Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Atreca, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) 27-3723255 (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

450 E. Jamie Court South San Francisco, California 94080 (650) 595-2595

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

John A. Orwin President and Chief Executive Officer Atreca, Inc. 450 E. Jamie Court South San Francisco, California 94080 (650) 595-2595

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Danielle E. Naftulin Clark Chu Cooley LLP 3175 Hanover Street Palo Alto, California 94304 (650) 843-5000

Michael E. Tenta

Courtney Phillips General Counsel and Corporate Secretary Atreca, Inc. 450 E. Jamie Court South San Francisco, California 94080 (650) 595-2595

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. o

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. o

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. o

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. o

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

Large accelerated filer o

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

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered (1)(2)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(3)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(3)	Amount of Registration Fee
Class A common stock, par value \$0.0001 per				
share	9,466,951	\$20.83	\$197,196,589.33	\$25,596.12

(1) Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, the shares being registered hereunder include such indeterminate number of shares of Class A common stock as may be issuable with respect to the shares being registered hereunder as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

- (2) Consists of an aggregate of 9,466,951 shares of the registrant's Class A common stock, including 5,934,191 shares of Class A common stock issuable upon the conversion of an aggregate of 5,934,191 shares of Class B common stock, par value \$0,0001 per share, of the registrant, all of which were acquired by the selling stockholders in connection with the closing of various transactions between the registrant and the selling stockholders. References to Class A common stock in this registration statement include the shares of Class A common stock into which shares of the registrant's Class B common stock are convertible.
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act. The price per share and aggregate offering price are based on the average of the high and low prices of the registrant's Class A common stock on June 26, 2020, as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment that specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or until this registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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The information contained in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. These securities may not be sold until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, Dated July 2, 2020

PROSPECTUS



9,466,951 Shares

Class A Common Stock

This prospectus relates to the sale or other disposition from time to time of up to an aggregate of 9,466,951 shares of our Class A common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, which includes 5,934,191 shares of our Class A common stock issuable upon the conversion of our Class B common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, held by the selling stockholders named in this prospectus. These shares were acquired by the selling stockholders in connection with the closing of various transactions between us and the selling stockholders. We are not selling any Class A common stock under this prospectus and will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale or other disposition of shares by the selling stockholders.

We are registering the shares for resale by the selling stockholders identified in this prospectus or their transferees, pledgees, donees, or successors. However, our registration of the shares of Class A common stock covered by this prospectus does not mean that the selling stockholders will offer or sell any of the shares. The selling stockholders may sell or otherwise dispose of the shares of Class A common stock covered by this prospectus in a number of different ways and at varying prices. We provide more information about how the selling stockholders may sell or otherwise dispose of their shares of Class A common stock in the section entitled "Plan of Distribution." Discounts, concessions, commissions and similar selling expenses attributable to the sale of shares of Class A common stock covered by this prospectus will be borne by the selling stockholders. We will pay all registration expenses incurred relating to the registration of the shares with the Securities and Exchange Commission (including up to \$50,000 of reasonable legal expenses of the shares registered under this registration statement. As of the date of this prospectus, no underwriter or other person has been engaged to facilitate the sale of the shares of Class A common stock covered hereby.

Our Class A common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "BCEL." On July 1, 2020, the last reported sale price of our Class A common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$22.10 per share.

Investing in our Class A common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should review carefully the risks and uncertainties described or incorporated by reference under the heading "Risk Factors" on page 7 of this prospectus, and under similar headings in any amendment or supplement to this prospectus or as updated by any subsequent filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission that is incorporated by reference herein.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using the "shelf" registration process. Under this process, the selling stockholders may from time to time, in one or more offerings, sell the Class A common stock described in this prospectus.

You should rely only on the information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus (as supplemented and amended), along with the information contained in any free writing prospectuses we or the selling stockholders have authorized for use in connection with a specific offering. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We and the selling stockholders take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurances as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. The information contained in this prospectus (and in any supplement or amendment to this prospectus) or any related free writing prospectus, and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, are accurate only as of their respective dates, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus, or any sale of a security. We urge you to read carefully this prospectus (as supplemented and amended), together with the information incorporated herein by reference as described under the heading "Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference" before deciding whether to invest in any of the Class A common stock being offered.

