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

**FORM 8-K**

CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)  
August 19, 2020

**MATEON THERAPEUTICS, INC.**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

000-21990  
(Commission  
File Number)

13-3679168  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

29397 Agoura Road Suite 107  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301  
(Address of principal executive offices and Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code  
(650) 635-7000

(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 (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- 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 class	Trading Symbols	Name of each exchange on which registered
N/A		

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

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.

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## Item 8.01 Other Events

### Entry to MOU with Windlass

On August 19, 2020 Mateon Therapeutics, Inc. (“Mateon” or the “Company”), executed an MOU with Windlas Biotech Private Limited for the development and commercialization of Artemisinin as therapeutic pharmaceutical and herbal supplement against COVID-19. Windlas Biotech Private Limited is a 20-year-old company with a strong track record of research, development, manufacturing and distribution of pharmaceutical products in India, USA and several other emerging markets. It has four large scale manufacturing facilities employing more than 1500 employees and is the 5th largest Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO) serving top innovator as well as generic pharma companies across the world. It has developed more than 500 different formulations (> 2Billion doses annually) of anti-viral, cardiovascular, anti-diabetic, anti-infective, CNS and dermatology products.

The development of Artemisinin against COVID-19 is dependent on the successful completion of ARTI-19 clinical trial “Artemisinin Intervention trial against COVID-19”, which is being initiated globally in Africa, India, and South America. Windlas will be our manufacturing partner for the clinical trial batches as well as commercial batches.

By collecting data from multiple clinical observational studies globally, the company expects to establish Artemisinin efficacy against COVID-19 as an affordable front-line treatment for this pandemic. OT-101 – our antisense therapeutic against COVID-19- is meant for hospitalized COVID-19 patients who would already fail Artemisinin.

### Press releases

This collaboration builds on continual development of Artemisinin as therapeutic against COVID-19. As related by the press releases over the past few months, Artemisinin development as COVID-19 therapeutic is continuing.

July 13, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – Mateon Therapeutics announced that it will fund observational studies for Artemisinin, an herbal supplement, that demonstrated potent in vitro activity against SARS-CoV-2, the COVID-19 virus.

July 20, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) — Mateon Therapeutics announced the launch of its global observational study called ARTI-19, for Artemisinin Intervention against COVID-19, in partnership with Asili Research Alliance (Asili).

August 4, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) — Mateon Therapeutics will be working together with Abiogenesis to initiate ARTI-19 randomized, controlled, multi-site India clinical study of Artemisinin against COVID-19.

## Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Incorporation by reference</u>
99.1	<a href="#">7-13-2020 Observational Studies Press Release</a>	Filed herewith.
99.2	<a href="#">7-20-2020 Asili Press Release</a>	Filed herewith.
99.3	<a href="#">8-04-2020 Abiogenesis Press Release</a>	Filed herewith.

**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.

Mateon Therapeutics, Inc.

Date: August 24, 2020

/s/ Vuong Trieu  
By: Vuong Trieu  
Chief Executive Officer



**Mateon Therapeutics to fund observational studies of Artemisinin in developing countries.**

Agoura Hills, California, July 13, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – Mateon Therapeutics (OTCQB: MATN), a leading developer of TGF- $\beta$  therapeutics, announced today that it will fund observational studies for Artemisinin, an herbal supplement, that demonstrated potent *in vitro* activity against SARS-CoV-2, the COVID-19 virus. By collecting data from multiple clinical observational studies globally, the company expects to establish Artemisinin efficacy against COVID-19 as an affordable front-line treatment for this pandemic in low resources countries.

The company is inviting nonprofits such as non-government organizations to participate in this trial if they have the logistics to participate in observational trials and to distribute the Artemisinin in their home countries. The trial is expected to accrue a minimum of 3,000 patients.

Artemisinin is derived from an abundantly grown herb *Artemisia annua* L. (Sweet wormwood) and has been used medicinally to treat fevers for centuries in eastern countries. Like other potential COVID-19 therapeutic agents, the efficacy of Artemisinin remains to be tested in well-controlled and sufficiently powered clinical trials. However, given the known safety profile and the widespread use of Artemisinin, the company anticipates that it can be used as frontline therapy in countries with less developed healthcare systems.

Previously, the company's *in vitro* laboratory tests revealed that Artemisinin is highly potent at inhibiting the ability of the COVID-19 virus to multiply, similar to Remdesivir while also having an excellent safety index. The reported results indicated that Artemisinin had an EC50 = 0.45 ug/ml and Safety Index = 140.

