

INOVIO PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

Form 424B5

March 07, 2013

Table of Contents

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration Statement No. 333-176670

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission. This prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities, and we are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED MARCH 6, 2013

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(to Prospectus dated September 2, 2011)

Shares of Common Stock

Warrants to Purchase Shares of Common Stock

We are offering _____ units at a price of \$ _____ per unit, with each unit consisting of one share of common stock and a warrant to purchase _____ shares of common stock. Units will not be issued or certificated. The shares of common stock and warrants are immediately separable and will be issued separately. The shares of common stock, warrants and shares of common stock underlying the warrants are sometimes collectively referred to herein as the securities. The warrants will be exercisable on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of issuance and will terminate on the fifth anniversary of the date the warrants are issued. For a more detailed description of our warrants, see the section entitled Description of Warrants beginning on page S-10 of this prospectus supplement, and for a more detailed description of our common stock, see the section entitled Description of Capital Stock beginning on page 8 of the accompanying prospectus.

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE MKT under the symbol INO. On March 5, 2013, the last reported sales price of our common stock on the NYSE MKT was \$0.69 per share. There is no established public trading market for the warrants and we do not expect a market to develop. In addition, we do not intend to apply for listing of the warrants on any national securities exchange or other nationally recognized trading system.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Please read the information contained in and incorporated by reference under the heading Risk Factors beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement, and under similar headings in the other documents that are filed after the date hereof and incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement.

Neither the SEC nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per Unit	Total
Public offering price	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us	\$	\$

Delivery of the securities is expected to be made on or about March , 2013.

Sole Book-Running Manager

Cowen and Company

Co-Lead Manager

Brean Capital

March , 2013.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

	Page
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-1
<u>About this Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-2
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>	S-3
<u>The Offering</u>	S-4
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-6
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-7
<u>Determination of Offering Price</u>	S-7
<u>Dilution</u>	S-8
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	S-9
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	S-10
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-12
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-17
<u>Experts</u>	S-17
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	S-17
<u>Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference</u>	S-18
Prospectus	

	Page
<u>Risk Factors</u>	1
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	2
<u>Where You Can Find Additional Information</u>	3
<u>Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	4
<u>The Company</u>	5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	6
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	7
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	11
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	18
<u>Description of Units</u>	20
<u>Legal Ownership of Securities</u>	21
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	24
<u>Validity of Securities</u>	26
<u>Experts</u>	27

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

A number of the statements we make or incorporate by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not historical or current facts, but instead signify potential future circumstances and developments. We intend these statements as Forward-Looking Statements under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements relate to future events or our future financial performance. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as may, will, should, expect, plan, anticipate, believe, estimate, predict, potential or continue, the negative of such terms or other comparable terminology. These statements are only predictions. Actual events or results may differ materially.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. Moreover, neither we, nor any other person, assume responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the forward-looking statements. We are under no obligation to update any of the forward-looking statements after the filing of this prospectus supplement to conform such statements to actual results or to changes in our expectations.

We urge you to review carefully and consider the various disclosures we make that attempt to advise interested parties of the factors that affect our business, including without limitation, the disclosures we make or incorporate by reference under the caption Risk Factors in this prospectus supplement.

Risk factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements include but are not limited to:

our history of losses;

our lack of products that have received regulatory approval;

uncertainties inherent in clinical trials and product development programs, including but not limited to the fact that pre-clinical and clinical results may not be indicative of results achievable in other trials or for other indications, that results from one study may not necessarily be reflected or supported by the results of other similar studies, that results from an animal study may not be indicative of results achievable in human studies, that clinical testing is expensive and can take many years to complete, that the outcome of any clinical trial is uncertain and failure can occur at any time during the clinical trial process, and that our electroporation technology and DNA vaccines may fail to show the desired safety and efficacy traits in clinical trials;

the availability of funding;

the ability to manufacture vaccine candidates;

the availability or potential availability of alternative therapies or treatments for the conditions we or our collaborators target, including alternatives that may be more efficacious or cost-effective than any therapy or treatment that we and our collaborators hope to develop;

whether our proprietary rights are enforceable or defensible or infringe or allegedly infringe on rights of others or can withstand claims of invalidity; and

the impact of government healthcare legislation and proposals.

You should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which we base on current expectations. Further, forward-looking statements speak only as of the date we make them, and we undertake no obligation to update publicly any of them in light of new information

or future events.

S-1

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is the prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of the securities we are offering and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, provides more general information. Generally, when we refer to this prospectus, we are referring to both parts of this document combined. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein include important information about us, our securities being offered and other information you should know before investing. You should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any related free writing prospectus that we authorized to be delivered to you, as well as the additional information described under the captions "Where You Can Find More Information" on page S-17 and "Incorporation of Documents by Reference" on page S-18 of this prospectus supplement before investing in our securities.

To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus supplement, on the one hand, and the information contained in the accompanying prospectus or in any document incorporated by reference that was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) before the date of this prospectus supplement, on the other hand, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement. If any statement in one of these documents is inconsistent with a statement in another document having a later date—for example, a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus—the statement in the document having the later date modifies or supersedes the earlier statement.

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any related free writing prospectus that we authorized to be distributed to you and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are offering to sell and seeking offers to buy shares of our common stock only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any related free writing prospectus that we have authorized to be delivered to you is accurate only as of their respective dates, regardless of the time of delivery of such documents or of any sale of securities. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. You should not consider this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus to be an offer or solicitation relating to the securities in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation relating to the securities is not authorized. Persons outside the United States who come into possession of this prospectus must inform themselves about, and observe any restrictions relating to, the offering of the common stock and the distribution of this prospectus outside the United States. Furthermore, you should not consider this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus to be an offer or solicitation relating to the securities if the person making the offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so, or if it is unlawful for you to receive such an offer or solicitation.

Information contained on our website does not constitute part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

*This summary highlights information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. Because it is only a summary, it does not contain all of the information that may be important to you or that you should consider before making an investment in our units. You should carefully read the entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the information contained under the caption **Risk Factors** and elsewhere in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011 and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012, June 30, 2012 and September 30, 2012, the information under **Risk Factors** beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement and other information that we file from time to time with the SEC as well as the financial statements and related notes and the other information incorporated by reference herein, before making an investment decision. See **Where You Can Find More Information** and **Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference** in this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement may add to, update or change information in the accompanying prospectus.*

*Unless the context otherwise requires, all references in this prospectus to **Inovio**, **we**, **us**, **our**, **the Company** or similar words refer to **Inovio Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**, together with our consolidated subsidiaries.*

Our Company

We are engaged in the discovery and development of a new generation of vaccines and immune therapies, called synthetic vaccines, focused on cancers and infectious diseases. Our DNA-based SynCon[®] technology is designed to provide universal protection against known as well as new unmatched strains of pathogens such as influenza. These synthetic vaccines, in combination with our proprietary electroporation delivery, have been shown in humans to generate best-in-class immune responses with a favorable safety profile. Our preclinical development and clinical programs include cervical dysplasia/cancer (therapeutic), influenza (preventive), prostate cancer (therapeutic), leukemia (therapeutic), hepatitis C virus, hepatitis B virus, HIV, and malaria vaccines. Our partners and collaborators include University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, National Microbiology Laboratory of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health/Malaria Vaccine Initiative (**PATH** or **MVI**), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (**NIAID**), Merck, ChronTech, University of Southampton, United States Military HIV Research Program (**USMHRP**), U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (**USAMRIID**), HIV Vaccines Trial Network (**HVTN**) and Department of Homeland Security (**DHS**).

All of our potential human products are in research and development phases. We have not generated any revenues from the sale of any such products, and we do not expect to generate any such revenues for at least the next several years. We earn revenue from license fees and milestone revenue, collaborative research and development agreements, grants and government contracts. Our product candidates will require significant additional research and development efforts, including extensive preclinical and clinical testing. All product candidates that we advance to clinical testing will require regulatory approval prior to commercial use, and will require significant costs for commercialization. We may not be successful in our research and development efforts, and we may never generate sufficient product revenue to be profitable.

Table of Contents

The Offering

Common stock offered by us in this prospectus supplement shares, plus shares of common stock underlying the warrants offered hereby

Common stock to be outstanding immediately after this offering assuming the sale of all shares in this offering shares, based upon 152,543,971 shares of common stock outstanding as of February 28, 2013.

Price per unit \$

Warrants offered by us We are offering warrants to purchase up to shares of our common stock in this offering. Each warrant may be exercised at any time commencing on the date that is 180 days after the date of issuance until the fifth anniversary of the issuance of the warrants at an exercise price of \$ per share of common stock.

