
UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

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

Arbutus Biopharma Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

British Columbia, Canada

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

98-0597776

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

701 Veterans Circle

Warminster, Pennsylvania

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

18974

(Zip Code)

Arbutus Biopharma Corporation 2016 Omnibus Share and Incentive Plan
Individual Nonqualified Stock Option Award (Inducement Grant)
(Full title of the plans)

William H. Collier

President and Chief Executive Officer

Arbutus Biopharma Corporation

701 Veterans Circle

Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974

(Name and address of agent for service)

(267) 469-0914

(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

With Copies to:

Steven J. Abrams, Esq.
Stephen M. Nicolai, Esq.
Hogan Lovells US LLP
1735 Market Street, 23rd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(267) 675-4600

J. Christopher Naftzger
General Counsel and Chief
Compliance Officer
Arbutus Biopharma Corporation
701 Veterans Circle
Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974
(267) 469-0914

R. Hector MacKay-Dunn, Q.C.
Farris LLP
2500-700 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V7Y 1B3
(604) 684-9151

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This registration statement on Form S-8 (this “Registration Statement”) is being filed by Arbutus Biopharma Corporation (the “Registrant”) to register (a) 3,500,000 additional common shares of the Registrant, without par value (the “Common Shares”), issuable under the Arbutus Biopharma Corporation 2016 Omnibus Share and Incentive Plan, as supplemented and amended (the “2016 Plan”), and (b) 500,000 Common Shares issuable upon the exercise of an individual nonqualified stock option award granted to Christopher Naftzger, the General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer of the Registrant, as an inducement material to entry into employment with the Registrant (the “Inducement Award”). The Inducement Award was approved by the Registrant’s Executive Compensation and Human Resources Committee of the Board of Directors of the Registrant in compliance with and in reliance on Nasdaq Listing Rule 5635(c)(4). The Inducement Award was granted outside of the 2016 Plan and all other equity incentive plans of the Registrant.

Pursuant to General Instruction E to Form S-8, and only with respect to the Common Shares being registered under the 2016 Plan, this Registration Statement incorporates by reference the contents of the following registration statements previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”): (i) the registration statement on Form S-8 filed by the Registrant on June 20, 2016 ([File No. 333-212115](#)) relating to the 2016 Plan; (ii) the registration statement on Form S-8 filed by the Registrant on June 24, 2020 ([File No. 333-239407](#)) relating to the 2016 Plan; (iii) the registration statement on Form S-8 filed by the Registrant on August 5, 2021 ([File No. 333-258494](#)) relating to the 2016 Plan; and (iv) the registration statement on Form S-8 filed by the Registrant on August 4, 2022 ([File No. 333-266527](#)) relating to the 2016 Plan, in each case, except to the extent supplemented, amended or superseded by the information set forth herein.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

As permitted by the rules of the Commission, this Registration Statement omits the information specified in Part I of Form S-8. The documents containing the information specified in Part I will be delivered to the participants in the 2016 Plan and Mr. Naftzger as required by Rule 428(b)(1) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”).

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents of the Registrant filed with the Commission are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement as of their respective dates:

- (a) the Registrant’s [Annual Report on Form 10-K](#) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, filed with the Commission on March 2, 2023;
- (b) the Registrant’s Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended [March 31, 2023](#) and [June 30, 2023](#), filed with the Commission on May 4, 2023 and August 3, 2023, respectively;
- (c) the Registrant’s [Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A](#) filed with the Commission on April 12, 2023, to the extent incorporated by reference into the Registrant’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022;
- (d) the Registrant’s Current Reports on Form 8-K (other than portions thereof furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K and exhibits accompanying such reports that are related to such items) filed with the Commission on [January 5, 2023](#), [January 27, 2023](#), [March 2, 2023](#), [March 14, 2023](#), [March 16, 2023](#), [April 4, 2023](#), [April 18, 2023](#), [April 25, 2023](#), [April 27, 2023](#), [May 4, 2023](#), [May 30, 2023](#), [June 7, 2023](#), [June 21, 2023](#), [June 21, 2023](#), [July 10, 2023](#), [July 12, 2023](#) and [August 3, 2023](#);
- (e) the description of the Common Shares contained in the Registrant’s [registration statement on Form 8-A](#) (File No. 001-34949) filed with the Commission on November 4, 2010, as updated by [Exhibit 4.1](#) to the Registrant’s Annual

Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All reports and other documents filed by the Registrant after the date hereof pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), but prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and to be part hereof from the date of filing of such reports and documents, except for the documents, or portions thereof, that are "furnished" rather than filed with the Commission.

For the purposes of this Registration Statement, any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which 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 Registration Statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

The Registrant is subject to the provisions of Part 5, Division 5 of the British Columbia Business Corporations Act (the "Act").

