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

**FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT**
*Under
The Securities Act of 1933*

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

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

47-4272481
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

**260 Littlefield Avenue
South San Francisco, California 94080
(650) 481-6770**
(Address, including zip code and telephone number, of Registrant's principal executive offices)

**Pliant Therapeutics, Inc. 2022 Inducement Plan
Pliant Therapeutics, Inc. 2020 Stock Option and Incentive Plan**
(Full Title of the Plans)

**Mike Ouimette
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Pliant Therapeutics, Inc.
260 Littlefield Avenue
South San Francisco, California 94080
(650) 481-6770**
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

**Sharon R. Flanagan
Carlton Fleming
Sidley Austin LLP
555 California Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, California 94104
(415) 772-1200**

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Emerging growth company	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 is filed by Pliant Therapeutics, Inc. (the “Registrant”) for the purpose of registering (i) 1,000,000 shares of Registrant common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share (the “Common Stock”), that may be issued under the Pliant Therapeutics, Inc. 2022 Inducement Plan and (ii) 2,447,067 shares of Common Stock issuable under the Pliant Therapeutics, Inc. 2020 Stock Option and Incentive Plan, as a result of the operation of an automatic annual increase provision therein.

Part I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The information called for in Part I of Form S-8 to be contained in the Section 10(a) prospectus is not being filed with or included in this registration statement (by incorporation by reference or otherwise) in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”). A copy of the prospectus or documents containing the information required by Part I of the Registration Statement will be sent or given to plan participants as specified 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 Registrant hereby incorporates by reference into this Registration Statement the following documents filed with the Commission:

- (a) The Registrant's Annual Report on [Form 10-K](#) for the year ended December 31, 2022, filed with the Commission on March 9, 2023;
- (b) The Registrant's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on [January 23, 2023](#), [January 23, 2023](#), [January 25, 2023](#), [February 23, 2023](#) and [March 8, 2023](#); and
- (c) The description of the Common Stock contained in the Registrant's Registration Statement on [Form 8-A](#) (File No. 001-39303), filed by the Registrant with the Commission under Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), on May 29, 2020, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description, including [Exhibit 4.3](#) to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2020, filed with the Commission on March 16, 2021.

All documents that the Registrant subsequently files pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement which indicates that all of the shares of Common Stock offered have been sold or which deregisters all of such shares then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of the filing of such documents.

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.

Under no circumstances will any information filed under current items 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K be deemed incorporated herein by reference unless such Form 8-K expressly provides to the contrary.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, or the DGCL, authorizes a corporation to indemnify its directors and officers against liabilities arising out of actions, suits and proceedings to which they are made or threatened to be made a party by reason of the fact that they have served or are currently serving as a director or officer to a corporation. The indemnity may cover expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the director or officer in connection with any such action, suit or proceeding. Section 145 permits corporations to pay expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred by directors and officers in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding. In addition, Section 145 provides that a corporation has the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of its directors and officers against any liability asserted against them and incurred by them in their capacity as a director or officer, or arising out of their status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify the director or officer against such liability under Section 145.

The Registrant adopted provisions in its certificate of incorporation and bylaws that limit or eliminate the personal liability of the Registrant's directors to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, as it now exists or may in the future be amended. Consequently, a director will not be personally liable to the Registrant or its stockholders for monetary damages or breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability for:

- any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Registrant or its stockholders;
- any act or omission not in good faith or that involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- any unlawful payments related to dividends or unlawful stock purchases, redemptions or other distributions; or
- any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

These limitations of liability do not alter director liability under the federal securities laws and do not affect the availability of equitable remedies such as an injunction or rescission.

In addition, the Registrant's bylaws provide that:

- the Registrant will indemnify its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL, as it now exists or may in the future be amended; and
- the Registrant will advance reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees, to its directors and, at the discretion of its board of directors, to its officers, in connection with legal proceedings relating to their service for or on behalf of the Registrant, subject to limited exceptions.