“Our motivation to mount a global humanitarian effort to save lives has already engaged several nonprofits and we look forward to accepting new organizations so we can address this pandemic together.” Said Saran Saund, CBO, Mateon Therapeutics. “This extract from the plant *Artemisia annua* has been used for centuries in Indian and Chinese traditional medicines and is therefore extremely safe. If proven effective, Artemisinin could be easily deployed inexpensively given its abundant supply. Our motivation is to mount a global humanitarian effort to save lives.”

By targeting the host protein TGF-beta that is essential for virus replication, Artemisinin may avoid future drug resistance mutations associated with the virus. By downregulating TGF-beta, it can act as both an anti-viral and anti-lung damage agent. This potential mechanism of action is similar to the company's leading drug candidate OT-101 which is also being developed to target the COVID-19 virus.

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## About Artemisinin

Artemisinin can target multiple viral threats including COVID-19 by suppressing both viral replication and clinical symptoms that arises from viral infection. Viral replication cannot occur without TGF- $\beta$ . Artemisinin, purified from an herb (*Artemisia annua*), is able to inhibit TGF- $\beta$  activity and is able to neutralize SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in vitro at an EC50 of 0.45 ug/ml (Mateon's test result at Utah State University), and a Safety Index of 140, which is better than remdesivir and chloroquine. Artemisinin also has been reported to have antiviral activities against hepatitis B and C viruses, human herpes viruses, HIV-1, influenza virus A, and a bovine viral diarrhea virus in the low micromolar range. TGF- $\beta$  surge and cytokine storm cannot occur without TGF- $\beta$ . Clinical consequences related to the TGF- $\beta$  surge, including ARDS and cytokine storm, are suppressed by targeting TGF- $\beta$  with Artemisinin. Indeed, TGF- $\beta$  knockout mice that are genetically TGF- $\beta$  deficient, have been shown to be resistant to the influenza virus. In the clinic, artemisinin exhibits early efficacy signals against COVID19. To date 25 effective cases have been reported, with an average time of negative nucleic acid conversion of 4 days, and a negative conversion rate of 10 days after nucleic acid detection reached 96%. No serious adverse reactions were seen. After treatment, the patient's chest image examination showed that the inflammation in the lungs was relieved and the symptoms were significantly improved. Because it targets a host protein- TGF- $\beta$  that plays a pivotal role in ARDS pathophysiology (and not a virus-intrinsic target), Artemisinin does not promote the development of drug-resistant viral mutations.

## About Mateon Therapeutics

Mateon was created by the recent reverse merger with Oncotelic which became a wholly owned subsidiary of Mateon Therapeutics Inc. (OTCQB:MATN) creating an immuno-oncology company dedicated to the development of first in class RNA therapeutics as well as small molecule drugs against cancer. OT-101, the lead immuno-oncology drug candidate of Mateon/Oncotelic, is a first-in-class anti-TGF beta RNA therapeutic that exhibited single agent activity in some relapsed/refractory cancer patients in clinical trial settings. Mateon/Oncotelic is seeking to leverage its deep expertise in oncology drug development to improve treatment outcomes and survival of cancer patients with a special emphasis on pediatric cancer patients. Mateon has rare pediatric designation for DIPG (CA4P) and melanoma (CA4P). For more information, please visit [www.oncotelic.com](http://www.oncotelic.com) and [www.mateon.com](http://www.mateon.com).

## Mateon's Cautionary Note on Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included in this communication regarding strategy, future operations, future financial position, prospects, plans and objectives of management are forward-looking statements. Words such as "may", "expect", "anticipate", "hope", "vision", "optimism", "design", "exciting", "promising", "will", "conviction", "estimate," "intend," "believe", "quest for a cure of cancer", "innovation-driven", "paradigm-shift", "high scientific merit", "impact potential" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements contained in this press release include, but are not limited to, statements about future plans, the progress, timing, clinical development, scope and success of future clinical trials, the reporting of clinical data for the company's product candidates and the potential use of the company's product candidates to treat various cancer indications. Each of these forward-looking statements involves risks and uncertainties and actual results may differ materially from these forward-looking statements. Many factors may cause differences between current expectations and actual results, including unexpected safety or efficacy data observed during preclinical or clinical studies, clinical trial site activation or enrollment rates that are lower than expected, changes in expected or existing competition, changes in the regulatory environment, failure of collaborators to support or advance collaborations or product candidates and unexpected litigation or other disputes. These risks are not exhaustive, the company faces known and unknown risks, including the risk factors described in the company's annual report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on April 10, 2019 and in the company's other periodic filings. Forward-looking statements are based on expectations and assumptions as of the date of this press release. Except as required by law, the company does not assume any obligation to update forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect any change in expectations, whether as a result of new information future events, or otherwise.