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed, will be filed or will be incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below under the section entitled "Where You Can Find More Information."

Except as otherwise indicated herein or as the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to "Atreca," "the company," "we," "us," "our" and similar references refer to Atreca, Inc., a corporation under the laws of the State of Delaware.

This prospectus and the information incorporated herein by reference include trademarks, service marks and trade names owned by us or other companies. All trademarks, service marks and trade names included or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and the information incorporated herein by reference are the property of their respective owners.

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

The following summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus or incorporated by reference herein and does not contain all the information that may be important to purchasers of our securities. Prospective purchasers of our securities should carefully read the entire prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus we or the selling stockholders have authorized for use in connection with a specific offering, including the risks of investing in our securities discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" contained in any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, and under similar headings in the other documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Prospective purchasers of our securities should also carefully read the information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, including our financial statements, and the exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Atreca, Inc.

Overview

We are a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company utilizing our differentiated platform to discover and develop novel antibody-based immunotherapeutics to treat a range of solid tumor cancers. Although existing cancer therapies, including the evolving class of cancer immunotherapeutics, have advanced significantly over recent years, cancer remains the second leading cause of death in the United States. While more traditional oncology drug discovery approaches attempt to generate antibodies against known targets, our approach relies on the human immune system to direct us to unique antibody-target pairs from patients experiencing a clinically meaningful, active immune response against their tumors. These unique antibody-target pairs represent a potentially novel and previously unexplored landscape of immuno-oncology targets. We believe the fact that our approach has the potential to deliver novel immuno-oncology targets provides us with a significant competitive advantage over traditional approaches which focus on the targets that many companies are aware of and can pursue. As of July 1, 2020, we have utilized our drug discovery approach to identify over 1,800 distinct human antibodies that bind preferentially to tumor tissue from patients who are not the source of the antibody. Our lead product candidate, ATRC-101, is a monoclonal antibody with a novel mechanism of action and target, engineered from an antibody identified using our discovery platform. ATRC-101 reacts in vitro with a majority of human ovarian, non-small cell lung, colorectal and breast cancer tissue samples from multiple patients. It has demonstrated robust anti-tumor activity as a single agent in multiple preclinical models, including one model in which PD-1 checkpoint inhibitors typically display limited activity. We have initiated a Phase 1b clinical trial in patients with select solid tumors in which the first patient was dosed in February 2020. Our efforts beyond ATRC-101 are focused on expanding our clinical pipeline by advancing additional product candidates using our large library of "hit" antibodies that bind preferentially to tumor tissue across patients. To that end, via internal efforts and partnerships, we are both continuing to develop our platform and combining the novel antibodies that are generated by our platform with antibody "weaponization" technologies.

Our Lead Candidate: ATRC-101 for the Treatment of Solid Tumors

ATRC-101 is a monoclonal antibody derived from an antibody identified using our discovery platform in the active immune response of a patient. We believe that ATRC-101 may have broad potential as an immunotherapeutic agent in a range of solid tumors. ATRC-101 reacts *in vitro* with a majority of human ovarian, non-small cell lung, colorectal, breast cancer and acral melanoma samples from multiple patients. Furthermore, there were no signals of toxicological significance observed across a range of normal human tissues assessed *in vitro* for ATRC-101 reactivity. Both the mechanism of action of ATRC-101, which we refer to as Driver Antigen Engagement, and its target appear unlike those of other anti-tumor antibodies that have been or are currently in clinical development.

We have identified the target of ATRC-101 as a ribonucleoprotein, or RNP, complex. Although RNP complexes typically are intracellular, flow cytometry analysis of dissociated tumor tissue from multiple mouse tumor models indicated that the target of ATRC-101 can be found extracellularly. Multiple lines of evidence indicate that ATRC-101 binds to a polyadenylate-binding protein, or PABP, family member within its target RNP complex, and that a differentiated form of PABP-1 is present within its target RNP complex. We believe that the cellular response to stress is involved in generating the target of ATRC-101, including the stress induced by chemotherapeutics, and the chemotherapeutic doxorubicin induced the target of ATRC-101 in tumor tissue preclinically *in vivo*.

