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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

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**FORM S-8  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

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**MERRIMACK PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

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

**04-3210530**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**One Kendall Square, Suite B7201  
Cambridge, MA**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**02139**  
(Zip Code)

**2011 Stock Incentive Plan**  
(Full Title of the Plan)

**Richard Peters**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**  
**One Kendall Square, Suite B7201**  
**Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139**  
(Name and Address of Agent for Service)

**(617) 441-1000**  
(Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent For Service)

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

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 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act.

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**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

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Title of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	450,000 shares	\$11.23(2)	\$5,053,500(2)	\$630(3)

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- (1) In accordance with Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement shall be deemed to cover any additional securities that may from time to time be offered or issued to prevent dilution resulting from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
  - (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rules 457(c) and 457(h) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and based upon the average of the high and low prices of the Registrant's Common Stock as reported on the Nasdaq Global Market on March 5, 2018.
  - (3) Pursuant to Rule 457(p) under the Securities Act, the Registrant hereby offsets the total registration fee due hereunder by \$630, which represents a portion of the \$25,760 registration fee (the "Previous Registration Fee") previously paid with respect to \$200,000,000 of unsold securities (the "Unsold Securities") previously registered on the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-194312) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 4, 2014 and declared effective on April 2, 2014. The offering of the Unsold Securities was deemed terminated as of December 15, 2017. The Registrant previously offset \$18,675 against the Previous Registration Fee in connection with the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-222093) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 15, 2017 and declared effective on January 5, 2018.
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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Registration Statement on Form S-8, relating to the 2011 Stock Incentive Plan of Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (the “Registrant”), is being filed for the purpose of registering additional securities of the same class as other securities for which a Registration Statement on Form S-8 has previously been filed and is effective. Accordingly, this Registration Statement incorporates by reference the contents of (i) the Registration Statement on Form S-8, File No. 333-180996, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) on April 27, 2012 by the Registrant, relating to the Registrant’s 1999 Stock Option Plan, as amended, 2008 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended, and 2011 Stock Incentive Plan, (ii) the Registration Statement on Form S-8, File No. 333-186370, filed with the SEC on February 1, 2013 by the Registrant, relating to the Registrant’s 2011 Stock Incentive Plan, (iii) the Registration Statement on Form S-8, File No. 333-194313, filed with the SEC on March 4, 2014 by the Registrant, relating to the Registrant’s 2011 Stock Incentive Plan, (iv) the Registration Statement on Form S-8, File No. 333-202346, filed with the SEC on February 27, 2015 by the Registrant, relating to the Registrant’s 2011 Stock Incentive Plan and (v) the Registration Statement on Form S-8, File No. 333-209745, filed with the SEC on February 26, 2016 by the Registrant, relating to the Registrant’s 2011 Stock Incentive Plan, in each case except for Item 8, Exhibits.

### Item 8. Exhibits

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
4.1(1)	<a href="#">Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant, as amended</a>
4.2(2)	<a href="#">Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant</a>
5.1	<a href="#">Opinion of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, counsel to the Registrant</a>
23.1	<a href="#">Consent of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)</a>
23.2	<a href="#">Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent registered public accounting firm for the Registrant</a>
24.1	<a href="#">Powers of Attorney (included on the signature pages to the Registration Statement)</a>
99.1(3)	<a href="#">2011 Stock Incentive Plan</a>
(1)	Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 8, 2017 as Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and incorporated herein by reference.
(2)	Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 13, 2012 as Exhibit 3.5 to the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-175427), and incorporated herein by reference.
(3)	Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 13, 2012 as Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-175427), and incorporated herein by reference.

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## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Cambridge, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

MERRIMACK PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

By: /s/ Richard Peters, M.D., Ph.D.  
Richard Peters, M.D., Ph.D.  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## POWER OF ATTORNEY AND SIGNATURES

We, the undersigned officers and directors of Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc., hereby severally constitute and appoint Richard Peters and Jean M. Franchi, and each of them singly, our true and lawful attorneys with full power to any of them, and to each of them singly, to sign for us and in our names in the capacities indicated below the Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed herewith and any and all amendments to said Registration Statement, and generally to do all such things in our name and on our behalf in our capacities as officers and directors to enable Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc. to comply with the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and all requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, hereby ratifying and confirming our signatures as they may be signed by our said attorneys, or any of them, to said registration statement and any and all amendments thereto.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ Richard Peters, M.D., Ph.D.</u> Richard Peters, M.D., Ph.D.	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	March 12, 2018
<u>/s/ Jean M. Franchi</u> Jean M. Franchi	Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	March 12, 2018
<u>/s/ Gary L. Crocker</u> Gary L. Crocker	Chairman of the Board	March 12, 2018
<u>/s/ George D. Demetri, M.D.</u> George D. Demetri, M.D.	Director	March 12, 2018
<u>/s/ John M. Dineen</u> John M. Dineen	Director	March 12, 2018
<u>/s/ Vivian S. Lee, M.D., Ph.D.</u> Vivian S. Lee, M.D., Ph.D.	Director	March 12, 2018

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<u>/s/ Ulrik B. Nielsen, Ph.D.</u> Ulrik B. Nielsen, Ph.D.	Director	March 12, 2018
<u>/s/ Michael E. Porter, Ph.D.</u> Michael E. Porter, Ph.D.	Director	March 12, 2018
<u>/s/ James H. Quigley</u> James H. Quigley	Director	March 12, 2018
<u>/s/ Russell T. Ray</u> Russell T. Ray	Director	March 12, 2018

[WilmerHale Letterhead]

March 12, 2018

Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
One Kendall Square, Suite B7201  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: 2011 Stock Incentive Plan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have assisted in the preparation of a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), relating to an aggregate of 450,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value per share (the "Shares"), of Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), issuable under the Company's 2011 Stock Incentive Plan (the "Plan").

We have examined the Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Company, each as amended and restated to date, and originals, or copies certified to our satisfaction, of all pertinent records of the meetings of the directors and stockholders of the Company, the Registration Statement and such other documents relating to the Company as we have deemed material for the purposes of this opinion.

In our examination of the foregoing documents, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to us as certified, photostatic or other copies, the authenticity of the originals of any such documents and the legal competence of all signatories to such documents.

We assume that the appropriate action will be taken, prior to the offer and sale of the Shares in accordance with the Plan, to register and qualify the Shares for sale under all applicable state securities or "blue sky" laws.

We express no opinion herein as to the laws of any state or jurisdiction other than the state laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware and the federal laws of the United States of America.

It is understood that this opinion is to be used only in connection with the offer and sale of the Shares while the Registration Statement is in effect.

Please note that we are opining only as to the matters expressly set forth herein, and no opinion should be inferred as to any other matters.

Based on the foregoing, we are of the opinion that the Shares have been duly authorized for issuance and, when the Shares are issued and paid for in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Plan, the Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

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Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

March 12, 2018

Page 2

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion with the Commission in connection with the Registration Statement in accordance with the requirements of Item 601(b)(5) of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act. In giving such consent, we do not hereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Very truly yours,

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP

By: /s/ Brian A. Johnson  
Brian A. Johnson, Partner

**Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our report dated March 12, 2018 relating to the financial statements and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, which appears in Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Boston, Massachusetts  
March 12, 2018