Under Section 160 of the Act, the Registrant may, subject to Section 163 of the Act:

(1) indemnify an individual who:

- is or was a director or officer of the Registrant;
- is or was a director or officer of another corporation (i) at a time when such corporation is or was an affiliate of the Registrant; or (ii) at the Registrant's request, or
- at the Registrant's request, is or was, or holds or held a position equivalent to that of, a director or officer of a partnership, trust, joint venture or other unincorporated entity, and including, subject to certain limited exceptions, the heirs and personal or other legal representatives of that individual (collectively, an "eligible party"), against all eligible penalties to which the eligible party is or may be liable; and

(2) after final disposition of an eligible proceeding, pay the expenses actually and reasonably incurred by an eligible party in respect of that proceeding, where:

"eligible penalty" means a judgment, penalty or fine awarded or imposed in, or an amount paid in settlement of, and eligible proceeding.

"eligible proceeding" means a proceeding in which an eligible party or any of the heirs and personal or other legal representatives of the eligible party, by reason of the eligible party being or having been a director or officer of, or holding or having held a position equivalent to that of a director or officer of, the Registrant or an associated corporation (a) is or may be joined as a party, or (b) is or may be liable for or in respect of a judgment, penalty or fine in, or expenses related to, the proceeding.

"proceeding" includes any legal proceeding or investigative action, whether current, threatened, pending or completed.

Under Section 161 of the Act, and subject to Section 163 of the Act, the Registrant must, after the final disposition of an eligible proceeding, pay the expenses actually and reasonably incurred by an eligible party in respect of that proceeding if the eligible party (a) has not been reimbursed for those expenses, and (b) is wholly successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the outcome of the proceeding or is substantially successful on the merits in the outcome of the proceeding.

Under Section 162 of the Act, and subject to Section 163 of the Act, the Registrant may pay, as they are incurred in advance of the final disposition of an eligible proceeding, the expenses actually and reasonably incurred by an eligible party in respect of the proceeding, provided that the Registrant must not make such payments unless the Registrant first receives from the eligible party a written undertaking that, if it is ultimately determined that the payment of expenses is prohibited under Section 163 of the Act, the eligible party will repay the amounts advanced.

Under Section 163 of the Act, the Registrant must not indemnify an eligible party against eligible penalties to which the eligible party is or may be liable or pay the expenses of an eligible party in respect of that proceeding under Sections 160, 161 or 162 of the Act, as the case may be, if any of the following circumstances apply:

- if the indemnity or payment is made under an earlier agreement to indemnify or pay expenses and, at the time that the agreement to indemnify or pay expenses was made, the Registrant was prohibited from giving the indemnity or paying the expenses by the Registrant's memorandum or articles;
- if the indemnity or payment is made otherwise than under an earlier agreement to indemnify or pay expenses and, at the time that the indemnity or payment is made, the Registrant is prohibited from giving the indemnity or paying the expenses by the Registrant's memorandum or articles;
- if, in relation to the subject matter of the eligible proceeding, the eligible party did not act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Registrant or the associated corporation, as the case may be; or
- in the case of an eligible proceeding other than a civil proceeding, if the eligible party did not have reasonable grounds for believing that the eligible party's conduct in respect of which the proceeding was brought was lawful.

If an eligible proceeding is brought against an eligible party by or on behalf of the Registrant or by or on behalf of an associated corporation, the Registrant must not either indemnify the eligible party against eligible penalties to which the eligible party is or may be liable, or pay the expenses of the eligible party under Sections 160, 161 or 162 of the Act, as the case may be, in respect of the proceeding.

Under Section 164 of the Act, and despite any other provision of Part 5, Division 5 of the Act and whether or not payment of expenses or indemnification has been sought, authorized or declined under Part 5, Division 5 of the Act, on application of the Registrant or an eligible party, the Supreme Court of British Columbia may do one or more of the following:

- order the Registrant to indemnify an eligible party against any liability incurred by the eligible party in respect of an eligible proceeding;
- order the Registrant to pay some or all of the expenses incurred by an eligible party in respect of an eligible proceeding;
- order the enforcement of, or payment under, an agreement of indemnification entered into by the Registrant;
- order the Registrant to pay some or all of the expenses actually and reasonably incurred by any person in obtaining an order under Section 164 of the Act; or
- make any other order the court considers appropriate.

Section 165 of the Act provides that the Registrant may purchase and maintain insurance for the benefit of an eligible party or the heirs and personal or other legal representatives of the eligible party against any liability that may be incurred by reason of the eligible party being or having been a director or officer of, or holding or having held a position equivalent to that of a director or officer of, the Registrant or an associated corporation.