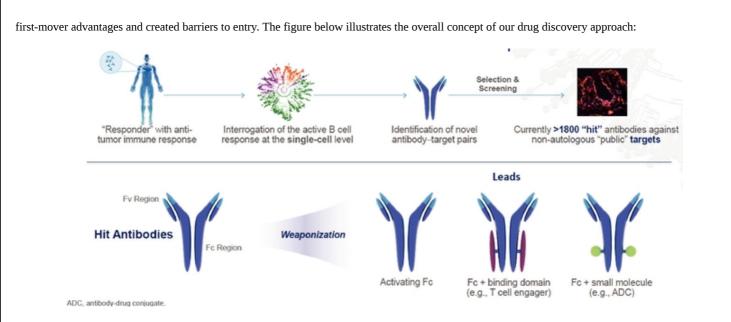
ATRC-101 has demonstrated robust anti-tumor activity as a single agent in multiple preclinical syngeneic tumor models, including a model of the T cell-excluded phenotype, in which PD-1 checkpoint inhibitors typically display limited activity. ATRC-101 has also demonstrated preclinical activity in combination with other immunotherapeutics, including a PD-1 checkpoint inhibitor. Additional lines of evidence indicate that ATRC-101 bound to its RNP target induces an immune response against tumor tissue in model systems in a manner similar to that in which other RNP complexes are known to drive immune system responses in humans. In particular, in tumor models, ATRC-101 appears to activate the innate immune system, which then induces an adaptive immune response involving T cells, which are required for anti-tumor activity of ATRC-101 *in vivo* in preclinical models. ATRC-101 demonstrates the ability of our platform to generate antibody candidates with novel targets and mechanisms of action.

In repeat-dose, preclinical safety studies in both mice and non-human primates, we did not observe a safety signal. We obtained Investigational New Drug, or IND clearance from the United States Food and Drug Administration to conduct clinical trials with ATRC-101 in late 2019 and launched an open-label, dose escalation trial in patients with select solid tumors in early 2020. Assuming we observe an acceptable safety profile, we then anticipate dosing ATRC-101 in expansion cohorts and in combination with other agents, including with select chemotherapeutics as well as with a PD-1 checkpoint inhibitor.

We own worldwide rights to ATRC-101. We have filed multiple patent applications relating to ATRC-101 and its variants. In February 2020, we filed a nonprovisional patent application in the United States, an international patent application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty, and a patent application in Taiwan, each relating to ATRC-101 and its variants.

The Atreca Drug Discovery Platform

We believe we may be able to address certain key limitations of the current oncology drug discovery paradigm by focusing on the common phenomenon driving clinical responses in cancer immunotherapy—an active human anti-tumor immune response. Our platform allows us to interrogate an active B cell response within an individual cancer patient to identify novel and relevant antibody-target pairs, which may enable us to develop antibody-based product candidates to treat large populations of patients with solid tumors. We believe that the significant time and capital invested in developing, refining and applying our differentiated discovery platform have provided us with significant



For example, establishing our non-interventional clinical studies to obtain patient samples, enabling longitudinal analyses, required approximately 1 to 2 years per study. We have built informatics expertise and infrastructure important to the operation of our platform in over eight years of operations. Our hit antibody generation process delivers hits at a high rate, has already generated over 1,800 hit antibodies and is supported by a growing intellectual property portfolio. Additionally, our investments of capital and time in building industrialized wet-lab capabilities, including the time required to identify and hire very qualified personnel, were substantial.

