts, with a 40 mg or 80 mg dose of tuspentinib in the TUS+VEN+AZA combination, reveal promising clinical safety and antileukemic activity.

- To date, four newly diagnosed AML patients received the initial dose of TUS (40 mg) as part of the (TUS+VEN+AZA) combination.
  - Notably, a patient with biallelic TP53 mutations and a complex karyotype (TP53-mutated/CK) and FLT3-wildtype achieved a complete remission (CR) and the clinical site reported no measurable residual disease (MRD-negative status) in this patient.
  - One FLT3-wildtype patient having an IDH-2 mutation achieved a CR and MRD-negative status.
  - Another FLT3-wildtype patient achieved a CRi during Cycle 1 and MRD-negative status.
  - The first three patients continue on treatment, while a fourth patient did not respond at this 40 mg dose level of TUS and was discontinued.
  - The 40 mg dose of the TUS+VEN+AZA triplet remains safe, and no dose-limiting toxicities (DLTs) have been reported.
- To date, three newly diagnosed AML patients having diverse mutation profiles have received the 80 mg of TUS, as part of the TUS+VEN+AZA combination. The 80 mg TUS dose has been considered the optimal dose that has demonstrated safety and consistent blood exposure levels that exert potent antileukemic activity.
  - All patients achieved blast reductions in Cycle 1 that met the criteria for complete remissions (CR or CRi) and continue on treatment.
    - Notably, another TP53-mutated/CK and FLT3-wildtype patient achieved blast reductions that met CRi criteria in Cycle 1 and is now receiving additional therapy in Cycle 2.
    - The second patient, having FLT3-wildtype status, achieved a CR.
    - The third patient, having FLT3-ITD and NPM1 mutations and entering the trial with a 75% bone marrow blast count, achieved a CRi.
  - All three patients are early in their course of treatment and are expected to show further improvements in their disease status as they are all continuing with treatment, and MRD status will be monitored as the patients move through their courses of therapy.
  - The 80 mg dose of TUS, as part of the TUS+VEN+AZA triplet, continues to show favorable safety with no dose-limiting toxicities (DLTs) having been reported.

"The treatment paradigm for AML is shifting to triplet combination therapy," said Rafael Bejar, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Medical Officer of Aptose. "We have always maintained that tuspentinib, with its notable safety profile and ability to treat the larger, difficult-to-treat AML populations with high-risk mutations, could be an ideal drug for a triplet combination therapy in the frontline setting. With the majority of patients already achieving complete responses -- including early responses in patients with adverse mutations -- the clinical findings to date are bearing that out."

William G. Rice, Ph.D., Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Aptose, will review the data at a presentation today, Monday, May 5th, 2025, 3:00 p.m. EDT, at the 2025 Bloom Burton & Co. Healthcare Investor Conference. The presentation and webcast can be accessed here and will be available on the Aptose website.

### **TUSCANY: TUS+VEN+AZA Triplet Phase 1/2 Study**

Tuspentinib based TUS+VEN+AZA triplet therapy is being advanced in the TUSCANY Phase 1/2 trial with the goal of creating an improved frontline therapy for newly diagnosed AML patients that is active across diverse AML populations, durable, and well tolerated. Earlier APTIVATE trials of TUS as a single agent and in combination as TUS+VEN demonstrated favorable safety and broad activity in diverse relapsed or refractory (R/R) AML populations that went beyond the more prognostically favorable NPM1 and IDH mutant subgroups. Responses to TUS were also observed in those with prior-VEN and prior-FLT3 inhibitor (FLT3i) therapies, those with highly adverse TP53 and RAS mutations, and those with mutated or unmutated (wildtype) FLT3 genes.

The TUSCANY triplet Phase 1/2 study is designed to test various doses and schedules of TUS in combination with standard dosing of AZA and VEN for patients with AML who are ineligible to receive induction chemotherapy. A convenient, once daily oral agent, TUS will be administered in 28-day cycles, beginning at 40mg once daily, with dose escalations planned after a safety review of each dose level. Multiple U.S. sites are enrolling in the TUSCANY trial with anticipated enrollment of 18-24 patients by mid-late 2025. Data will be released as it becomes available.

More information on the TUSCANY Phase 1/2 study can be found on [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) (here).

### **About Aptose**

Aptose Biosciences is a clinical-stage biotechnology company committed to developing precision medicines addressing unmet medical needs in oncology, with an initial focus on hematology. The Company's lead clinical-stage, oral kinase inhibitor tuspetinib (TUS) has demonstrated activity as a monotherapy and in combination therapy in patients with relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and is being developed as a frontline triplet therapy in newly diagnosed AML. For more information, please visit [www.aptose.com](http://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 and safety profile of tuspetinib (including the triplet therapy) and its clinical development, the anticipated enrollment rate in the TUSCANY trial and the timing thereof, 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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