Further, under French law, the determination of whether we have been sufficiently profitable to pay dividends is made on the basis of our statutory financial statements prepared and presented in accordance with standard applicable in France. Please see the section of this Annual Report titled "Memorandum and Articles of Association" for further details on the limitations on our ability to declare and pay dividends. Therefore, we may be more restricted in our ability to declare dividends than companies not based in France.

# Our failure to maintain certain tax benefits applicable to French technology companies may adversely affect our results of operations.

affect our results of operations.

As a French technology company, we have benefited from certain tax advantages, including the French research tax credit (Crédit d'Impôt Recherche), or CIR. The CIR is a French tax credit aimed at stimulating research and development. The CIR can be offset against French corporate income tax due and the portion in excess (if any) may be refunded at the end of a three fiscal-year period (or, sooner, in certain cases). The Research tax credit receivables as of December 31, 2021 include the accrual for a French research tax credit related to 2021 for \$7.9 million and research tax credit related to period previous periods for \$1.2 million. The CIR is calculated based on our claimed amount of eligible research and development expenditures in France. The French tax authority with the assistance of the Research and Technology Ministry may audit each research and development program in respect of which a CIR benefit has been claimed and assess whether such program qualifies in their view for the CIR benefit, in accordance with the French tax code (code général des impôts) and the relevant official guidelines.

During December 2018, the French Tax Authority initiated an audit related to the 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 French research tax credits. As a result of the audit, the French Tax Authority withheld a portion of the 2017 and 2018 research tax credits payment corresponding to the nature of certain employee costs. The *Tribunal Administratif* of Paris seized by Cellectis, decided the restitution of the amount withheld by the French Tax Authority. The French Tax Authority may appeal such decision. Should the French tax authorities appeal and be successful, we may be liable for additional corporate income tax, and penalties and interest related thereto, or we may not obtain the refunds for which we have applied, which could have a significant impact on our results of operations and future cash flows.

Furthermore, if the French Parliament decides to eliminate, modify, or reduce the scope of the CIR benefit, which it could decide to do at any time, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

### We may be exposed to significant foreign exchange risk, which may adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

We incur portions of our expenses and may in the future derive revenues in currencies other than the euro, including, in particular, the U.S. dollar. As a result, we are exposed to foreign currency exchange risk as our results of operations and cash flows are subject to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange reast. While we are engaged in hedging transactions to minnize the impact of uncertainty in future exchange rates on cash flows, we may not hedge all of our foreign currency exchange rate risk. In addition, hedging transactions carry their own risks and costs, including the possibility of a default by the counterpart to the hedge transaction. We cannot predict the impact of foreign currency fluctuations, and foreign currency fluctuations, and foreign currency fluctuations in the future may adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Although not free from doubt, we do not believe we were a "passive foreign investment company," or PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes for the taxable year ended becember 31, 2821. However, we cannot assure you that we will not be classified as a PFIC for the taxable year ending December 31, 2822 or any future taxable year, which may result in adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences to U.S. holders (as defined in the section titled "Taxation-Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations" in this Annual Report).

A non-U.S. corporation will be considered a PFIC for any taxable year if either (1) at least 75% of its gross income for such year is passive income or (2) at least 50% of the value of its assets (based on an average of the quarterly values of the assets during such year) is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income. Although the matter is not free from doubt, we do not believe that we were a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes for the taxable year ended December 31, 2021. Because certain aspects of the PFIC rules are not entirely certain and because this determination is dependent upon a number of factors, there can be no assurance that we were not a PFIC for such taxable year or that the IRS will agree with any position we take regarding our PFIC statutes.

Further, no assurances may be given at this time as to our PFIC status for the current or future taxable years. The determination of PFIC status is fact-specific, and a separate determination must be made each taxable year as to whether we are a PFIC (after the close of each such taxable year). It is possible that we could be classified as a PFIC for the taxable year ending December 31, 2022 or future taxable years due to changes in the composition of our assets or income, as well as changes to the market value of our assets. The market value of our assets may be determined in large part by reference to our market capitalization (and, therefore, the market price of the ADSs and our ordinary shares, which has fluctuated and is likely to continue to fluctuate, substantially).