The Registrant has entered into indemnification agreements with each of its directors and executive officers. These agreements provide that the Registrant will indemnify each of its directors and certain of its executive officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. The Registrant will advance expenses, including attorneys' fees (but excluding judgments, fines and settlement amounts), to each indemnified director or executive officer in connection with any proceeding in which indemnification is available and the Registrant will indemnify its directors and officers for any action or proceeding arising out of that person's services as a director or officer brought on behalf of the Registrant or in furtherance of the Registrant's rights. Additionally, certain of the Registrant's directors or officers may have certain rights to indemnification, advancement of expenses or insurance provided by their affiliates or other third parties, which indemnification relates to and might apply to the same proceedings arising out of such director's or officer's services as a director referenced herein. Nonetheless, the Registrant has agreed in the indemnification agreements that the Registrant's obligations to those same directors or officers are primary and any obligation of such affiliates or other third parties to advance expenses or to provide indemnification for the expenses or liabilities incurred by those directors are secondary.

The Registrant also maintains general liability insurance which covers certain liabilities of its directors and officers arising out of claims based on acts or omissions in their capacities as directors or officers, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act").

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
4.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant, as currently in effect (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant's quarterly report on Form 10-Q filed on August 11, 2020 (File No. 001-39303)).
4.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant, as currently in effect (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant's current report on Form 8-K filed on September 16, 2022 (File No. 001-39303)).
4.3	Amended and Restated Investors' Rights Agreement among the Registrant and certain of its stockholders, dated December 19, 2019 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-238146)).
5.1*	Opinion of Sidley Austin LLP.
23.1*	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent registered public accounting firm.
23.2*	Consent of Sidley Austin LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).
24.1*	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page to this Registration Statement).
99.1	Pliant Therapeutics, Inc. 2022 Inducement Plan (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17 of the Registrant's annual report on Form 10-K filed on March 9, 2023 (File No. 001-39303)).
99.2	Pliant Therapeutics, Inc. 2020 Stock Option and Incentive Plan and forms of award agreements thereunder (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-238146)).
107*	Calculation of Filing Fee Table

* Filed herewith.

Item 9. Undertakings.

(a) The 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 the 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 the Registration Statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement.

Provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) herein 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 Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. 78m or 78o(d)) that are incorporated by reference in the 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 Section 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 the 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, 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 city of South San Francisco, State of California, on the 9th day of March, 2023.

PLIANT THERAPEUTICS, INC.

By: /s/ Bernard Coulie

Bernard Coulie, M.D., Ph.D.
President, Chief Executive Officer and Director

POWER OF ATTORNEY AND SIGNATURES

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENT, that each individual whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Bernard Coulie and Keith Cummings, and each of them, either of whom may act without the joinder of the other, as his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-8, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission granting unto each said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or his or their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated below.

Signature	Title	Date
<u>/s/ Bernard Coulie</u> Bernard Coulie, M.D., Ph.D.	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	March 9, 2023
<u>/s/ Keith Cummings</u> Keith Cummings, M.D., MBA	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	March 9, 2023
<u>/s/ Hoyoung Huh</u> Hoyoung Huh, M.D., Ph.D.	Lead Director	March 9, 2023

<u>/s/ Suzanne Bruhn</u> Suzanne Bruhn, Ph.D.	Director	March 9, 2023
<u>Darren Cline</u>	Director	March 9, 2023
<u>/s/ Gayle Crowell</u> Gayle Crowell	Director	March 9, 2023
<u>/s/ John Curnutte</u> John Curnutte, M.D., Ph.D.	Director	March 9, 2023
<u>/s/ Katharine Knobil</u> Katharine Knobil, M.D.	Director	March 9, 2023
<u>Thomas McCourt</u>	Director	March 9, 2023
<u>/s/ David Pyott</u> David Pyott	Director	March 9, 2023
<u>/s/ Smital Shah</u> Smital Shah	Director	March 9, 2023

SIDLEY

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AMERICA • ASIA PACIFIC • EUROPE

March 9, 2023

Pliant Therapeutics, Inc.
260 Littlefield Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Re: 3,447,067 Shares of Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We refer to the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") being filed by Pliant Therapeutics, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), relating to the registration of (i) 1,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share (the "Common Stock"), of the Company which may be issued under the Pliant Therapeutics, Inc. 2022 Inducement Plan (the "2022 Plan") and (ii) 2,447,067 shares of Common Stock which may be issued under the Pliant Therapeutics, Inc. 2020 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (the "2020 Plan") and, together with the 2022 Plan, the "Plans" and the aggregate shares of Common Stock to be registered under the Registration Statement, the "Registered Shares").