Under the Registrant's articles, and subject to the Act, the Registrant must indemnify an eligible party and his or her heirs and legal personal representatives against all eligible penalties to which such person is or may be liable, and the Registrant must, after the final disposition of an eligible proceeding, pay the expenses actually and reasonably incurred by such person in respect of that proceeding. Each eligible party is deemed to have contracted with the Registrant on the terms of the indemnity contained in the Registrant's articles.

Under the Registrant's articles, and subject to the Act, the Registrant may agree to indemnify and may indemnify any person (including an eligible party) against eligible penalties and pay expenses incurred in connection with the performance of services by that person for the Registrant.

Under the Registrant's articles, and subject to the Act, the Registrant may advance expenses to an eligible party.

Pursuant to the Registrant's articles, the failure of an eligible party to comply with the Act or the Registrant's articles does not, of itself, invalidate any indemnity to which he or she is entitled under the Registrant's articles.

Under the Registrant's articles, the Registrant may purchase and maintain insurance for the benefit of an eligible person (or his or her heirs or legal personal representatives) against any liability incurred by him or her as a director, officer or person who holds or held such equivalent position.

The Registrant has entered into indemnity agreements with its directors and executive officers. In general, these agreements provide that the Registrant will indemnify the director or executive officer for claims arising in his or her capacity as a director or officer of the Registrant or in connection with their service at the Registrant's request for another corporation or entity. The indemnity agreements also provide for procedures that will apply in the event that a director or executive officer makes a claim for indemnification.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, the Registrant has been informed that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is therefore unenforceable.

Item 7. Exemption of Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

Exhibit Number	Description
4.1	<u>Notice of Articles and Articles of the Registrant, as amended (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, filed with the Commission on March 16, 2018).</u>
4.2	<u>Amendment to Articles of the Registrant (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2018, filed with the Commission on November 7, 2018).</u>
4.3	<u>Arbutus Biopharma Corporation 2016 Omnibus Share and Incentive Plan, as supplemented and amended (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on May 30, 2023).</u>
5.1*	<u>Opinion of Farris LLP.</u>
23.1*	<u>Consent of Ernst and Young, LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.</u>
23.2*	<u>Consent of Farris LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).</u>
24.1	<u>Power of Attorney (included in signature page to this Registration Statement).</u>
107*	<u>Filing Fee Table</u>

*Filed herewith.

Item 9. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

- i. To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
- ii. To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in "Calculation of Filing Fee Tables" or "Calculation of Registration Fee" table, as applicable, in the effective registration statement;
- iii. To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that, in the opinion of the Commission, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized in the Township of Warminster, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, on August 3, 2023.

ARBUTUS BIOPHARMA CORPORATION

By: /S/ WILLIAM H. COLLIER
William H. Collier
President and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, the undersigned officers and directors of Arbutus Biopharma Corporation, hereby severally constitute and appoint William H. Collier and David C. Hastings, and each of them singly, our true and lawful attorneys with full power to them, and each of them singly, to sign for us and in our names in the capacities indicated below, the registration statement on Form S-8 filed herewith and any and all subsequent amendments to said registration statement, and generally to do all such things in our names and on our behalf in our capacities as officers and directors to enable Arbutus Biopharma Corporation to comply with the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and all requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, hereby ratifying and confirming our signatures as they may be signed by our said attorneys, or any of them, to said registration statement and any and all amendments thereto.

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

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ William H. Collier</u> William H. Collier	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	August 3, 2023
<u>/s/ David C. Hastings</u> David C. Hastings	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	August 3, 2023
<u>/s/ Frank Torti, M.D.</u> Frank Torti, M.D.	Chairman	August 3, 2023
<u>/s/ Daniel Burgess</u> Daniel Burgess	Director	August 3, 2023
<u>/s/ Richard C. Henriques</u> Richard C. Henriques	Director	August 3, 2023
<u>/s/ Keith Manchester, M.D.</u> Keith Manchester, M.D.	Director	August 3, 2023
<u>/s/ James Meyers</u> James Meyers	Director	August 3, 2023
<u>/s/ Melissa V. Rewolinski, Ph.D.</u> Melissa V. Rewolinski, Ph.D.	Director	August 3, 2023

Calculation of Filing Fee Table

Form S-8
(Form Type)

Arbutus Biopharma Corporation
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Table 1: Newly Registered Securities

Security Type	Security Class Title	Fee Calculation Rule	Amount Registered ⁽¹⁾	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Fee Rate	Amount of Registration Fee
Equity	Common Shares, without par value, issuable under the Arbutus Biopharma Corporation 2016 Omnibus Share and Incentive Plan	Other	3,500,000 ⁽²⁾	\$2.155 ⁽³⁾	\$7,542,500 ⁽³⁾	0.00011020 \$	831.18
Equity	Common Shares, without par value, reserved for issuance pursuant to Stock Option Award (Inducement Grant)	Other	500,000 ⁽⁴⁾	\$2.26 ⁽⁵⁾	\$ 1,130,000 ⁽⁵⁾	0.00011020 \$	124.53
Total Offering Amounts					\$ 8,672,500	\$	955.71
Total Fee Offsets							—
Net Fee Due						\$	955.71