Use of proceeds We intend to use the net proceeds received from the sale of the securities (including any resulting from the exercise of the warrants) for general corporate purposes, including clinical trial expenses, research and development expenses, general and administrative expenses, manufacturing expenses and potential acquisitions of companies and technologies that complement our business. See Use of Proceeds on page S-7.

Market for our common stock and warrants Our common stock is traded on NYSE MKT under the symbol INO. However, there is no established public trading market for the offered warrants, and we do not expect a market to develop. In addition, we do not intend to apply to list the warrants on any securities exchange. The warrants are immediately separable from the shares of common stock we are offering as part of the units.

Risk Factors Before buying any shares you should read the discussion of risks related to an investment in our common stock and warrants to purchase our common stock, see Risk Factors beginning on page S-6 of this prospectus supplement and page 1 of the accompany prospectus, as well as the risks discussed under the caption Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, as revised or supplemented by our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, as subsequently filed with the SEC, each of which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

Recent Developments Our total cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments on hand as of February 28, 2013 was \$16.9 million. Also, enrollment is continuing in our Phase II cervical dysplasia clinical study, and we expect to release unblinded efficacy data in the first quarter of 2014.

NYSE MKT symbol for common stock INO

S-4

Table of Contents

Unless otherwise indicated, this prospectus supplement reflects and assumes that none of the warrants issued hereunder will be exercised. The number of shares of common stock that will be outstanding immediately after this offering as shown above is based on 137,055,380 shares common stock outstanding as of September 30, 2012. The number of shares of common stock outstanding as of September 30, 2012, as used throughout this prospectus supplement, unless otherwise indicated, excludes:

16,538,985 shares subject to outstanding options as of September 30, 2012, having a weighted average exercise price of \$1.28 per share;

21,593,844 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of outstanding warrants as of September 30, 2012, having a weighted average exercise price of \$1.16 per share;

38,233 shares of our common stock issuable upon conversion of outstanding preferred stock as of September 30, 2012, having a conversion price of \$6.80 per share.

SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following table sets forth certain of our historical selected financial information. Effective January 1, 2012, we adopted the Financial Accounting Standards Board's Accounting Standards Update, or ASU, No. 2011-05, Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): *Presentation of Comprehensive Income*, as amended by ASU 2011-12, Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): *Deferral of the Effective Date for Amendments to the Presentation of Reclassifications of Items Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income in Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05*. These updates revise the manner in which entities present comprehensive income (loss) in their financial statements. The following consolidated statements of comprehensive loss data revises historical information to illustrate the new presentation required by this pronouncement for the periods presented. We have derived our consolidated statements of comprehensive loss data for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 from our audited consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011 and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

	For the Years ended December 31,		
	2011	2010	2009
Net loss	\$ (15,304,095)	\$ (17,638,746)	\$ (24,458,924)
Other comprehensive income (loss):			
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(3,263)	(102,946)	99,637
Unrealized gain on short-term investments	35,806		
Comprehensive loss	\$ (15,271,552)	\$ (17,741,692)	\$ (24,359,287)

Table of Contents**RISK FACTORS**

An investment in our common stock is subject to numerous risks as discussed more fully below and under the caption "Risk Factors" in the accompanying prospectus, our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012, which we incorporate by reference herein, and other information that we file from time to time with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement and which we incorporate by reference herein. Any of these risks could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations or our ability to execute our business strategy. You should read and consider carefully all the information set forth and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before deciding whether to invest in our common stock. The risks and uncertainties we have described are not the only ones facing our company. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently consider immaterial may also affect our business operations. If any of these risks actually occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations would suffer. In that case, the trading price of our common stock would likely decline and you might lose all or part of your investment in our common stock. See "Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference."

Risks Related to this Offering

Resales of our common stock in the public market during this offering by our stockholders may cause the market price of our common stock to fall.

The issuance of new shares of our common stock in this offering could result in resales of our common stock by our current stockholders concerned about the potential dilution of their holdings. In turn, these resales could have the effect of depressing the market price for our common stock. A substantial majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock are, and all of the shares sold in this offering upon issuance will be, freely tradable without restriction or further registration under the Securities Act.

As a new investor, you will incur substantial dilution as a result of this offering and future equity issuances, and as a result, our stock price could decline.

The offering price is substantially higher than the net tangible book value per share of our outstanding common stock. As a result, based on our capitalization as of September 30, 2012, investors purchasing common stock in this offering will incur immediate dilution of \$ _____ per share of common stock purchased, based on the offering price of \$ _____ per share, without giving effect to the potential exercise of the warrants offered by this prospectus supplement. We are generally not restricted from issuing additional common stock, including any securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for, or that represent the right to receive, common stock. The market price of our common stock could decline as a result of sales of common stock or securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for, or that represent the right to receive, common stock after this offering or the perception that such sales could occur. See "Dilution" on page S-8 of this prospectus supplement for a more detailed discussion of the dilution you will incur in this offering.

We have broad discretion in how we use the net proceeds of this offering, and we may not use these proceeds effectively or in ways with which you agree.

Our management will have broad discretion as to the application of the net proceeds of this offering and could use them for purposes other than those contemplated at the time of this offering. Our stockholders may not agree with the manner in which our management chooses to allocate and spend the net proceeds. Moreover, our management may use the net proceeds for corporate purposes that may not increase the market price of our common stock.

There is no public market for the warrants to purchase common stock in this offering.

There is no established public trading market for the warrants being sold in this offering, and we do not expect a market to develop. In addition, we do not intend to apply to list the warrants on any securities exchange. Without an active market, the liquidity of the warrants will be limited.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

We expect to receive net proceeds from this offering of approximately \$ million, after commissions and estimated expenses payable by us, assuming that an aggregate of \$ million of common stock is sold pursuant to this offering. We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities under this prospectus supplement for general corporate purposes, including clinical trial expenses, research and development expenses, general and administrative expenses, manufacturing expenses and potential acquisitions of companies and technologies that complement our business.

As of the date of this prospectus supplement, we cannot specify with certainty all of the particular uses of the proceeds from this offering. Accordingly, our management will retain broad discretion over the use of such proceeds. Pending the use of the net proceeds from this offering, we intend to invest the net proceeds in investment-grade, interest-bearing instruments.

DETERMINATION OF OFFERING PRICE

We determined the offering price of the units being offered by this prospectus supplement principally by negotiations between us and the underwriters and our consideration of the closing prices (including high, low and average prices) and trading volumes of our common stock on the NYSE MKT preceding the date we determined the offering price. No independent appraisal or valuation was obtained to determine the offering price.

S-7

Table of Contents**DILUTION**

Our net tangible book value as of September 30, 2012 was approximately \$13.2 million, or approximately \$0.10 per share of common stock. Net tangible book value per share is equal to our total tangible assets minus total liabilities, divided by the number of shares of common stock outstanding as of September 30, 2012. After giving effect to the sale by us of _____ units consisting of shares of common stock and warrants to purchase _____ shares of common stock at an offering price of \$ _____ per unit (and excluding shares of common stock issued and any proceeds received upon exercise of the warrants), after deducting the underwriters' fees and estimated expenses of this offering, our adjusted net tangible book value would have been approximately \$ _____ million, or \$ _____ per share of common stock. Assuming the completion of the offering, this represents an immediate increase in net tangible book value of \$ _____ per share to our existing stockholders and an immediate dilution of \$ _____ per share to anyone who purchases our common stock and warrants in this offering. The following table illustrates this calculation on a per share basis:

Public offering price per unit		\$
Net tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2012	\$ 0.10	
Increase per share attributable to this offering	\$	
Adjusted net tangible book value per share as of September 30, 2012 after giving effect to this offering		\$
Dilution per share to new investors		\$

The foregoing table is based on 137,055,380 shares of common stock outstanding as of September 30, 2012, which does not take into effect further dilution to new investors that could occur upon the exercise of outstanding options having a per share exercise price less than the offering price.

In addition, the calculations in the foregoing table do not take into account any of the following:

16,538,985 shares subject to outstanding options as of September 30, 2012, having a weighted average exercise price of \$1.28 per share;

21,593,844 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of outstanding warrants as of September 30, 2012, having a weighted average exercise price of \$1.16 per share;

38,233 shares of our common stock issuable upon conversion of outstanding preferred stock as of September 30, 2012, having a conversion price of \$6.80 per share.

To the extent that any of our outstanding options or warrants are exercised, we grant additional options under our stock option plans or issue additional warrants, or we issue additional shares of common stock in the future, there may be further dilution to new investors.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following information supplements the discussion set forth in the accompanying prospectus under the heading Description of Capital Stock.

