

**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 31, 2019

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**PIERIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Nevada**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
Incorporation)

**001-37471**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**EIN 30-0784346**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**225 State Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Boston, MA**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**02109**  
(Zip Code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 857-246-8998**  
N/A

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

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

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

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share	PIRS	The Nasdaq Capital Market

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2).

Emerging Growth Company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

**Item 5.02: Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**  
**(d)**

On July 31, 2019, the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Pieris Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (the “Company”), following the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board, elected Maya Said, Sc.D., to the Board to serve as a Class II Director with a term expiring at the Company’s 2022 annual meeting of stockholders. Dr. Said was also appointed to serve on the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Science and Technology Committee of the Board. Dr. Said is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Outcomes4Me Inc., a health technology company focused on providing patients diagnosed with cancer and other chronic life altering diseases with personalized treatment options as well as outcomes information. She served as the Chief Operating Officer of Celsius Therapeutics, where she established and managed the company’s operations from inception through the company’s first year post-launch. Before founding Outcomes4Me, Dr. Said was Senior Vice President, Global Head of Oncology Policy & Market Access at Novartis, where she defined Novartis’ oncology franchise value and pricing strategy to address pricing pressures and established global pricing guidance for numerous oncology products. Her previous experience also includes a senior position at Sanofi, where she served as Vice President, Head of Strategy, Science Policy & External Innovation, Global R&D, and at Boston Consulting Group, where she most recently served as a Principal. She currently serves on the Board of Transgene. Dr. Said received her Sc.D. in Electrical Engineering, Computer Science & Systems Biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she also obtained a Master of Engineering in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, a Master of Science in Toxicology, a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She has authored over 20 publications in high-impact journals.

In connection with Dr. Said’s election to the Board, and pursuant to the Company’s Amended and Restated Non-Employee Director Compensation Policy (the “Director Compensation Policy”), the Company granted to Dr. Said a non-statutory stock option to purchase up to 30,000 shares of the Company’s common stock from the Company’s 2019 Employee, Director and Consultant Equity Incentive Plan, at an exercise price per share equal to \$5.50, the closing price of the Company’s common stock on The Nasdaq Capital Market on July 31, 2019. The stock option will vest one year after the date of grant, subject to Dr. Said’s continued service as a director.

In addition, pursuant to the Director Compensation Policy Dr. Said is entitled to receive an annual cash retainer of \$35,000 for her service as a non-employee director of the Company, an annual cash retainer of \$3,750 for her service on the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and an annual cash retainer of \$5,000 for her service on the Science and Technology Committee. Also in connection with Dr. Said’s election to the Board, Dr. Said and the Company will enter into an indemnification agreement in the form the Company has entered into with certain of its other non-employee directors, which form is filed as Exhibit 10.10 to the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 333-190728) filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 18, 2014. Under this agreement, the Company will agree, among other things, to indemnify Dr. Said for certain expenses, including attorneys’ fees, judgments, fines and settlement amounts incurred by her in any action or proceeding arising out of her service as one of the Company’s directors.

There are no arrangements or understandings between Dr. Said and any other person pursuant to which Dr. Said was appointed as a director. There are no transactions to which the Company is a party and in which Dr. Said has a material interest that is required to be disclosed under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K. Dr. Said has not previously held any positions with the Company and has no family relations with any directors or executive officers of the Company.

A copy of the press release announcing Dr. Said’s election is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(d) *Exhibits.*

99.1 [Press Release dated August 1, 2019.](#)

**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.

PIERIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

Dated: August 1, 2019

/s/ Allan Reine

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Allan Reine

Chief Financial Officer

## **Pieris Pharmaceuticals Appoints Dr. Maya Said to its Board of Directors**

**BOSTON, MA, August 1, 2019** - *Pieris Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ: PIRS)*, a clinical-stage biotechnology company advancing novel biotherapeutics through its proprietary Anticalin® technology platform for respiratory diseases, cancer and other indications, today announced that Maya R. Said, Sc.D., has joined the Company's Board of Directors.

