

**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): April 3, 2023**

**Onconova Therapeutics, Inc.**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**001-36020**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**22-3627252**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**12 Penns Trail**  
**Newtown, PA**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**18940**  
(Zip Code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (267) 759-3680**

**(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:

<b>Title of each class</b>	<b>Trading Symbol(s)</b>	<b>Name of each exchange on which registered</b>
<b>Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share</b>	<b>ONTX</b>	<b>The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC</b>

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 April 6, 2023, Onconova Therapeutics, Inc. (“Onconova” or the “Company”) was saddened to announce that Mark Gelder, M.D., the Company’s Chief Medical Officer, passed away suddenly on April 3, 2023. The press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated into this Item 7.01 by reference.

Michael Saunders, M.D., has been appointed the interim Chief Medical Officer of the Company effective April 3, 2023.

The Board of Directors will convene at an appropriate time to appoint a new Chief Medical Officer. A search is underway by the Company.

Dr. Gelder had served as the Company’s Chief Medical Officer since June 2021. His valuable and dedicated service as an officer of the Company will be greatly missed. The Board and management of the Company express their deepest gratitude to Dr. Gelder for his valuable service to patients and the Company and our sincerest condolences to his family.

The information disclosed under this Item 7.01, including Exhibit 99.1 hereto, is being furnished and shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, nor shall it be incorporated by reference into any registration statement or other document pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as expressly set forth in such filing.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits.

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>
<a href="#">99.1</a>	<a href="#">Press release issued by the Company, dated April 6, 2023</a>
104	The cover page from this Current Report on Form 8-K, formatted in Inline XBRL.

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**SIGNATURES**

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.

Date: April 6, 2023

**ONCONOVA THERAPEUTICS, INC.**

/s/ MARK GUERIN

Name: Mark Guerin

Title: Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer

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**Onconova Therapeutics Announces the Unexpected Passing of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Mark Gelder**

**NEWTOWN, PA April 6, 2023** (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Onconova Therapeutics, Inc. (NASDAQ: ONTX), (“Onconova” or “the Company”), a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering and developing novel products for patients with cancer, today announced that its Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Mark Gelder, M.D., recently passed away unexpectedly. Michael Saunders, M.D., has been appointed the interim Chief Medical Officer of the Company.

“The entire Onconova family is deeply saddened by the loss of our beloved friend and colleague,” said Steven M. Fruchtman, M.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Onconova. “Dr. Gelder dedicated his career to caring for and improving the treatment options available to patients with cancer and his thought leadership and scientific passion will be sorely missed by the oncology community. Mark trained and worked as a gyn oncologist. Because of that experience, he was dedicated to advancing the care of women with reproductive tract cancers. Our goal is to complete the mission Mark started by advancing our trial in endometrial cancer and other cancers as well. We are immensely grateful for his many contributions to Onconova and express our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time. May he rest in peace.”

Dr. Gelder served as Onconova’s CMO since June 2021. He was an accomplished industry leader with more than 35 years of experience in clinical development, medical affairs, and medical marketing. His previously held the role of CMO at Elevar Therapeutics, Pierian Biosciences (formerly DiaTech Oncology), Accelovance, Inc., and Heron Therapeutics, Inc. Dr. Gelder also had extensive experience at large pharmaceutical companies including Pfizer, Wyeth, and Bayer. He earned his M.D. from the University of Virginia School of Medicine, completed a fellowship in gynecologic oncology, and was a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Onconova’s Board of Directors will convene at an appropriate time to appoint a new CMO. A search is currently underway by the Company. Onconova does not expect any material impact to the stated timelines associated with its ongoing or planned clinical trials due to this sad news. The Company notes that Dr. Michael Saunders, a noted drug developer and colleague, has been working with Onconova as a consultant and is thus well acquainted with the Company’s compounds in development.

***About Onconova Therapeutics, Inc.***

Onconova Therapeutics is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering and developing novel products for patients with cancer. The Company has proprietary targeted anti-cancer agents designed to disrupt specific cellular pathways that are important for cancer cell proliferation.

Onconova’s novel, proprietary multi-kinase inhibitor narazaciclib (formerly ON 123300) is being evaluated in two separate and complementary Phase 1 dose escalation and expansion studies. These trials are currently underway in the United States and China. Based on preclinical and clinical studies of CDK 4/6 inhibitors, Onconova is also planning a combination trial of narazaciclib with estrogen blockade in advanced endometrial cancer, as well as its clinical study in additional indications.

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Onconova's product candidate rigosertib is being studied in multiple investigator-sponsored studies, including a dose-escalation and expansion Phase 1/2a study of oral rigosertib in combination with nivolumab in patients with KRAS+ non-small cell lung cancer, and a Phase 2 program evaluating rigosertib monotherapy in advanced squamous cell carcinoma complicating recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (RDEB-associated SCC).

For more information, please visit [www.onconova.com](http://www.onconova.com).

### ***Forward Looking Statements***

Some of the statements in this release are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and involve risks and uncertainties. These statements relate to Onconova's expectations regarding its clinical development and trials, its product candidates, its business and financial position. Onconova has attempted to identify forward-looking statements by terminology including "believes," "estimates," "anticipates," "expects," "plans," "intends," "may," "could," "might," "will," "should," "preliminary," "encouraging," "approximately" or other words that convey uncertainty of future events or outcomes. Although Onconova believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable as of the date made, expectations may prove to have been materially different from the results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These statements are only predictions and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors, including the success and timing of Onconova's clinical trials, investigator-initiated trials and regulatory agency and institutional review board approvals of protocols, Onconova's collaborations, market conditions and those discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" in Onconova's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. Any forward-looking statements contained in this release speak only as of its date. Onconova undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this release to reflect events or circumstances occurring after its date or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

### **Company Contact:**

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