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. holder holds ADSs, the U.S. holder may be subject to adverse tax consequences, including (1) the treatment of all or a portion of any gain on disposition of the ADSs as ordinary income, (2) the application of an interest charge with respect to such gain and certain dividends and (3) compliance with certain reporting requirements. Each U.S. holde is strongly urged to consult its tax advisor regarding these issues and any available elections to mitigate such tax consequences. See the section titled "Taxation-Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations" in this Annual Report.

As a foreign private issuer, we are exempt from a number of rules under the U.S. securities laws and are permitted to file less information with the SEC than a U.S. company. This may limit the information available to holders of ADSs.

available to holders of ADSs.

We are a "foreign private issuer," as defined in the SEC's rules and regulations and, consequently, we are not subject to all of the disclosure requirements applicable to public companies organized within the United States. For example, we are exempt from certain rules under the Exchange Act that regulate disclosure obligations and procedural requirements related to the solicitation of proxies, consents or authorizations applicable to a security registered under the Exchange Act, including the U.S. proxy rules under Section 14 of the Exchange Act. In addition, our officers and directors are exempt from the reporting and "short-swing" profit recovery provisions of Section 16 of the Exchange Act and related rules with respect to their purchases and sales of our securities. Moreover, while we currently make annual and quarterly filings with the SEC, we are not required to file periodic reports and financial statements with the SEC as frequently or as promptly as U.S. domestic public companies and are not required to file quarterly reports on Form 10-Q or current reports on Form 8-K under the Exchange Act. Accordingly, there may be less publicly available information concerning our company than there would be if we were a U.S. domestic issuer.

As a foreign private issuer, we follow certain home country practices in relation to corporate governance matters that differ significantly from Nasdaq corporate governance standards. These practices may afford less protection to shareholders than they would enjoy if we complied fully with Nasdaq's corporate governance standards.

as a foreign private issuer listed on the Nasdaq Global Market, we are subject to Nasdaq's corporate governance standards. However, as a foreign private issuer, Nasdaq's rules permit us to follow the corporate governance standards. However, as a foreign private issuer, Nasdaq's rules permit us to follow the corporate governance practices of France, which differ significantly from certain corporate governance standards of the Nasdaq. For example, neither the corporate laws of France nor our By-laws require a majority of our directors to be independent and our independent directors are not required to hold regularly scheduled meetings at which only independent directors are present. In addition, French governance practice does not require us to maintain a nominating and corporate governance committee or to maintain a compensation committee composed entirely of independent directors. Currently, we follow home country practice in certain key respects. Therefore, our shareholders may be afforded less protection than they otherwise would have under corporate governance listing standards applicable to U.S. domestic issuers. A discussion of our corporate governance practices is set forth in the section titled "Management-Corporate Governance Practices."

We may lose our foreign private issuer status in the future, which could result in significant additional cost and expense.

Based on our determination made on June 30, 2021 (the last business day of our most recently completed second fiscal quarter), we currently qualify as a foreign private issuer. The next determination will be made with respect to us on June 30, 2022.

We will lose our foreign private issuer status if, as of the relevant determination date, more than 56% of our securities are held by U.S. residents and (i) more than 56% of our executive officers or more than 56% of the members of our board of directors are residents or citizens of the United States, (ii) more than 56% of our assets are located in the United States, or (iii) our business is principally administered within the United States we could lose our foreign private issuer status.

As of June 30, 2021, approximately 54.1% of our securities were held by persons who were not U.S. residents.

The regulatory and compliance costs to us under U.S. securities laws as a U.S. domestic public company would be significantly more than the costs we currently incur as a foreign private issuer.

#### It may be difficult to enforce civil liabilities against our company and directors and senior management the experts named in this Annual Report

It may be difficult to enforce civil liabilities against our company and directors and senior management and the experts named in this Annual Report.