Dr. Said is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Outcomes4Me Inc., a health technology company focused on providing patients diagnosed with cancer and other chronic life altering diseases with personalized treatment options as well as outcomes information. She served as the Chief Operating Officer of Celsius Therapeutics, where she established and managed the company's operations from inception through the company's first year post-launch. Before founding Outcomes4Me, Dr. Said was Senior Vice President, Global Head of Oncology Policy & Market Access at Novartis, where she defined Novartis' oncology franchise value and pricing strategy to address pricing pressures and established global pricing guidance for numerous oncology products. Her previous experience also includes a senior position at Sanofi, where she served as Vice President, Head of Strategy, Science Policy & External Innovation, Global R&D, and at Boston Consulting Group, where she most recently served as a Principal. She currently serves on the Board of Transgene. Dr. Said received her Sc.D. in Electrical Engineering, Computer Science & Systems Biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she also obtained a Master of Engineering in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, a Master of Science in Toxicology, a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She has authored over 20 publications in high-impact journals.

"As we advance our pipeline of drug candidates, it's an exciting time to welcome Maya to the Pieris Board of Directors," said Stephen S. Yoder, President and Chief Executive Officer of Pieris. "Her deep scientific knowledge, understanding of large pharma's inner-workings, and appreciation of the need to bring high-value therapies to patients promise to be an asset to the company."

"Maya's experience includes a unique combination of science, technology, corporate strategy, and entrepreneurship. I am confident that she will prove to be a wonderful addition to the Board as Pieris progresses towards its eventual goal of becoming a commercial-stage biotechnology company," said James Geraghty, Chairman of the Board of Directors. "We look forward to working with and learning from her."

Commenting on the announcement, Dr. Said stated, "I'm excited to join Pieris' Board of Directors at such a formative time in the company's development. Pieris expects to report key clinical data from its lead programs in respiratory and immuno-oncology later this year, and I look forward to working with the Pieris leadership team to help shape the resulting corporate strategy for these programs and the broader franchise members within these therapeutic areas."

### **About Pieris Pharmaceuticals:**

Pieris is a clinical-stage biotechnology company that discovers and develops Anticalin protein-based drugs to target validated disease pathways in a unique and transformative way. Our

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pipeline includes inhalable Anticalin proteins to treat respiratory diseases, immuno-oncology multi-specifics tailored for the tumor microenvironment, and a half-life-optimized Anticalin protein to treat anemia. Proprietary to Pieris, Anticalin proteins are a novel class of therapeutics validated in the clinic and by partnerships with leading pharmaceutical companies. Anticalin® is a registered trademark of Pieris. For more information, visit [www.pieris.com](http://www.pieris.com).

**Forward Looking Statement:**

This press release contains forward-looking statements as that term is defined in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Statements in this press release that are not purely historical are forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements include, among other things, the expected timing of the reporting by the Company of key clinical data from its lead programs, references to novel technologies and methods and our business and product development plans, including the advancement of our proprietary and co-development programs into and through the clinic and the expected timing for reporting data or making IND filings related to our programs, and partnering prospects for any such programs. Actual results could differ from those projected in any forward-looking statements due to numerous factors. Such factors include, among others, our ability to raise the additional funding we will need to continue to pursue our business and product development plans; the inherent uncertainties associated with developing new products or technologies and operating as a development stage company; our ability to develop, complete clinical trials for, obtain approvals for and commercialize any of our product candidates, including our ability to recruit and enroll patients in our studies; our ability to address the requests of the FDA; competition in the industry in which we operate and market conditions. These forward-looking statements are made as of the date of this press release, and we assume no obligation to update the forward-looking statements, or to update the reasons why actual results could differ from those projected in the forward-looking statements, except as required by law. Investors should consult all of the information set forth herein and should also refer to the risk factor disclosure set forth in the reports and other documents we file with the SEC available at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), including without limitation the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 and the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q.

**Company Contact:**

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