## Contact Information:

For Mateon Therapeutics, Inc.:  
Amit Shah  
[ashah@oncotelic.com](mailto:ashah@oncotelic.com)

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**MATEON AND ASILI RESEARCH ALLIANCE ENTER INTO PARTNERSHIP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTEMISININ AGAINST COVID-19**

AGOURA HILLS, Calif., July 20, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) — Mateon Therapeutics (OTCQB: MATN), a leading developer of TGF- $\beta$  therapeutics, announced today the launch of its global observational study called ARTI-19, for Artemisinin Intervention against COVID-19, in partnership with Asili Research Alliance (Asili) of Tanzania. ARTI19 is designed to rapidly establish the clinical efficacy of Artemisinin in mild and moderate COVID-19 patients. In-vitro, the medical grade version of the supplement has proven potency and safety similar to Remdesivir with an EC50 = 0.45 ug/ml and Safety Index = 140. If clinically proven effective, Artemisinin can provide relief to overwhelmed medical infrastructure and families affected by the pandemic in resource limited countries.

Executive Director, Jennifer Woltz and Director of Research, Justin Omolo at Asili said “We are thrilled to partner with Mateon in the effort to study Artemisinin as a potential therapy for the COVID-19 pandemic. Our researchers in Tanzania are eager to start this trial, commencing as early as next month, to learn more about Artemisinin and generate new information for the management and control of COVID-19 in Tanzania. The daily case load in East Africa has kept steady with moderate and severe patients and we hope Artemisinin can be an affordable frontline treatment during the current COVID-19 pandemic here and elsewhere in resource limited countries.”

Asili is a group of scientists dedicated to improving health care equity in Tanzania. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Asili marshaled its resources to conduct clinical studies of therapeutic remedies under the guidance of doctors and researchers at Tanzania’s premier research facility, The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR). This observational study is led by renowned Dr. Amos Kahwa as Principal Investigator. He holds the position of senior research scientist at NIMR.

“We found a strong partner in Asili in Tanzania where the virus has challenged the economy and society. Since Tanzania embraces traditional medicines, the news of the availability of Artemisinin – a well-known herbal supplement – lends itself well to the standard of care for the general population in Tanzania”, said Saran Saund, Chief Business Officer, Mateon Therapeutics. “We are excited to launch our clinical program in Tanzania and are in discussion with additional NGOs in other parts of the world to make this an international effort to bring affordable first line treatment to resource-constrained countries.”

By targeting the host protein TGF- $\beta$  that is essential for virus replication, Artemisinin may avoid future drug resistance mutations associated with the virus. By downregulating TGF- $\beta$ , it can act as both an anti-viral and anti-lung damage agent. This potential mechanism of action is similar to the company’s leading drug candidate OT-101 which is also being developed as treatment for COVID-19 patients that need intensive medical care.

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## **About Artemisinin**

Artemisinin can target multiple viral threats including COVID-19 by suppressing both viral replication and clinical symptoms that arise from viral infection. Viral replication cannot occur without TGF- $\beta$ . Artemisinin, purified from a plant *Artemisia annua*, is able to inhibit TGF- $\beta$  activity and is able to neutralize SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in vitro at an EC50 of 0.45 ug/ml (Mateon's test result at Utah State University), and a Safety Index of 140, which is better than remdesivir and chloroquine. The unpurified herb extract has no anti-viral activity. Artemisinin also has been reported to have antiviral activities against hepatitis B and C viruses, human herpes viruses, HIV-1, influenza virus A, and bovine viral diarrhea virus in the low micromolar range. TGF- $\beta$  surge and cytokine storm cannot occur without TGF- $\beta$ . Clinical consequences related to the TGF- $\beta$  surge, including ARDS and cytokine storm, are suppressed by targeting TGF- $\beta$  with Artemisinin. Indeed, TGF- $\beta$  knockout mice that are genetically TGF- $\beta$  deficient, have been shown to be resistant to the influenza virus. In the clinic, Artemisinin exhibits early efficacy signals against COVID-19. To date, 25 effective cases have been reported, with an average time of negative nucleic acid conversion of 4 days, and a negative conversion rate of 10 days after nucleic acid detection reached 96%. No serious adverse reactions were seen. After treatment, the patient's chest image examination showed that the inflammation in the lungs was relieved and the symptoms were significantly improved. Because it targets a host protein- TGF- $\beta$  that plays a pivotal role in ARDS pathophysiology (and not a virus-intrinsic target), Artemisinin does not promote the development of drug-resistant viral mutations.