Certain members of our board of directors and senior management are not residents of the United States, and all or a substantial portion of our assets and the assets of such persons are located outside the United States. As a result, it may not be possible to serve process on such persons or us in the United States or to enforce judgments obtained in U.S. courts against them or us based on civil liability provisions of the securities laws of the United States. Additionally, it may be difficult to assert U.S. securities law claims in actions originally instituted outside of the United States. Foreign courts may refuse to hear a U.S. securities law claim because foreign court may not be the most appropriate forums in which to bring such a claim. Even if a foreign court agrees to hear a claim, it may determine that the law of the jurisdiction in which the foreign court resides, and not U.S. law, is applicable to the claim. Further, if U.S. law is found to be applicable, the content of applicable U.S. law must be proved as a fact, which can be a time-consuming and costly process, and certain matters of procedure would still be governed by the law of the jurisdiction in which the foreign court resides. In particular, there is some doubt as to whether French courts would recognize and enforce certain civil liabilities under U.S. securities laws in original actions or judgments of U.S. courts based upon these civil liability provisions. In addition, awards of punitive damages in actions brought in the United States or elsewhere may be unenforceable in France. An award for monetary damages under the U.S. securities laws would be considered punitive if it does not seek to compensate the claimant for loss or damage suffered but is intended to punish the defendant. French law provides that a shareholder, or a group of shareholders, may initiate a legal action to seek indemn

The enforceability of any judgment in France will depend on the particular facts of the case as well as the laws and treaties in effect at the time. The United States and France do not currently have a treaty providing for recognition and enforcement of judgments (other than arbitration awards) in civil and commercial matters.

#### Risks Related to Ownership of Our ADSs

#### Holders of our ADSs do not directly hold our ordinary shares.

Holders of ADSs are not treated as one of our shareholders and do not have ordinary shareholder rights. French law governs shareholder rights. The depositary, through the custodian or the custodian's nominee, is the holder of the ordinary shares underlying all ADSs. Holders of ADSs have only ADS holder rights. Among other things, ADS holder rights do not provide for double voting rights, which otherwise would be available to holders of ordinary shares held in a shareholders' name for a period of at least two years. The deposit agreement among us, the depositary and purchasers of ADSs in the U.S. offering, as an ADS holder, and all other persons directly and indirectly holding ADSs, sets out ADS holder rights, as well as the rights and obligations of us and the depositary.

### Holders of our ADSs may not be able to exercise their right to vote the ordinary shares underlying such

Holders of ADSs may exercise voting rights with respect to the ordinary shares represented by the ADSs only in accordance with the provisions of the deposit agreement and not as a direct shareholder. The deposit agreement provides that, upon receipt of notice of any meeting of holders of our ordinary shares, the depositary will fix a record date for the determination of ADS holders who shall be entitled to give instructions for the exercise of voting rights. Upon timely receipt of notice from us, if we so request, the depositary shall distribute to the holders as of the record date (1) the notice of the meeting or solicitation of consent or proxy sent by us and (2) a statement as to the manner in which instructions may be given by the holders.

Holders of ADSs may instruct the depositary of the ADSs to vote the ordinary shares underlying such ADSs. Otherwise, holders of our ADSs will not be able to exercise their right to vote, unless they withdraw the ordinary shares underlying such ADSs. However, holders of our ADSs may not know about the meeting far enough in advance to withdraw those ordinary shares. If we ask for instructions, the depositary, upon timely notice from us, will notify holders of our ADSs of the upcoming vote and arrange to deliver our voting materials to such holders. We cannot guarantee that holders of our ADSs will receive the voting materials in time to ensure that they can instruct the depositary to vote such ordinary shares or to withdraw such ordinary shares so as to vote them directly. If the depositary does not receive timely voting instructions from holders of our ADSs, it may give a proxy to a person designated by us to vote the ordinary shares underlying such ADSs in accordance with the recommendation of

our board of directors. In addition, the depositary and its agents are not responsible for failing to carry out voting instructions or for the manner of carrying out voting instructions. This means that holders of our ADSs may not be able to exercise their right to vote, and there may be nothing such holders can do if the ordinary shares underlying such ADSs are not voted as requested.