A summary of some of the important terms of our common stock is set forth beginning on page 8 of the accompanying prospectus under the heading, Description of Capital Stock. You should refer to our certificate of incorporation, as amended, and our by-laws, as amended, for the actual terms of our capital stock. Copies of our current charter and bylaws may be obtained as described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information in this prospectus supplement.

As of September 30, 2012, 137,055,380 shares of common stock and 26 shares of preferred stock were issued and outstanding.

Computershare Investor Services Inc. is the transfer agent and registrar for the common stock.

S-9

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

The material terms and provisions of the warrants being offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement are summarized below. The form of warrant will be provided to each purchaser in this offering and will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K with the SEC in connection with this offering.

The purchaser of units will receive, for each unit purchased, one share of our common stock and _____ of a warrant representing the right to purchase one share of common stock at an exercise price of \$ _____ per share of common stock. The warrants are exercisable on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of issuance and will terminate on the date that is 180 days after the fifth anniversary of the date the warrants are issued. The exercise price is subject to appropriate adjustment in the event of stock dividends, stock splits, reorganizations or similar events affecting our common stock and the exercise price and number of warrants held by a purchaser (or such purchaser's direct or indirect transferee) are subject to appropriate adjustment in the event of cash dividends or other distributions to holders of shares of our common stock.

There is no established public trading market for the warrants, and we do not expect a market to develop. We do not intend to apply to list the warrants on any securities exchange. Without an active market, the liquidity of the warrants will be limited. In addition, in the event our common stock price does not exceed the per share exercise price of the warrants during the period when the warrants are exercisable, the warrants will not have any value.

Holders of the warrants may exercise their warrants to purchase shares of our common stock on or before the termination date by delivering an exercise notice, appropriately completed and duly signed, and payment of the exercise price for the number of shares for which the warrant is being exercised. In the event that the registration statement relating to the warrant shares is not effective and another exemption from registration is not available, a holder of warrants will have the right, in its sole discretion, to exercise its warrants for a net number of warrant shares pursuant to the cashless exercise procedures specified in the warrants. Warrants may be exercised in whole or in part, and any portion of a warrant not exercised prior to the termination date shall be and become void and of no value. The absence of an effective registration statement or applicable exemption from registration does not alleviate our obligation to deliver common stock issuable upon exercise of a warrant.

Upon the holder's exercise of a warrant, we will issue the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant within three trading days of our receipt of notice of exercise and payment of the aggregate exercise price, subject to surrender of the warrant.

The shares of common stock issuable on exercise of the warrants will be, when issued in accordance with the warrants, duly and validly authorized, issued and fully paid and non-assessable. We will authorize and reserve at least that number of shares of common stock equal to the number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of all outstanding warrants.

If, at any time the warrant is outstanding, we consummate any fundamental transaction, as described in the warrants and generally including any consolidation or merger into another corporation, the consummation of a transaction whereby another entity acquires more than 50% of our outstanding common stock, or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets, or other transaction in which our common stock is converted into or exchanged for other securities or other consideration, the holder of any warrants will thereafter receive upon exercise of the warrants, the securities or other consideration to which a holder of the number of shares of common stock then deliverable upon the exercise or conversion of such warrants would have been entitled upon such consolidation or merger or other transaction. However, if the successor entity does not have stock that is publicly traded on a national securities exchange, each holder of a warrant will have the option, exercisable at any time concurrently or within 30 days after consummation of the fundamental transaction, to cause us or the successor corporation to purchase the warrant by paying to the holder an amount of cash equal to the Black-Scholes value of the remaining unexercised portion of the warrant on the date of the consummation of the fundamental transaction.

Table of Contents

The exercisability of the warrants is prohibited if, upon exercise, the holder (together with the holder's affiliates and any other persons or entities acting together with the holder as a group) would hold more than 9.99% of our total common stock issued and outstanding. The absence of an effective registration statement relating to the common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrant will not provide the holder with the right to net-settle the warrant in cash.

Amendments and waivers of the terms of the warrants require the written consent of the holder of the warrants.

THE HOLDER OF A WARRANT WILL NOT POSSESS ANY RIGHTS AS A STOCKHOLDER UNDER THAT WARRANT UNTIL THE HOLDER EXERCISES THE WARRANT. THE WARRANTS MAY BE TRANSFERRED INDEPENDENT OF THE COMMON STOCK WITH WHICH THEY WERE ISSUED, SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE LAWS.

S-11

Table of Contents

UNDERWRITING

We have entered into an underwriting agreement with Cowen and Company, LLC, acting as representatives of the several underwriters, with respect to the securities in this offering. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters named below, and each underwriter severally has agreed to purchase, the respective number of units set forth opposite its name below:

Underwriter	Number of Units
Cowen and Company, LLC	
Brean Capital, LLC	
Total	

The underwriters are offering the units subject to their acceptance of the units from us and subject to prior sale. The underwriting agreement provides that the obligation of the underwriters to purchase the units offered hereby is subject to certain conditions and that the underwriters are obligated to purchase all of the units offered hereby if they purchase any of the units.

The underwriters initially propose to offer to the public the units purchased pursuant to the underwriting agreement at the public offering price on the cover page of this prospectus and to selected dealers at such price less a concession of not more than \$ _____ per unit. After the securities are released for sale to the public, the underwriters may change the offering price and other selling terms at various times.

The underwriters will purchase the securities from us. The total price per unit to the public will be \$ _____, the total underwriters' discounts and commissions will be \$ _____ per unit and the total proceeds to us will be \$ _____.

The following table summarizes the compensation we will pay and proceeds, before expenses, to us:

	Per Unit	Total
Public offering price		
Underwriting discounts and commissions		
Proceeds, before expenses, to us		

We also have agreed to provide the underwriters with a non-accountable expense reimbursement of up to \$100,000.

The expenses of this offering payable by us, not including underwriting discounts and commissions, are estimated to be approximately \$ _____, which includes legal, accounting and printing costs.

Pursuant to the underwriting agreement, we have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments that the underwriters or such other indemnified parties may be required to make in respect of any such liabilities.

The underwriters propose to offer the shares of common stock to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement. If all of the shares are not sold at the public offering price, the underwriters may change the offering price and other selling terms.

Discretionary Accounts. The underwriters do not intend to confirm sales of the shares to any accounts over which the underwriters have discretionary authority.

Table of Contents

Stabilization. In connection with this offering, the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions, and purchases to cover positions created by short sales.

Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase shares of common stock so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum, and are engaged in for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock while the offering is in progress.

Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. If the underwriters have a naked short position, the position would be closed out by buying shares in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that after pricing there could be downward pressure on the price of the shares in the open market that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering.

These stabilizing transactions and syndicate covering transactions may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common stock or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our common stock. As a result, the price of our common stock in the open market may be higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of these transactions. Neither we nor the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of our common stock. These transactions may be effected on the NYSE MKT, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Passive Market Making. In connection with this offering, the underwriters may engage in passive market making transactions in our common stock on the NYSE MKT in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, during a period before the commencement of offers or sales of common stock and extending through the completion of the distribution. A passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid of that security. However, if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, that bid must then be lowered when specified purchase limits are exceeded.

Lock-up Agreements. We and all of our directors and executive officers have agreed that, subject to certain exceptions, without the prior written consent of Cowen and Company, LLC, we and they will not, (i) during the period ending 90 days, subject to an 18-day extension under certain circumstances (subject to clause (ii) below), following the date of this prospectus, offer, sell, assign, transfer, pledge, contract to sell, or otherwise dispose of or announce the intention to otherwise dispose of, or enter into any swap, hedge or similar agreement or arrangement that transfers, in whole or in part, the economic consequence of ownership of, directly or indirectly, or make any demand or request or exercise any right with respect to the registration of, or file with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act relating to, any common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any common stock, or (ii) during the period ending 30 days following the date of this prospectus, directly or indirectly offer, sell, assign, transfer, pledge, contract to sell, or otherwise dispose of, any shares of Common Stock pursuant to that certain Sales Agreement dated as of June 1, 2012 between us and Cowen and Company, LLC (the "ATM Agreement").

This lock-up provision applies to common stock and to securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for common stock. It also applies to common stock owned now or acquired later by the person executing the agreement or for which the person executing the agreement later acquires the power of disposition. The exceptions permit us, among other things and subject to restrictions, to: (a) issue common stock or options pursuant to employee benefit plans, (b) issue common stock upon exercise of outstanding options or warrants or (c) file registration statements on Form S-8. The exceptions permit parties to the lock-up agreements, among other things and subject to restrictions, to: (a) make certain gifts, (b) if the party is a corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other business entity, make transfers to any shareholders, partners, members of, or owners of similar equity interests in, the party, or to an affiliate of the party, if such transfer is not for value, and (c) if the party is a corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other business entity, make transfers in

Table of Contents

connection with the sale or transfer of all of the party's capital stock, partnership interests, membership interests or other similar equity interests, as the case may be, or all or substantially all of the party's assets, in any such case not undertaken for the purpose of avoiding the restrictions imposed by the lock-up agreement. In addition, the lock-up provision will not restrict broker-dealers from engaging in market making and similar activities conducted in the ordinary course of their business.