Our discovery process begins by gathering blood samples, mostly through company-sponsored non-interventional clinical studies, from cancer patients before, during and after they undergo treatment, which can induce an active anti-tumor immune response. Through this process, as of July 1, 2020, we have built a broad repository of over 1,500 samples from over 650 donors, representing over 30 different solid tumor types. We identify those patients with clinically meaningful responses to therapy, defined as those that reach validated surrogate endpoints of complete or partial response, stable disease for six months, or long-term progression-free survival. For those patients, we then examine their samples for rare antibody-producing B cells called plasmablasts that are elevated during an active immune response. We believe that these human immune responses, which often occur over an extended period of time, generate antibodies accessible with our platform that would be difficult to obtain through shorter term, non-human immunization or *in vitro* strategies.

We then employ a multi-step process to generate a potential product candidate. We start by isolating single plasmablasts and determining the sequences of the co-expressed antibody genes using our proprietary Immune Repertoire Capture® technology. We analyze these sequences to select antibodies, which we synthesize as recombinant proteins. We then test these antibodies to identify those that bind to tumor tissue from patients who are not the source of the antibody, referred to as non-autologous tumor tissue, preferentially over normal tissue. We then analyze these "hit" antibodies using a number of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays, and often make structural changes to generate leads. A select number of these leads are refined further using protein engineering to enhance their drug-like properties as we identify and characterize their targets in parallel prior to initiating preclinical development and IND-enabling studies.

Strategic Collaborations

A key aspect of our strategy is to advance both our platform and the generation of clinical pipeline assets not only through our ongoing internal efforts, but also via partnerships with companies that have developed useful technologies. We believe this approach will allow us to expand our clinical pipeline in an accelerated manner.

In our continuing efforts to enhance our discovery platform, we have executed several partnerships specifically focused on accessing technology platforms that facilitate identification of the targets of the antibodies we discover, which is a key step in generating clinical candidates. These partnerships complement the ongoing expansion of our internal target identification capabilities and include collaborations with Merck, Serimmune and others.

In addition, in furtherance of our continuing efforts to generate clinical pipeline assets, we plan to enter into multiple collaborations to access bestin-class antibody engineering technologies that provide new or enhanced functionality beyond that found in naturally occurring antibodies. We expect these collaborations to enhance our ability to use our platform-generated antibodies to create clinical candidates that could be T cell-engagers, NK cellengagers and antibody drug (toxin and immunostimulator) conjugates, among other formats. We are in discussions with a number of companies and expect to execute at least one such collaboration in 2020.

Key Developments

Below is a summary of selected key developments affecting our business that have occurred since March 31, 2020:

- On March 11, 2020, COVID-19, a disease caused by a novel strain of the coronavirus, was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Since December 2019, COVID-19 has spread rapidly, with a high concentration of cases in the United States where we operate. The rapid spread has resulted in authorities implementing numerous measures to contain the virus, such as travel bans and restrictions, quarantines, social distancing requirements, shelter-in-place orders and business shutdowns. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded globally, we transitioned to a fully remote working environment. As a result, our laboratories and office locations were closed for more than two months and have only recently been partially re-opened for a small number of critical lab-based personnel to resume limited operations.
- In April 2020, we announced plans to collaborate with BeiGene Ltd. and IGM Biosciences, Inc., or IGM, which enable the parties to leverage their combined technology and expertise to discover, develop, and manufacture novel IgM and IgA antibodies targeting SARS-CoV-2 for the potential treatment of COVID-19. We and IGM executed a Material Transfer and Collaboration Agreement to allow both parties to commence their respective efforts and all three parties expect to work to finalize the financial and operational details of the collaboration in the coming months.
- In May 2020, we announced that we had successfully completed the first dosing cohort of our Phase 1b study of ATRC-101 in select solid tumors, and that we were commencing screening patients to enroll in the second dose cohort.

Company Information

We were incorporated under the laws of the state of Delaware in 2010 under the name Atreca, Inc. Our principal executive offices are located at 450 E. Jamie Court, South San Francisco, CA 94080. Our telephone number is (650) 595-2595. Our website address is www.atreca.com. Information

contained on, or that can be accessed through, our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and you should not consider information on our website to be part of this prospectus.