- (1) In accordance with Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), this registration statement shall be deemed to cover any additional securities that may from time to time be offered or issued to prevent dilution resulting from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
- (2) Represents 3,500,000 common shares, without par value (the “Common Shares”), of Arbutus Biopharma Corporation (the “Registrant”) available for issuance under the Arbutus Biopharma Corporation 2016 Omnibus Share and Incentive Plan (the “2016 Plan”).
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee under Rule 457(c) and (h) of the Securities Act on the basis of the average of the high and low sales price per Common Share on July 28, 2023, as reported on the Nasdaq Global Select Market.
- (4) Represents 500,000 Common Shares of the Registrant that are issuable upon the exercise of the stock option award granted to the General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer of the Registrant outside the 2016 Plan as an inducement material to his entry into employment with the Registrant in accordance with Nasdaq Listing Rule 5635(c)(4) (the “Inducement Option Award”).
- (5) Estimated in accordance with Rule 457(h) of the Securities Act solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee based on the exercise price of the Inducement Option Award.

August 3, 2023

Board of Directors
Arbutus Biopharma Corporation
701 Veterans Circle
Warminster, PA 18974

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

Re: Arbutus Biopharma Corporation

We have acted as counsel for Arbutus Biopharma Corporation (the “**Company**”), a company existing under the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia), and have been asked to give this opinion in connection with the filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission of a registration statement on Form S-8 (the “**Registration Statement**”) covering: (i) an additional 3,500,000 common shares in the capital of the Company, without par value (the “**Plan Shares**”), issuable pursuant to the Company’s 2016 Omnibus Share and Incentive Plan, as supplemented and amended (the “**2016 Plan**”) and (ii) 500,000 common shares in the capital of the Company, without par value (the “**Inducement Shares**”, and together with the Plan Shares, the “**Shares**”) issuable upon the exercise of a stock option award granted to the General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer of the Company as an inducement material to his acceptance of employment with the Company (the “**Inducement Award**”). This opinion letter is furnished to you at your request to enable you to fulfill the requirements of Item 601(b)(5) of Regulation S-K, 17 C.F.R. § 229.601(b)(5), in connection with the Registration Statement.

In connection with the opinions hereinafter expressed, we have conducted or caused to be conducted such searches as we have considered necessary, advisable or relevant. We have also prepared or examined all such documents, corporate records of the Company, certificates of officers of the Company, resolutions of the board of directors of the Company and the shareholders of the Company, and other materials as we consider advisable or relevant. We have also examined such statutes, corporate and public records and other documents including certificates of public officials, and considered such matters of law, as we have deemed necessary as a basis for the opinions hereinafter expressed.

For the purposes of the opinions set for below, we have assumed, with respect to all documents examined by us, the genuineness of all signatures, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals and the conformity to authentic or original documents of all actual documents submitted to us as certified, conformed, telecopied or photostatic copies.

We are qualified to express opinions only with respect to the laws of the Province of British Columbia and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein. We express no opinion on the laws of any jurisdiction other than the Province of British Columbia and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein, all as at the date hereof.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing, we are of the opinion that:

- (i) the Plan Shares have been duly authorized for issuance and, when issued in accordance with the terms of the 2016 Plan, will be validly issued and outstanding as fully paid and non-assessable common shares of the Company; and
- (ii) the Inducement Shares have been duly authorized for issuance and, when issued upon exercise of the Inducement Award in accordance with the terms of the Inducement Award

and receipt by the Company of the consideration for such Inducement Shares, will be validly issued and outstanding as fully paid and non-assessable common shares of the Company.

We hereby consent to the use of our name in the Registration Statement relating to the Shares and to the filing, as an exhibit to the Registration Statement, of this opinion.

This opinion is given solely in connection with the transactions referred to herein, and this opinion is limited to the matters expressly set forth herein, and no opinion has been implied, or may be inferred, beyond the matters expressly stated. This opinion speaks only as to law and facts in effect or existing as of the date hereof and we undertake no obligation or responsibility to update or supplement this opinion to reflect any facts or circumstances that may hereafter come to our attention or any changes in any law that may hereafter occur.

Yours truly,

/s/ FARRIS LLP

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-8) pertaining to the 2016 Omnibus Share and Incentive Plan of Arbutus Biopharma Corporation of our report dated March 2, 2023 with respect to the consolidated financial statements of Arbutus Biopharma Corporation included in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2022, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
August 3, 2023