Cowen and Company, LLC, in its sole discretion, may release our common stock and other securities subject to the lock-up agreements described above in whole or in part at any time. When determining whether or not to release our common stock and other securities from lock-up agreements, Cowen and Company, LLC will consider, among other factors, the holder's reasons for requesting the release, the number of shares for which the release is being requested and market conditions at the time of the request.

United Kingdom. The underwriters have represented and agreed that:

the underwriters have not made or will not make an offer of the securities to the public in the United Kingdom within the meaning of section 102B of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as amended) (FSMA) except to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities or otherwise in circumstances which do not require the publication by us of a prospectus pursuant to the Prospectus Rules of the Financial Services Authority (FSA);

it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of section 21 of FSMA) to persons who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 or in circumstances in which section 21 of FSMA does not apply to us; and

it has complied with and will comply with all applicable provisions of FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the securities in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Singapore. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the securities may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the securities be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the "SFA"), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the securities are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is:

(a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)), the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or

(b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments, and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor, securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferable within 6 months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the securities pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 except: (1) to an institutional investor or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) or Section 276(4)(i)(B) of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer; (3) where the transfer is by operation of law; or (4) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA.

Table of Contents

South Korea. The securities may not be offered, sold and delivered directly or indirectly, or offered or sold to any person for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in South Korea or to any resident of South Korea except pursuant to the applicable laws and regulations of South Korea, including the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act and the Foreign Exchange Transaction Law and the decrees and regulations thereunder. The securities have not been registered with the Financial Services Commission of South Korea for public offering in South Korea. Furthermore, the securities may not be re-sold to South Korean residents unless the purchaser of the shares complies with all applicable regulatory requirements (including but not limited to government approval requirements under the Foreign Exchange Transaction Law and its subordinate decrees and regulations) in connection with their purchase.

Switzerland. The securities will not be offered, directly or indirectly, to the public in Switzerland and this prospectus does not constitute a public offering prospectus as that term is understood pursuant to article 652a or 1156 of the Swiss Federal Code of Obligations.

European Economic Area. In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area (Iceland, Norway and Lichtenstein in addition to the member states of the European Union) that has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), the underwriters have represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of the securities to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the securities that has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of the securities to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;

to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts; or

in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by the issuer of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

Each person in a Relevant Member State who receives any communication in respect of, or who acquires any securities under, the offer contemplated in this prospectus will be deemed to have represented, warranted and agreed to and with us and each underwriter that:

it is a qualified investor within the meaning of the law in that Relevant Member State implementing Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive; and

in the case of any securities acquired by it as a financial intermediary, as that term is used in Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, (1) the securities acquired by it in the offer have not been acquired on behalf of, nor have they been acquired with a view to their offer or resale to, persons in any Relevant Member State other than qualified investors, as that term is defined in the Prospectus Directive, or in circumstances in which the prior consent of the underwriter has been given to the offer or resale; or (2) where securities have been acquired by it on behalf of persons in any Relevant Member State other than qualified investors, the offer of those securities to it is not treated under the Prospectus Directive as having been made to such persons.

For the purposes of the provisions in the two immediately preceding paragraphs, the expression an offer of the securities to the public in relation to the securities in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the securities to be offered

Table of Contents

so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the securities, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

Electronic Offer, Sale and Distribution of Shares. A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the websites maintained by certain of the underwriters and the underwriters may distribute prospectuses electronically. Internet distributions will be allocated by the underwriters. Other than the prospectus in electronic format, the information on these websites is not part of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the registration statement of which the accompanying prospectus forms a part, has not been approved or endorsed by us or any underwriter in its capacity as underwriter, and should not be relied upon by investors.

Other Relationships. Some of the underwriters and their affiliates have engaged in, and may in the future engage in, investment banking and other commercial dealings in the ordinary course of business with us and/or our affiliates. They have received, or may in the future receive, customary fees and commissions for these transactions. Other than the foregoing and the ATM Agreement, the underwriters do not have any material relationship with us or any of our officers, directors or controlling persons, except with respect to the contractual relationship of the underwriters with us entered into in connection with this offering.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities being offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus will be passed upon for us by Duane Morris LLP, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. LeClairRyan, A Professional Corporation, New York, New York is acting as counsel for the underwriters in connection with this offering.

EXPERTS

Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011, as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and elsewhere in the registration statement. Our financial statements are incorporated by reference in reliance on Ernst & Young LLP's reports, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any reports, statements and other information filed by us at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call (800) SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. The SEC maintains an Internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers, including us, that file electronically with the SEC. The address for the SEC's website is <http://www.sec.gov>.

We make available, free of charge, through our investor relations website, our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, statements of changes in beneficial ownership of securities and amendments to those reports and statements as soon as reasonably practicable after they are filed with the SEC. The address for our website is <http://www.inovio.com>. The contents on our website are not part of this prospectus supplement, and the reference to our website does not constitute incorporation by reference into this prospectus supplement of the information contained at that site.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement the information in documents we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information we incorporate by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. Any statement contained in any document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in or omitted from this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement, or in any other subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the documents or information listed below and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until this offering is completed:

The description of our common stock set forth in the accompanying prospectus;

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, as filed with the SEC on March 15, 2012;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012, as filed with the SEC on May 9, 2012;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012, as filed with the SEC on August 9, 2012;

Our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012, as filed with the SEC on November 7, 2012;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K, as filed with the SEC on January 6, 2012, March 23, 2012, March 27, 2012, May 17, 2012, June 1, 2012, and June 18, 2012; and

Our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A as filed with the SEC on April 6, 2012.

You may request, and we will provide to you, a copy of these filings at no cost by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Inovio Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

1787 Sentry Parkway West

Building 18, Suite 400

Blue Bell, Pennsylvania 19422

Telephone: (267) 440-4200

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act covering the common stock to be offered and sold by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement, some of which is contained in exhibits to the registration statement. The registration statement, including the exhibits, can be read at the SEC website or at the SEC offices referred to above. Any statement made in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus concerning the contents of any contract, agreement or other document is only a summary of the actual contract, agreement or other document. If we have filed any contract, document, agreement or other document as an exhibit to the registration statement or a document incorporated by reference therein, you should read the exhibit for a more complete understanding of the

Edgar Filing: INOVIO PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

document or matter involved. We qualify in its entirety each statement regarding a contract, agreement or other document by reference to the actual document.

S-18

Table of Contents

INOVIO PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

\$75,000,000

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

Units

From time to time, we may offer up to \$75,000,000 of any combination of the securities described in this prospectus, either individually or in units. We may also offer common stock or preferred stock upon conversion of debt securities, common stock upon conversion of preferred stock, or common stock, preferred stock or debt securities upon the exercise of warrants. We will provide the specific terms of these offerings and securities in one or more supplements to this prospectus. We may also authorize the provision to you of one or more free writing prospectuses in connection with these offerings. The prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus may also add, update or change information we include in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, as well as any documents we incorporate by reference, before buying any of the securities being offered.

Our common stock is traded on the NYSE Amex under the symbol **INO**. On August 26, 2011, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the NYSE Amex was \$0.69. The applicable prospectus supplement will contain information, where applicable, as to any other listing, if any, on the NYSE Amex or any securities market or other exchange of the securities covered by the applicable prospectus supplement.

On August 17, 2011, the aggregate market value of our outstanding common stock our non-affiliates held was approximately \$83.7 million.

We may sell the securities directly to investors, through agents designated from time to time or to or through underwriters or dealers, on a continuous or delayed basis. For additional information on the methods of sale, you should refer to the section entitled **Plan of Distribution** in this prospectus. If any agents or underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities with respect to which this prospectus is being delivered, we will set forth in a prospectus supplement the names of such agents or underwriters and any applicable fees, commissions, discounts and over-allotment options. We will also set forth in a prospectus supplement the price to the public of such securities and the net proceeds that we expect to receive from such sale.

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should review carefully the risks and uncertainties described under the heading **Risk Factors contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and under similar headings in the other documents that we incorporate by reference into this prospectus.**

This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This prospectus is dated September 2, 2011.