### The right of holders of our ADSs to participate in any future preferential subscription rights or to elect to receive dividends in shares may be limited, which may cause dilution to holders of ADSs.

elect to receive dividends in shares may be limited, which may cause dilution to holders of ADSs.

According to French law, if we issue additional shares or securities for cash, current shareholders will have preferential subscription rights for these securities proportionally to their shareholding unless they waive those rights at an extraordinary meeting of our shareholders (by a two-thirds majority vote) or individually by each shareholder. However, our ADS holders in the United States will not be entitled to exercise or sell such rights unless we register the rights and the securities to which the rights relate under the Securities Act or an exemption from the registration requirements is available. In addition, the deposit agreement for our ADSs provides that the depositary will not make rights available to holders of our ADSs unless the distribution to ADS holders of both the rights and any related securities are either registered under the Securities Act or exempted from registration under the Securities Act patch and the securities Act or exempted from registration under the Securities Act post or ordinary shares the option to receive dividends in either cash or shares, the depositary may require satisfactory assurances from us that extending the offer to holders of ADSs does not require registration of any securities under the Securities Act before making the option available to holders of ADSs. We are under no obligation to file a registration statement with respect to any such rights or securities or to endeavor to cause such a registration statement with respect to any such rights or securities or to endeavor to cause such a registration statement to be declared effective. Moreover, we may not be able to establish an exemption from registration under the Securities Act. Accordingly, ADS holders may be unable to participate in our rights offerings or to elect to receive dividends in shares and may experience dilution in their holdings and may receive no value for these rights.

# Holders of our ADSs may be subject to limitations on the transfer of such ADSs and the withdrawal of the underlying ordinary shares.

anderlying ordinary shares.

ADSs, which may be evidenced by American Depositary Receipts, or ADRs, are transferable on the books of the depositary. However, the depositary may close its books at any time or from time to time when it deems expedient in connection with the performance of its duties. The depositary are relose to deliver, transfer or register transfers of ADSs generally when our books or the books of the depositary are closed, or at any time if we or the depositary think it is advisable to do so because of any requirement of law, government or governmental body, or under any provision of the deposit agreement, or for any other reason subject to an ADS holders' right to cancel such ADSs and withdraw the underlying ordinary shares. Temporary delays in the cancellation of such ADSs and withdrawal of the underlying ordinary shares may arise because the depositary has closed its transfer books or we have closed our transfer books, the transfer of ordinary shares is blocked to permit voting at a sharelders' meeting or we are paying a dividend on our ordinary shares. In addition, holders of our ADSs may not be able to cancel such ADSs and withdrawal of the underlying ordinary shares such holders owe money for fees, taxes and similar charges and when it is necessary to prohibit withdrawals in order to comply with any laws or governmental regulations that apply to ADSs or to the withdrawal of ordinary shares or other deposited securities.

#### The market price for our ADSs may be volatile or may decline regardless of our operating performance.

The trading price of the ADSs has fluctuated, and is likely to continue to fluctuate, substantially. Since the ADSs were sold in our initial public offering in March 2015 at a price of \$41.50 per share, the price per ADS has ranged as low as \$4.1 and as high as \$50.00 through March 3, 2022. The market price of the ADSs may fluctuate significant in response to numerous factors, including those described in this "Risk Factors" section, many of which are beyond our control. The market price and demand for our ADSs may also fluctuate substantially, regardless of our actual operating performance, which may limit or prevent holders from readily selling their ADSs and may otherwise negatively affect the liquidity of our capital shares.

## Share ownership is concentrated in the hands of our principal shareholders and manage continue to be able to exercise substantial influence on us.

Our executive officers, directors and current 5% or greater shareholders beneficially own approximately 38.79% of our ordinary shares outstanding (including those underlying our ADSs, but excluding shares that may be acquired upon exercise of stock options or warrants) as of December 31, 2021. As a result, these shareholders have significant influence over all matters that require approval by our shareholders, including the election of directors and approval of significant corporate transactions. Corporate action might be taken even if other shareholders oppose them. This concentration of ownership might also have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control of our company that other shareholders may view as beneficial.