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## **About Asili Research Alliance \*\*\* Jennifer, please expand.**

Asili works to increase people's access to effective medication for life threatening diseases in Tanzania. Through partnerships with the National Institute for Medical Research and the Institution for Traditional Medicine Research in Tanzania, they investigate promising plant-based medicine. Asili's main focus is providing a local treatment for HIV, which has benefited thousands of patients, and continuing research on this treatment. As the pandemic hit East Africa it was necessary to pivot and address these new needs as well. More information can be found at [www.asiliresearchalliance.org](http://www.asiliresearchalliance.org).

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Contact Information:

For Mateon Therapeutics, Inc.:

Amit Shah

ashah@oncotelic.com

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**MATEON THERAPEUTICS AND ABIOGENESIS TO INITIATE CLINICAL STUDY TO TEST ARTEMISININ AS A TREATMENT FOR COVID-19 IN INDIA**

AGOURA HILLS, Calif., August 4, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) — Mateon Therapeutics (OTCQB: MATN), a leading developer of TGF- $\beta$  therapeutics, will be working together with Abiogenesis to initiate ARTI-19 randomized, controlled, multi-site India clinical study of Artemisinin against COVID-19. This is part of the company's humanitarian effort to fund the global, multi-country, observational trial to address the pandemic with Artemisinin. Given the known safety profile and the widespread availability of Artemisinin the company anticipates that clinical development of Artemisinin can be accelerated to effectively deal with the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The company is inviting nonprofits such as non-government organizations to participate in this trial if they have the logistics to participate in observational trials and to distribute the Artemisinin in their home countries. The trial is expected to accrue a minimum of 3,000 patients. At present the company is engaged in India, Africa and Latin America.

This study is designed to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and effectiveness of Artemisinin when used in combination with standard of care (SoC) in mild and moderate COVID-19 patients. Artemisinin is an anti-viral agent with demonstrated activity against SARS-CoV-2 in-vitro comparable to remdesivir, however, with higher safety index. By targeting the host protein, TGF- $\beta$ , Artemisinin avoids resistance mutations which could render vaccine and/or therapeutics against viral protein(s) ineffective.

Pawan Bhusari, CEO, Abiogenesis, stated: "The COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest health challenge for India where the healthcare system is underserved. Abiogenesis is proud to collaborate with Mateon to develop a possible treatment for this virus. The discovery of Artemisinin as a potential anti-viral agent is particularly important since this program has the potential to address the pandemic effectively because it is based on a product that is readily available. We are thrilled to support Mateon in India with our domain expertise in clinical research to potentially develop a treatment that could be instrumental in treating patients with COVID-19."

**About Artemisinin**

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## **About Abiogenesis Clinpharm**

Abiogenesis Clinpharm Private Limited (Abiogenesis) is India based Clinical Research Organization (CRO) headquartered at Hyderabad that provides Clinical Trials services to Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices, Nutraceuticals and Herbal Products companies.

Initiated by a vibrant group of experienced professionals in the clinical trial domain with proven track record, Abiogenesis has committed to exceeding the needs and expectations of its clients by providing an innovative, professional and high quality services with integrity and reliability. Abiogenesis is capable of delivering the quality work from early proof of concept studies to late phase clinical development including post launch product lifecycle management. We believe that each therapeutic product should go through evaluation in clinical development program with all compliances and this is possible when the organizational value system ensures individual integrity, transparency, respect, productivity and compassion. With an execution level experience in most of Asia Pacific countries and still spreading our wings to other countries, our mission is to build a healthier tomorrow for patients by effectively contributing to clinical trial programs. You can get more information about us at [www.abiogenesisclinpharm.com](http://www.abiogenesisclinpharm.com)

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