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, including the information we incorporate by reference as described under Where You Can Find More Information. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If you receive any other information, you should not rely on it. No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representation. This prospectus is an offer to sell only the securities offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. You should assume that the information in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus is accurate only as of the date on the front of the document and that any information we have incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus, or any sale of a security.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item	Page Number
<u>Risk Factors</u>	1
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	2
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	3
<u>Cautionary Statement on Forward-Looking Information</u>	4
<u>Our Company</u>	5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	6
<u>Description of Capital Stock</u>	7
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	11
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	18
<u>Description of Units</u>	20
<u>Legal Ownership of Securities</u>	21
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	24
<u>Validity of Securities</u>	26
<u>Experts</u>	27

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the specific risks and uncertainties we describe under the caption "Risk Factors" or similar heading in our periodic reports referred to in "Where You Can Find More Information" below and, if included in an applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus under the caption "Risk Factors" or similar heading in the applicable prospectus supplement. Additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently believe are immaterial may also significantly impair our business operations.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

All references in this prospectus to Inovio, Company, we, our and us refer to Inovio Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries unless the context otherwise requires.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we and certain holders of our securities may sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings, up to the total dollar amount of \$75,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we or holders of our securities offer to sell securities under this shelf registration statement, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain more specific information about the terms of the offering and those securities. We may also authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you that may contain material information relating to these offerings. The prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you may also modify, add to or supersede the information contained in this prospectus or in the documents we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You should read this prospectus together with the documents incorporated by reference, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, to with the additional information referred to below under Where You Can Find More Information, before buying any of the securities being offered.

We have filed a registration statement on Form S-3 with the SEC relating to the securities covered by this prospectus. This prospectus is a part of the registration statement and does not contain all of the information in the registration statement. Whenever we refer in this prospectus, including other documents we incorporate by reference, to a Company contract or other document, please be aware that the reference is only a summary and that you should refer to the exhibits that are a part of the registration statement for a copy of the applicable contract or other document. We qualify all of the summaries in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed, will be filed or will be incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below under the heading Where You Can Find Additional Information.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any documents we file with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our filings with the SEC are also available to the public through the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC's rules allow us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus. Therefore, we can disclose important information to you by referring you to any of the SEC filings we reference in the list below. Any information we refer to in this way in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement is considered part of this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement. Any reports we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and before the date that the offering of securities by means of this prospectus terminates will automatically update and, where applicable, supersede any information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement.

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the following documents or information we file with the SEC, other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules. The SEC file number for these documents is 001-31940.

Our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 we filed with the SEC on March 16, 2011;

Our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2011 and June 30, 2011 we filed with the SEC on May 10, 2011 and August 5, 2011;

Our current reports on Form 8-K we filed on January 24, 2011, March 4, 2011, April 15, 2011, May 18, 2011, July 1, 2011 and August 12, 2011;

The description of our common stock contained in our registration statement filed pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act, as modified by our reports we file under the Exchange Act; and

All documents we file under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act on or after the date of this prospectus and before the termination of the offering of securities under this prospectus, other than current reports furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K and exhibits we file on such form that relate to such items.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that any statement contained in this prospectus or in any subsequently filed document, which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, modifies or supersedes this statement. Any statement modified or superseded in this way will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. The information incorporated by reference contains information about us and our financial condition and performance and is an important part of this prospectus.

We will provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus is delivered, upon his or her written or oral request, a copy of any or all documents referred to above which have been or may be incorporated by reference into this prospectus, excluding exhibits to those documents unless they are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. You can request those documents from Inovio Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, 11494 Sorrento Valley Road, Suite A, San Diego, California, 92121, telephone (858) 410-3140.

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT ON FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This prospectus, including documents we incorporate by reference, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, contains forward-looking statements, as defined in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These statements relate to future events or our future financial performance. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as may, will, should, expect, plan, anticipate, believe, estimate, predict, potential, or the negative of such terms or other comparable terminology. These statements are only predictions. Actual events or results may differ materially.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. Moreover, neither we, nor any other person, assume responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the forward-looking statements. We are under no obligation to update any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement to conform such statements to actual results or to changes in our expectations.

Readers are also urged to carefully review and consider the various disclosures made by us that attempt to advise interested parties of the factors that affect our business, including without limitation the disclosures made in our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2011 under the caption Risk Factors.

Risk factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements include but are not limited to: our history of losses; our lack of products that have received regulatory approval; uncertainties inherent in clinical trials and product development programs, including but not limited to the fact that pre-clinical and clinical results may not be indicative of results achievable in other trials or for other indications, that results from one study may not necessarily be reflected or supported by the results of other similar studies, that results from an animal study may not be indicative of results achievable in human studies, that clinical testing is expensive and can take many years to complete, that the outcome of any clinical trial is uncertain and failure can occur at any time during the clinical trial process, and that our electroporation technology and DNA vaccines may fail to show the desired safety and efficacy traits in clinical trials; the availability of funding; the ability to manufacture vaccine candidates; the availability or potential availability of alternative therapies or treatments for the conditions targeted by us or our collaborators, including alternatives that may be more efficacious or cost-effective than any therapy or treatment that we and our collaborators hope to develop; whether our proprietary rights are enforceable or defensible or infringe or allegedly infringe on rights of others or can withstand claims of invalidity; and the impact of government healthcare proposals.

Table of Contents**OUR COMPANY**

We are engaged in the development of a new generation of vaccines, called DNA vaccines, focused on cancers and infectious diseases. Our SynCon technology enables the design of universal DNA-based vaccines capable of providing cross-protection against new, unmatched strains of pathogens such as influenza. Our electroporation DNA delivery technology uses brief, controlled electrical pulses to increase cellular DNA vaccine uptake. Initial human data has shown this method can safely and significantly increase gene expression and immune responses. Our clinical programs include cervical dysplasia/cancer (therapeutic), avian influenza (preventative), hepatitis C virus and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) vaccines. We are advancing preclinical research for a universal seasonal/pandemic influenza vaccine as well as other products including dengue fever and prostate cancer vaccines. Our partners and collaborators include University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, National Microbiology Laboratory of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health/Malaria Vaccine Initiative, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Merck, ChronTech, University of Southampton, United States Military HIV Research Program, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases and HIV Vaccines Trial Network.

All of our potential human products are in research and development phases. We have not generated any revenues from the sale of any such products, and we do not expect to generate any such revenues for at least the next several years. We earn revenue from license fees and milestone revenue, collaborative research and development agreements, grants and government contracts. Our product candidates will require significant additional research and development efforts, including extensive preclinical and clinical testing. All product candidates that we advance to clinical testing will require regulatory approval prior to commercial use, and will require significant costs for commercialization. We may not be successful in our research and development efforts, and we may never generate sufficient product revenue to be profitable.

Our executive offices are located at 1787 Sentry Park West, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania 19422, and our telephone number is (267) 440-4200. We maintain an Internet website at www.inovio.com. Information contained in or accessible through our website does not constitute part of this prospectus.

STATEMENT OF COMPUTATION OF RATIOS

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges and to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and the six months ended June 30, 2011⁽¹⁾:

	2006	2007	Year Ended December 31,		2010	Six Months Ended June 30, 2011
			2008	2009		
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges ⁽²⁾						

Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends⁽³⁾

(1) We reported a net loss for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and the the six months ended June 30, 2011 and would have needed to generate additional income of \$12,343,942, \$11,204,443, \$12,965,622, \$24,458,924, \$17,638,746 and \$5,259,325 respectively, to cover our fixed charges of \$161,370, \$161,700, \$167,395, \$408,647, \$261,425 and \$70,896, respectively. Including preferred stock dividends, we would have needed to generate additional income of \$14,349,606 and \$11,227,778 in the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2007, respectively.

(2) For purposes of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of net loss plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense and an estimate of the interest within rental expense.

(3) For purposes of computing the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, earnings consist of net loss plus fixed charges. Combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends consist of interest expense, an estimate of interest within rental expense and preferred stock dividends.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as described in any prospectus supplement or in any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you, we currently intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered hereby for research and development and general corporate purposes. We may also use a portion of the net proceeds to acquire or invest in businesses, products and technologies that are complementary to our own. Pending these uses, we expect to invest the net proceeds in short-term, investment-grade securities.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the common stock, preferred stock, warrants, debt securities and units that we may offer and sell from time to time. When we offer one or more of these securities in the future, a prospectus supplement will explain the particular terms of the securities and the extent to which these general provisions may apply. These summary descriptions and any summary descriptions in the applicable prospectus supplement do not purport to be complete descriptions of the terms and conditions of each security and are qualified in their entirety by reference to our certificate of incorporation and by-laws, each as amended to date, the Delaware General Corporation Law, or DGCL, and any other documents referenced in such summary descriptions and from which such summary descriptions are derived. If any particular terms of a security described in the applicable prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described in this prospectus, then the terms described in this prospectus will be deemed superseded by the terms set forth in that prospectus supplement.

