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

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**FORM 8-K**

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**CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event Reported): July 18, 2016

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

**BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

**001-34949**  
(Commission File Number)

**980597776**  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

**100-8900 Glenlyon Parkway, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5J 5J8**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

**(604) 419-3200**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item 8.01. Other Events.**

On July 18, 2016, the Registrant issued a press release, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

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

Exhibit 99.1. Press release dated July 18, 2016

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**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**Arbutus Biopharma Corporation**

Date: July 18, 2016

By: /s/ Bruce G. Cousins

Bruce G. Cousins

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

## Arbutus to Present Data on New LNP Formulations for Delivery of mRNA at the 2016 Controlled Release Society Conference

*In Vivo Data Support Improved Potency of New Lipid Compositions  
Arbutus' LNP Platform is the Leading Delivery Solution for mRNA Therapeutics*

VANCOUVER, British Columbia and DOYLESTOWN, Pa., July 18, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Arbutus Biopharma Corporation (Nasdaq:ABUS), an industry-leading Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) therapeutic solutions company, today announced presentation of data on new Lipid Nanoparticle (LNP) compositions for messenger RNA (mRNA) delivery at the 2016 Controlled Release Society Annual Meeting and Exposition held July 17-20, 2016 in Seattle.

“Our proprietary LNP platform is the leading nucleic acid delivery technology. We continue to improve LNP formulations and have generated *in vivo* data demonstrating the improved potency and tolerability associated with our new LNP formulations for delivery of mRNA payloads. In addition, our considerable clinical experience with the technology and our ability to design, formulate and manufacture at scale can rapidly enable our partners,” said Dr. Mark J. Murray, Arbutus’ President and CEO. “Our primary goal is to develop a combination therapy to cure chronic HBV. We believe that our dominant and comprehensive intellectual property (IP) position in the field of LNP-enabled nucleic acid delivery is an important asset that can generate significant value through potential partnerships related to delivery of mRNA therapeutics.”

### About Arbutus

Arbutus Biopharma Corporation is a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to discovering, developing and commercializing a cure for patients suffering from chronic hepatitis B infection. Arbutus is headquartered in Vancouver, BC, Canada with offices in Doylestown, PA, USA. For more information, visit [www.arbutusbio.com](http://www.arbutusbio.com).

### Forward-Looking Statements and Information

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and forward looking information within the meaning of Canadian securities laws (collectively, “forward-looking statements”). Forward-looking statements in this press release include statements about presenting data on new Lipid Nanoparticle (LNP) compositions for messenger RNA (mRNA) delivery at the 2016 Controlled Release Society Annual Meeting and Exposition held July 17-20, 2016 in Seattle; Arbutus’ LNP technology as a source of significant potential non-dilutive funding for the company; discovering, developing and commercializing a cure for patients suffering from chronic hepatitis B infection; and the ability of our intellectual property position in the field of LNP-enabled nucleic acid delivery to generate significant value through potential partnerships related to delivery of mRNA therapeutics.

With respect to the forward-looking statements contained in this press release, Arbutus has made numerous assumptions regarding, among other things: the effectiveness and timeliness of preclinical and clinical trials, and the usefulness of the data; regulatory approval; the continued demand for Arbutus’ assets; and the stability of economic and market conditions. While Arbutus considers these assumptions to be reasonable, these assumptions are inherently subject to significant business, economic, competitive, market and social uncertainties and contingencies. Additionally, there are known and unknown risk factors which could cause Arbutus’ actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements contained herein. Known risk factors include, among others: anticipated preclinical and clinical trials may be more costly or take longer to complete than anticipated, and may never be initiated or completed, or may not generate results that warrant future development of the tested drug candidate; Arbutus may not receive the necessary regulatory approvals for the clinical development of Arbutus’ products; economic and market conditions may worsen; and market shifts may require a change in strategic focus.

A more complete discussion of the risks and uncertainties facing Arbutus appears in Arbutus’ Annual Report on Form 10-K and Arbutus’ continuous disclosure filings, which are available at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). All forward-looking statements herein are qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement, and Arbutus disclaims any obligation to revise or update any such forward-looking statements or to publicly announce the result of any revisions to any of the forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect future results, events or developments, except as required by law.

### Contact Information

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### Media

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