

# **XENETIC BIOSCIENCES, INC.**

## **Audit Committee Complaint Procedures**

This policy outlines the procedures that the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Xenetic Biosciences, Inc. (together with its subsidiaries existing from time to time, the “Company”) has established with respect to the receipt, treatment and retention of complaints received by the Company regarding (1) accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, including the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters, or (2) potential violations of the federal securities laws, including any rules and regulations thereunder, or the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (the “FCPA”) (collectively, “Complaints”).

### **I. Procedures for Receiving Complaints**

Complaints may be submitted to the Company as follows:

- The complaining party may place a phone call to the Chairman or any other member of the Audit Committee. During this phone call, the complaining party should identify the subject matter of his or her Complaint and the practices that are alleged to constitute an improper accounting, internal accounting control or auditing matter or a violation of the federal securities laws or the FCPA, as the case may be, providing as much detail as possible; and/or
- The complaining party may submit a confidential memorandum to the Chairman or any other member of the Audit Committee, which identifies the subject matter of his or her Complaint and the practices that are alleged to constitute an improper accounting, internal accounting control or auditing matter or a violation of the federal securities laws or the FCPA, as the case may be, providing as much detail as possible.

All Company employees will be instructed through postings and the Company’s Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that any and all Complaints may be made anonymously and in a confidential manner in accordance with one or more of the procedures set forth above. Employees will also be notified that, if they do not feel comfortable submitting a Complaint in accordance with these procedures or if they feel that a previously submitted Complaint was not adequately addressed, they may contact the Chairman directly by mail at Accounting Concerns, c/o Chairman of the Audit Committee, Xenetic Biosciences, Inc., 40 Speen St. Suite 102, Framingham, MA 01701. The Company will provide notice on a current basis through postings, the Company’s Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and/or such other manner as is determined by the Audit Committee from time to time of the names, phone numbers and addresses of the designated recipients to whom Complaints may be submitted.

Any Complaint received by the Chairman or any other member of the Audit Committee in accordance with the procedures set forth above will be forwarded in a confidential manner to

the Chairman of the Audit Committee (if not addressed to him or her initially) as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of such Complaint. In addition, management will be informed that any Complaint received outside of these procedures should likewise be forwarded in a confidential manner to the Chairman of the Audit Committee as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of such Complaint.

To ensure that the Chairman or any other member of the Audit Committee is not inadvertently or improperly screening out Complaints that should be viewed by the Audit Committee, each member of the Audit Committee, including the Chairman, will be charged with preparing and submitting to the Audit Committee prior to each regularly scheduled meeting of the Audit Committee, a table or other report detailing the time, date, nature and disposition of each complaint received by him or her since the date of the prior report. The table or other report will be reviewed by the Audit Committee at its next regularly-scheduled meeting.

## **II. Procedures for Treating Complaints**

Following receipt of a Complaint, the Chairman of the Audit Committee will begin to conduct an initial evaluation of the Complaint. The Chairman may delegate this authority to another member of the Audit Committee. In connection with the initial evaluation, the Chairman or his or her designee will make a determination of:

- whether the Complaint requires immediate investigation;
- whether it can be held for discussion at the next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Audit Committee or whether a special meeting of the Audit Committee should be called; or
- whether it does not relate to accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters or potential violations of the federal securities laws or the FCPA and should be reviewed by a party other than the Audit Committee in accordance with the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics or other policies.

In any event, each Complaint will be discussed at the next meeting of the Audit Committee. At that meeting, the Audit Committee will make a determination as to whether and how such Complaint will be investigated, or if the investigation has commenced, how to proceed with such investigation. The Audit Committee may elect among the following options or may investigate the Complaint in another manner determined by the Audit Committee:

- The Audit Committee may choose to investigate the Complaint on its own.
- The Audit Committee may select a responsible designee within the Company to investigate the Complaint. Under no circumstances should a member of the division of the Company that is the source of the Complaint be charged with its investigation. If the Complaint was not made on an anonymous basis, the Audit Committee will determine whether it is appropriate to provide the designee with the identity of the complaining party.

- The Audit Committee may retain an outside party (other than the Company's independent auditor) to investigate the Complaint and assist in the Complaint's evaluation.
- The Audit Committee may retain outside counsel to initiate an investigation and work either with internal parties or an outside financial/forensic auditing company to assist in such investigation.

The investigating party designated by the Audit Committee will be permitted reasonable access to the Company and its documents and computer systems for purposes of conducting the investigation. At the conclusion of its investigation, the investigating party will be responsible for making a full report to the Audit Committee with respect to the Complaint and, if requested by the Audit Committee, to make recommendations for corrective actions, if any, to be taken by the Company.

The Audit Committee will consider, if applicable, the recommendations of the investigating party and determine whether any corrective actions should be taken. The Audit Committee will report to the Board of Directors not later than its next regularly-scheduled meeting with respect to the Complaint for which such investigation has been completed and, if applicable, any recommended corrective actions.

### **III. Procedures for Retaining Records Regarding Complaints**

The Audit Committee will seek to ensure that all Complaints received by the Audit Committee, together with all documents pertaining to the Audit Committee's or its designee's investigation and treatment of any such Complaint, are retained in a secure location. If a Complaint becomes the subject of a criminal investigation or civil litigation, all documents related to that Complaint will be retained until such investigation or litigation is resolved, including all appeals. The Audit Committee may delegate this record retention obligation to an independent advisor or entity or the Chairman or any other member of the Audit Committee.

### **IV. Protection for Whistleblowers**

At no time will there be any retaliation by the Company or at its direction against any employee for making a reasonable complaint, in good faith, pursuant to the procedures described herein regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, or potential violations of the federal securities laws or the FCPA.

### **V. Disciplinary Action**

Nothing in these procedures shall limit the Company or the Board of Directors or a committee or designee thereof in taking such disciplinary or other action under the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics or other applicable policies of the Company as may be appropriate with respect to any matter that is the subject of a Complaint.

## **VI. Periodic Review of Procedures**

The Audit Committee will review the procedures outlined above and consider changes to such procedures periodically.

**Adopted August 19, 2014. Updated as of October 15, 2019**