We may issue securities in book-entry form through one or more depositories, such as The Depository Trust Company, named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Each sale of a security in book-entry form will settle in immediately available funds through the applicable depository, unless otherwise stated. We will issue the securities only in registered form, without coupons, although we may issue the securities in bearer form if so specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. If any securities are to be listed or quoted on a securities exchange or quotation system, the applicable prospectus supplement will so indicate.

Capital Stock

Our authorized capital stock consists of 300,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.001 par value per share, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.001 par value per share. As of August 26, 2011, there were:

127,256,907 shares of common stock outstanding; and

26 shares of Series C Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock outstanding.

Common Stock

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders and do not have any cumulative voting rights. Any election at a meeting of stockholders is determined by a plurality of the votes cast by the stockholders entitled to vote at the election, and all other matters are generally determined by a majority of the votes cast on the matter. Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends, if any, as may be declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available. In the event we liquidate, dissolve or wind up, after payment of all of our debts and liabilities, and subject to the preferential rights, if any, of any outstanding preferred stock, the holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets. Our common stock has no preemptive or conversion rights or other subscription rights, and there are no redemptive or sinking funds provisions applicable to our common stock. We have received full payment for all outstanding shares of our common stock and cannot require our stockholders to make further payments on the stock.

Preferred Stock

Pursuant to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders (unless such stockholder action is required by applicable law or NYSE Amex rules), to designate and issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series, to establish from time to time the number of shares to be included in each such series, to fix the designations, powers, preferences and rights of the shares of each wholly unissued series, and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, and to increase or decrease the number of shares of any such series, but not below the number of shares of such series then outstanding.

Table of Contents

We will fix the designations, powers, preferences and rights of the preferred stock of each series, as well as the qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will file as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of any certificate of designation that describes the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of that series of preferred stock. This description will include:

the title and stated value;

the number of shares we are offering;

the liquidation preference per share;

the purchase price;

the dividend rate, period and payment date and method of calculation for dividends;

whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends will accumulate;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any;

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any;

the provisions for redemption or repurchase, if applicable, and any restrictions on our ability to exercise those redemption and repurchase rights;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange or market;

whether the preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock, and, if applicable, the conversion price, or how it will be calculated, and the conversion period;

whether the preferred stock will be exchangeable into debt securities, and, if applicable, the exchange price, or how it will be calculated, and the exchange period;

voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;

preemptive rights, if any;

Edgar Filing: INOVIO PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

whether interests in the preferred stock will be represented by depositary shares;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs;

any limitations on the issuance of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the preferred stock.

Our board of directors may authorize the issuance of preferred stock with voting or conversion rights that could adversely affect the voting power or other rights of the holders of our common stock. Preferred stock could be issued quickly with terms designed to delay or prevent a change in control of our company or make removal of management more difficult. Additionally, the issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of decreasing the market price of our common stock.

Table of Contents

Stock Options, Warrants and Convertible Preferred Stock

As of August 26, 2011, we have reserved 35,058,058 shares of common stock for issuance under our equity compensation plans, upon exercise of outstanding stock options, warrants or upon conversion of outstanding convertible preferred stock. Of this number, we have reserved 14,399,591 shares for issuance upon exercise of outstanding options that we previously granted under our stock option plans, 2,286,777 shares for issuance upon exercise of options that we may grant in the future under our stock option plans, 18,333,457 shares for issuance upon exercise of outstanding warrants and 38,233 shares for issuance upon conversion of outstanding shares of preferred stock.

Delaware Anti-Takeover Law and Certain Charter Provisions

Delaware Section 203. We are subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. In general, the statute prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date that the stockholder became an interested stockholder unless:

prior to such date, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding, those shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers, and employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or

on or subsequent to such date, the board of directors approves the business combination and stockholders authorize the business combination at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock that the interested stockholder does not own.

A business combination includes a merger, asset or stock sale or other transaction resulting in financial benefit to the stockholder. An interested stockholder is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns, or within three years prior, did own, 15% or more of a corporation's outstanding voting stock.

Charter Provisions. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation includes the following provisions, among others:

the authority of our board of directors to issue shares of undesignated preferred stock and to determine the rights, preferences and privileges of these shares, without stockholder approval;

all stockholder actions must be effected at a duly called meeting of stockholders and not by written consent; and

the elimination of cumulative voting.

Indemnification. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws provide that we will indemnify officers and directors against losses as they incur in investigations and legal proceedings resulting from their services to us, which may include service in connection with takeover.

These provisions may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying changes in our control or management. We intend these provisions to enhance the likelihood of continued stability in the composition of our board of directors and in the policies they implement, and to discourage certain types of transactions that may involve an actual or threatened change of our control. We designed these provisions to reduce our vulnerability to

Table of Contents

an unsolicited acquisition proposal. We also intend for the provisions to discourage certain tactics that may be used in proxy fights. However, such provisions could have the effect of discouraging others from making tender offers for our shares and, as a consequence, they also may inhibit fluctuations in the market price of our shares that could result from actual or rumored takeover attempts. Such provisions may also have the effect of preventing changes in our management.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare. Its address is 3rd Floor 510 Burrard St., Vancouver, BC V6C 3B9, and its telephone number is (604) 661-0258. The transfer agent for any series of preferred stock that we may offer under this prospectus will be named and described in the prospectus supplement for that series.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may issue debt securities, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any debt securities offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below. Unless the context requires otherwise, whenever we refer to the indentures, we also are referring to any supplemental indentures that specify the terms of a particular series of debt securities.

We will issue the senior debt securities under the senior indenture that we will enter into with the trustee named in the senior indenture. We will issue the subordinated debt securities under the subordinated indenture that we will enter into with the trustee named in the subordinated indenture. The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. We use the term debenture trustee to refer to either the trustee under the senior indenture or the trustee under the subordinated indenture, as applicable. We have filed forms of indentures to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and supplemental indentures and forms of debt securities containing the terms of the debt securities being offered will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or will be incorporated by reference from reports that we file with the SEC.

The following summaries of material provisions of the senior debt securities, the subordinated debt securities and the indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements and any related free writing prospectuses related to the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as the complete indentures that contains the terms of the debt securities. Except as we may otherwise indicate, the terms of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are identical.

General

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of debt securities being offered, including:

the title;

the principal amount being offered, and if a series, the total amount authorized and the total amount outstanding;

any limit on the amount that may be issued;

whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form, the terms and who the depository will be;

the maturity date;

whether and under what circumstances, if any, we will pay additional amounts on any debt securities held by a person who is not a United States person for tax purposes, and whether we can redeem the debt securities if we have to pay such additional amounts;

the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

whether or not the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and the terms of any secured debt;

the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;

the place where payments will be payable;

Table of Contents

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the date, if any, after which, and the price at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional or provisional redemption provisions and the terms of those redemption provisions;

the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund or analogous fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities and the currency or currency unit in which the debt securities are payable;

whether the indenture will restrict our ability and/or the ability of our subsidiaries to:

incur additional indebtedness;

issue additional securities;

create liens;

pay dividends and make distributions in respect of our capital stock and the capital stock of our subsidiaries;

redeem capital stock;

place restrictions on our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends, make distributions or transfer assets;

make investments or other restricted payments;

sell or otherwise dispose of assets;

enter into sale-leaseback transactions;

engage in transactions with stockholders and affiliates;

issue or sell stock of our subsidiaries; or

Edgar Filing: INOVIO PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

effect a consolidation or merger;

whether the indenture will require us to maintain any interest coverage, fixed charge, cash flow-based, asset-based or other financial ratios;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;

information describing any book-entry features;

provisions for a sinking fund purchase or other analogous fund, if any;

the applicability of the provisions in the indenture on discharge;

whether the debt securities are to be offered at a price such that they will be deemed to be offered at an original issue discount as defined in paragraph (a) of Section 1273 of the Internal Revenue Code;

the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

the currency of payment of debt securities if other than U.S. dollars and the manner of determining the equivalent amount in U.S. dollars; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities, including any additional events of default or covenants provided with respect to the debt securities, and any terms that may be required by us or advisable under applicable laws or regulations.