This opinion letter is being delivered in accordance with the requirements of Item 601(b)(5) of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act.

We have examined the Registration Statement, the Company's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, the Company's Amended and Restated Bylaws, the Plans, the resolutions adopted by the board of directors of the Company relating to the Registration Statement and the Plans, and the resolutions adopted by the stockholders of the Company relating to the 2020 Plan. We have also examined originals, or copies of originals certified to our satisfaction, of such agreements, documents, certificates and statements of the Company and other corporate documents and instruments, and have examined such questions of law, as we have considered relevant and necessary as a basis for this opinion letter. We have assumed the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the genuineness of all signatures, the legal capacity of all persons and the conformity with the original documents of any copies thereof submitted to us for examination. As to facts relevant to the opinions expressed herein, we have relied without independent investigation or verification upon, and assumed the accuracy and completeness of, certificates, letters and oral and written statements and representations of public officials and officers and other representatives of the Company.

Sidley Austin (CA) LLP is a Delaware limited liability partnership doing business as Sidley Austin LLP and practicing in affiliation with other Sidley Austin partnerships.

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Pliant Therapeutics, Inc.
March 9, 2023
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Based on the foregoing, we are of the opinion that each Registered Share that is newly issued pursuant to each Plan will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable when: (i) the Registration Statement, as finally amended, shall have become effective under the Securities Act; (ii) such Registered Share shall have been duly issued and delivered in accordance with the applicable Plan; and (iii) a certificate representing such Registered Share shall have been duly executed, countersigned and registered and duly delivered to the person entitled thereto against payment of the agreed consideration therefor (in an amount not less than the par value thereof) or, if any such Registered Share is to be issued in uncertificated form, the Company's books shall reflect the issuance of such Registered Share to the person entitled thereto against payment of the agreed consideration therefor (in an amount not less than the par value thereof), all in accordance with the applicable Plan.

This opinion letter is limited to the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. We express no opinion as to the laws, rules or regulations of any other jurisdiction, including, without limitation, the federal laws of the United States of America or any state securities or blue sky laws.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion letter as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to all references to our Firm included in or made a part of the Registration Statement. In giving such consent, we do not thereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Sidley Austin LLP

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our report dated March 9, 2023, relating to the financial statements of Pliant Therapeutics, Inc., appearing in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Pliant Therapeutics, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2022.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

San Francisco, California
March 9, 2023

Calculation of Filing Fee Table

FORM S-8 (Form Type)

Pliant Therapeutics, Inc.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Newly Registered Securities

Security Type	Security Class Title	Fee Calculation Rule	Amount Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(2)	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2)	Fee Rate	Amount of Registration Fee(2)
Equity(3)	Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share	Rule 457(c) and Rule 457(h)	1,000,000	\$30.86	\$30,860,000.00	0.00011020	\$3,400.77
Equity(4)	Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share	Rule 457(c) and Rule 457(h)	2,447,067	\$30.86	\$75,516,487.62	0.00011020	\$8,321.92
Total Offering Amounts							\$11,722.69
Total Fee Offsets							\$—
Net Fee Due							\$11,722.69

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a) promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, this Registration Statement shall also cover any additional shares of Pliant Therapeutics, Inc.'s (the "Registrant") common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share (the "Common Stock") that become issuable under the plans set forth herein by reason of any stock dividend, stock split, recapitalization, or other similar transaction effected that results in an increase to the number of outstanding shares of Registrant's Common Stock, as applicable.
- (2) Estimated in accordance with Rules 457(c) and (h) solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee on the basis of \$30.86 per share, the average of the high and low prices of the Registrant's Common Stock on March 2, 2023 as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market.
- (3) Represents shares of the Registrant's Common Stock that may be issued under the Pliant Therapeutics, Inc. 2022 Inducement Plan.
- (4) Represents shares of the Registrant's Common Stock that were automatically added to the shares authorized for issuance under the Registrant's 2020 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (the "2020 Plan"), on January 1, 2023 pursuant to an "evergreen" provision contained in the 2020 Plan. Pursuant to such provision, the number of shares reserved for issuance under the 2020 Plan automatically increases on January 1 of each year, starting on January 1, 2021 and continuing through the termination of the 2020 Plan by 5% of the total number of shares of the Registrant's Common Stock outstanding on December 31st of the preceding calendar year, or a lesser number of shares determined by the Registrant's board of directors.