Table of Contents

Conversion or Exchange Rights

We will set forth in the prospectus supplement the terms on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock or our other securities. We will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of shares of our common stock or our other securities that the holders of the series of debt securities receive would be subject to adjustment.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale

Unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, the indentures will not contain any covenant that restricts our ability to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets. However, any successor to or acquirer of such assets must assume all of our obligations under the indentures or the debt securities, as appropriate. If the debt securities are convertible into or exchangeable for our other securities or securities of other entities, the person with whom we consolidate or merge or to whom we sell all of our property must make provisions for the conversion of the debt securities into securities that the holders of the debt securities would have received if they had converted the debt securities before the consolidation, merger or sale.

Events of Default Under the Indenture

Unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, the following are events of default under the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities that we may issue:

if we fail to pay interest when due and payable and our failure continues for 90 days and the time for payment has not been extended or deferred;

if we fail to pay the principal, premium or sinking fund payment, if any, when due and payable and the time for payment has not been extended or delayed;

if we fail to observe or perform any other covenant contained in the debt securities or the indentures, other than a covenant specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and our failure continues for 90 days after we receive notice from the debenture trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series; and

if specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur.

If an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, other than an event of default specified in the last bullet point above, the debenture trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by notice to us in writing, and to the debenture trustee if notice is given by such holders, may declare the unpaid principal of, premium, if any, and accrued interest, if any, due and payable immediately. If an event of default specified in the last bullet point above occurs with respect to us, the principal amount of and accrued interest, if any, of each issue of debt securities then outstanding shall be due and payable without any notice or other action on the part of the debenture trustee or any holder.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of an affected series may waive any default or event of default with respect to the series and its consequences, except defaults or events of default regarding payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, unless we have cured the default or event of default in accordance with the indenture. Any waiver shall cure the default or event of default.

Subject to the terms of the indentures, if an event of default under an indenture shall occur and be continuing, the debenture trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under such indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the applicable series of debt securities, unless such

Table of Contents

holders have offered the debenture trustee reasonable indemnity. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the debenture trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the debenture trustee, with respect to the debt securities of that series, provided that:

the direction so given by the holder is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture; and

subject to its duties under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, the debenture trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability or might be unduly prejudicial to the holders not involved in the proceeding.

A holder of the debt securities of any series will have the right to institute a proceeding under the indentures or to appoint a receiver or trustee, or to seek other remedies only if:

the holder has given written notice to the debenture trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;

the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request, and such holders have offered reasonable indemnity to the debenture trustee to institute the proceeding as trustee; and

the debenture trustee does not institute the proceeding, and does not receive from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series other conflicting directions within 90 days after the notice, request and offer.

These limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of debt securities if we default in the payment of the principal, premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities.

We will periodically file statements with the debenture trustee regarding our compliance with specified covenants in the indentures.

Modification of Indenture; Waiver

We and the debenture trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders with respect to specific matters:

to fix any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture;

to comply with the provisions described above under **Description of Debt Securities** **Consolidation, Merger or Sale**;

to comply with any requirements of the SEC in connection with the qualification of any indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939;

to add to, delete from or revise the conditions, limitations, and restrictions on the authorized amount, terms, or purposes of issue, authentication and delivery of debt securities, as set forth in the indenture;

to provide for the issuance of and establish the form and terms and conditions of the debt securities of any series as provided under **Description of Debt Securities** **General** to establish the form of any certifications required to be furnished pursuant to the terms of the indenture or any series of debt securities, or to add to the rights of the holders of any series of debt securities;

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment hereunder by a successor trustee;

to provide for uncertificated debt securities in addition to or in place of certificated debt securities and to make all appropriate changes for such purpose;

Table of Contents

to add to our covenants such new covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions for the protection of the holders, and to make the occurrence, or the occurrence and the continuance, of a default in any such additional covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions an event of default; or

to change anything that does not materially adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series.

In addition, under the indentures, the rights of holders of a series of debt securities may be changed by us and the debenture trustee with the written consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series that is affected. However, unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of debt securities, we and the debenture trustee may make the following changes only with the consent of each holder of any outstanding debt securities affected:

extending the fixed maturity of the series of debt securities;

reducing the principal amount, reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest, or reducing any premium payable upon the redemption of any debt securities; or

reducing the percentage of debt securities, the holders of which are required to consent to any amendment, supplement, modification or waiver.

Discharge

Each indenture provides that we can elect to be discharged from our obligations with respect to one or more series of debt securities, except for specified obligations, including obligations to:

register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series;

replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series;

maintain paying agencies;

hold monies for payment in trust;

recover excess money held by the debenture trustee;

compensate and indemnify the debenture trustee; and

appoint any successor trustee.

In order to exercise our rights to be discharged, we must deposit with the debenture trustee money or government obligations sufficient to pay all the principal of, any premium, if any, and interest on, the debt securities of the series on the dates payments are due.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

Edgar Filing: INOVIO PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

We will issue the debt securities of each series only in fully registered form without coupons and, unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. The indentures provide that we may issue debt securities of a series in temporary or permanent global form and as book-entry securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company or another depository named by us and identified in a prospectus supplement with respect to that series. See [Legal Ownership of Securities](#) for a further description of the terms relating to any book-entry securities.

At the option of the holder, subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the holder of the debt securities of any series can exchange the debt securities for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denomination and of like tenor and aggregate principal amount.

Table of Contents

Subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the debt securities may present the debt securities for exchange or for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly executed if so required by us or the security registrar, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us for this purpose. Unless otherwise provided in the debt securities that the holder presents for transfer or exchange, we will impose no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange, but we may require payment of any taxes or other governmental charges.

We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement the security registrar, and any transfer agent in addition to the security registrar, that we initially designate for any debt securities. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series.

If we elect to redeem the debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any debt securities that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or

register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt securities we are redeeming in part.

Information Concerning the Debenture Trustee

The debenture trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of an event of default under an indenture, undertakes to perform only those duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable indenture. Upon an event of default under an indenture, the debenture trustee must use the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to this provision, the debenture trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers given it by the indentures at the request of any holder of debt securities unless it is offered reasonable security and indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities that it might incur.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make payment of the interest on any debt securities on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the debt securities, or one or more predecessor securities, are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest.

We will pay principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities of a particular series at the office of the paying agents designated by us, except that unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will make interest payments by check that we will mail to the holder or by wire transfer to certain holders. Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will designate the corporate trust office of the debenture trustee in the City of New York as our sole paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement any other paying agents that we initially designate for the debt securities of a particular series. We will maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All money we pay to a paying agent or the debenture trustee for the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of the debt security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

Table of Contents

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 is applicable.

Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities

The subordinated debt securities will be unsecured and will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to certain of our other indebtedness to the extent described in a prospectus supplement. The subordinated indenture does not limit the amount of subordinated debt securities that we may issue, nor does it limit us from issuing any other secured or unsecured debt.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in one or more series. We may issue warrants independently or together with common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from these securities. While the terms summarized below will apply generally to any warrants that we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any series of warrants in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any warrants offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below.

We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of warrant agreement, including a form of warrant certificate, that describes the terms of the particular series of warrants we are offering before the issuance of the related series of warrants. The following summaries of material provisions of the warrants and the warrant agreements are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the warrant agreement and warrant certificate applicable to the particular series of warrants that we may offer under this prospectus. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the particular series of warrants that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as any related free writing prospectuses, and the complete warrant agreements and warrant certificates that contain the terms of the warrants.

General

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of warrants being offered, including:

the offering price and aggregate number of warrants offered;

the currency for which the warrants may be purchased;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security or each principal amount of such security;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;

in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of one warrant and the price at, and currency in which, this principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;

in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, purchasable upon the exercise of one warrant and the price at which these shares may be purchased upon such exercise;

the effect of any merger, consolidation, sale or other disposition of our business on the warrant agreements and the warrants;

the terms of any rights to redeem or call the warrants;

any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the exercise price or number of securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants;

the dates on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and expire;

the manner in which the warrant agreements and warrants may be modified;

a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax consequences of holding or exercising the warrants;

the terms of the securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of or restrictions on the warrants.

Table of Contents

Before exercising their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including:

in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the right to receive payments of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities purchasable upon exercise or to enforce covenants in the applicable indenture; or

in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the right to receive dividends, if any, or payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up or to exercise voting rights, if any.

Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase the securities that we specify in the applicable prospectus supplement at the exercise price that we describe in the applicable prospectus supplement. Holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants at any time up to the specified time on the expiration date that we set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void.

Holders of the warrants may exercise the warrants by delivering the warrant certificate representing the warrants to be exercised together with specified information, and paying the required amount to the warrant agent in immediately available funds, as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will set forth on the reverse side of the warrant certificate and in the applicable prospectus supplement the information that the holder of the warrant will be required to deliver to the warrant agent.

Upon receipt of the required payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue and deliver the securities purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate are exercised, then we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining amount of warrants. If we so indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of the warrants may surrender securities as all or part of the exercise price for warrants.

Governing Law

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the warrants and warrant agreements will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Enforceability of Rights by Holders of Warrants

Each warrant agent will act solely as our agent under the applicable warrant agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any warrant. A single bank or trust company may act as warrant agent for more than one issue of warrants. A warrant agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable warrant agreement or warrant, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a warrant may, without the consent of the related warrant agent or the holder of any other warrant, enforce by appropriate legal action its right to exercise, and receive the securities purchasable upon exercise of, its warrants.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We may issue, in one more series, units consisting of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and/or warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in any combination. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any units that we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any series of units in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any units offered under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms described below.

We will file as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or will incorporate by reference from reports that we file with the SEC, the form of unit agreement that describes the terms of the series of units we are offering, and any supplemental agreements, before the issuance of the related series of units. The following summaries of material terms and provisions of the units are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the unit agreement and any supplemental agreements applicable to a particular series of units. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the particular series of units that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as any related free writing prospectuses and the complete unit agreement and any supplemental agreements that contain the terms of the units.

General

We will issue each unit so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which we issue a unit may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately, at any time or at any time before a specified date.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of units being offered, including:

the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;

any provisions of the governing unit agreement that differ from those described below; and

any provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units. The provisions described in this section, as well as those described under Description of Capital Stock, Description of Debt Securities and Description of Warrants will apply to each unit and to any common stock, preferred stock, debt security or warrant included in each unit, respectively.

Issuance in Series

We may issue units in such amounts and in such numerous distinct series as we determine.

Enforceability of Rights by Holders of Units

Each unit agent will act solely as our agent under the applicable unit agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any unit. A single bank or trust company may act as unit agent for more than one series of units. A unit agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable unit agreement or unit, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a unit may, without the consent of the related unit agent or the holder of any other unit, enforce by appropriate legal action its rights as holder under any security included in the unit.

We, and any unit agent and any of their agents, may treat the registered holder of any unit certificate as an absolute owner of the units evidenced by that certificate for any purpose and as the person entitled to exercise the rights attaching to the units so requested, despite any notice to the contrary. See Legal Ownership of Securities below.

Table of Contents

LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

We can issue securities in registered form or in the form of one or more global securities. We describe global securities in greater detail below. We refer to those persons who have securities registered in their own names on the books that we or any applicable trustee, depository or warrant agent maintain for this purpose as the **holders** of those securities. These persons are the legal holders of the securities. We refer to those persons who, indirectly through others, own beneficial interests in securities that are not registered in their own names, as **indirect holders** of those securities. As we discuss below, indirect holders are not legal holders, and investors in securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect holders.

Book-Entry Holders

We may issue securities in book-entry form only, as we will specify in the applicable prospectus supplement. This means securities may be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depository on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depository's book-entry system. These participating institutions, which are referred to as participants, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Only the person in whose name a security is registered is recognized as the holder of that security. Securities issued in global form will be registered in the name of the depository or its participants. Consequently, for securities issued in global form, we will recognize only the depository as the holder of the securities, and we will make all payments on the securities to the depository. The depository passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depository and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the securities.

As a result, investors in a book-entry security will not own securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depository's book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect holders, and not holders, of the securities.

Street Name Holders

We may terminate a global security or issue securities in non-global form. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their securities in their own names or in **street name**. Securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

For securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the securities are registered as the holders of those securities, and we will make all payments on those securities to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold securities in street name will be indirect holders, not holders, of those securities.

Legal Holders

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of any applicable trustee and of any third parties employed by us or a trustee, run only to the legal holders of the securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a security or has no choice because we are issuing the securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the holder, we have no further responsibility for the payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with depository participants or customers

Table of Contents

or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, we may want to obtain the approval of the holders to amend an indenture, to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of the indenture or for other purposes. In such an event, we would seek approval only from the holders, and not the indirect holders, of the securities. Whether and how the holders contact the indirect holders is up to the holders.

Special Considerations For Indirect Holders

If you hold securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;

whether and how you can instruct it to send you securities registered in your own name so you can be a holder, if that is permitted in the future;

how it would exercise rights under the securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and

if the securities are in book-entry form, how the depository's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

Global Securities

A global security is a security that represents one or any other number of individual securities held by a depository. Generally, all securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms.

Each security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depository. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, known as DTC, will be the depository for all securities issued in book-entry form.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository, its nominee or a successor depository, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under "Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated." As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and holder of all securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depository or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a holder of the security, but only an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

If the prospectus supplement for a particular security indicates that the security will be issued in global form only, then the security will be represented by a global security at all times unless and until the global security is terminated. If termination occurs, we may issue the securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the securities may no longer be held through any book-entry clearing system.

Special Considerations For Global Securities

Edgar Filing: INOVIO PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

The rights of an indirect holder relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depositary, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize an indirect holder as a holder of securities and instead deal only with the depositary that holds the global security.

Table of Contents

If securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

an investor cannot cause the securities to be registered in his or her name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the securities, except in the special situations we describe below;

an investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the securities, as we describe above;

an investor may not be able to sell interests in the securities to some insurance companies and to other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form;

an investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in a global security in circumstances where certificates representing the securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective;

the depositary's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor's interest in a global security;

we and any applicable trustee have no responsibility for any aspect of the depositary's actions or for its records of ownership interests in a global security, nor do we or any applicable trustee supervise the depositary in any way;

the depositary may, and we understand that DTC will, require that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds, and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and

financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in a global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the securities.

There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of those intermediaries.

Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated

In a few special situations described below, the global security will terminate and interests in it will be exchanged for physical certificates representing those interests. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in securities transferred to their own name, so that they will be direct holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above.

Unless we provide otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the global security will terminate when the following special situations occur:

if the depositary notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depositary for that global security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depositary within 90 days;

if we notify any applicable trustee that we wish to terminate that global security; or

if an event of default has occurred with regard to securities represented by that global security and has not been cured or waived. The prospectus supplement may also list additional situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of securities covered by the applicable prospectus supplement. When a global security terminates, the depositary, and not we or any applicable trustee, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions that will be the initial direct holders.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities from time to time pursuant to underwritten public offerings, negotiated transactions, block trades or a combination of these methods. We may sell the securities to or through underwriters or dealers, through agents, or directly to one or more purchasers. We may distribute securities from time to time in one or more transactions:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;

at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or

at negotiated prices.

A prospectus supplement or supplements will describe the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the name or names of the underwriters, if any;

the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;

any agency fees or underwriting discounts and other items constituting agents' or underwriters' compensation;

any public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed.

Only underwriters named in the prospectus supplement will be underwriters of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement.

If underwriters are used in the sale, they will acquire the securities for their own account and may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. We may offer the securities to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. Subject to certain conditions, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement, other than securities covered by any over-allotment option. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may change from time to time. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe in the prospectus supplement, naming the underwriter, the nature of any such relationship.

Edgar Filing: INOVIO PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. - Form 424B5

We may sell securities directly or through agents we designate from time to time. We will name any agent involved in the offering and sale of securities and we will describe any commissions we will pay the agent in the prospectus supplement. Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, our agent will act on a best-efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by certain types of institutional investors to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. We will describe the conditions to these contracts and the commissions we must pay for solicitation of these contracts in the prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

We may provide agents and underwriters with indemnification against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the agents or underwriters may make with respect to these liabilities. Agents and underwriters may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

All securities we may offer, other than common stock, will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriter may make a market in these securities, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot guarantee the liquidity of the trading markets for any securities.

Any underwriter may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short-covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum price. Syndicate-covering or other short-covering transactions involve purchases of the securities, either through exercise of the over-allotment option or in the open market after the distribution is completed, to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a stabilizing or covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time.

Any underwriters that are qualified market makers on the NYSE Amex may engage in passive market making transactions in the common stock on the NYSE Amex in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the common stock. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded. Passive market making may stabilize the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

In compliance with guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, the maximum consideration or discount to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate amount of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

VALIDITY OF SECURITIES

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, Duane Morris LLP, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will pass upon the validity of the securities offered by this prospectus.

Table of Contents

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Inovio Pharmaceuticals, Inc. appearing in Inovio Pharmaceuticals, Inc.'s Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2010, and the effectiveness of Inovio Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

Shares of Common Stock
Warrants to Purchase Shares of Common Stock

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

Sole Book-Running Manager

Cowen and Company

Co-Lead Manager

Brean Capital

March , 2013