The Atreca design logo, "Atreca" and our other registered or common law trademarks, service marks, or trade names appearing in this prospectus are the property of Atreca, Inc. Other trade names, trademarks and service marks used in this prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

Risks Associated with our Business

Our business is subject to numerous risks, as described under the heading "Risk Factors" contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and in any free writing prospectuses we have authorized for use in connection with a specific offering, and under similar headings in the documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

The Offering

Class A common stock to be offered by the selling stockholders	9,466,951 shares, which includes 5,934,191 shares of Class A common stock issuable upon conversion of an aggregate of 5,934,191 shares of Class B common stock held by the selling stockholders named in this prospectus.
Use of proceeds	We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares of Class A common stock covered by this prospectus.
Risk factors	See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 7, for a discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our Class A common stock.
NASDAQ Global Select Market symbol	BCEL

The selling stockholders named in this prospectus may offer and sell up to an aggregate of 9,466,951 shares of our Class A common stock, which includes 5,934,191 shares of Class A common stock issuable upon conversion of an aggregate of 5,934,191 shares of Class B common stock held by the selling stockholders named in this prospectus. Throughout this prospectus, when we refer to the shares of our Class A common stock being registered on behalf of the selling stockholders, we are referring to all 9,466,951 shares of Class A common stock, including 5,934,191 shares of Class A common stock issuable upon conversion of an aggregate of 5,934,191 shares of Class A common stock issuable upon conversion of an aggregate of 5,934,191 shares of Class B common stock reported to us as held by the selling stockholders as of June 30, 2020.

The selling stockholders purchased 7,466,951 shares of our Class A common stock and Class B common stock through several private placements of our convertible preferred stock prior to our initial public offering, effective as of October 15, 2015, August 10, 2017 and September 5, 2018, of which 3,532,760 shares of convertible preferred stock was converted into Class A common stock and 3,934,191 shares of convertible preferred stock was converted into Class B common stock in connection with our initial public offering.

On June 24, 2019, the selling stockholders purchased an aggregate of 2,000,000 shares of our Class B common stock offered in our initial public offering at \$17.00 per share.

We agreed to file this prospectus pursuant to a registration rights agreement with the selling stockholders dated March 11, 2020, or the Registration Rights Agreement. Additional information with respect to the Registration Rights Agreement is contained in this prospectus under the heading "Selling Stockholders" and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange

Commission on March 11, 2020 and our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 29, 2020.

When we refer to the selling stockholders, we are referring to the selling stockholders named herein and, as applicable, any donees, pledgees, transferees or other successors-in-interest selling shares received after the date of this prospectus from a selling stockholder as a gift, pledge, or other non-sale related transfer that may be identified in a supplement to this prospectus or, if required, a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our Class A common stock involves a high degree of risk. Prior to making a decision about investing in our Class A common stock, you should consider carefully the specific risk factors discussed in the sections entitled "Risk Factors" contained in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K or Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, as filed with the SEC, which are incorporated in this prospectus by reference in their entirety, as well as any amendment or updates to our risk factors reflected in subsequent filings with the SEC, including any prospectus supplement hereto. These risks and uncertainties are not the only risks and uncertainties we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us, or that we currently view as immaterial, may also impair our business. If any of the risks or uncertainties described in our SEC filings or any additional risks and uncertainties actually occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flow could be materially and adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our Class A common stock could decline and you might lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Related To This Offering

The selling stockholders named in this prospectus hold a significant portion of our total outstanding shares of Class A common stock and Class B common stock, and any sale of such shares into the market in the future could cause the market price of our Class A common stock and Class B common stock to drop significantly, even if our business is doing well.

The selling stockholders named in this prospectus may offer and sell up to an aggregate of 9,466,951 shares of our Class A common stock and Class B common stock that they currently hold, which represents approximately 33.6% of our total outstanding shares of Class A common stock and Class B common stock as of June 30, 2020. Sales of a substantial number of shares of our Class A common stock in the public market by the selling stockholders named in this prospectus, or the perception that these sales might occur, could depress the market price of our Class A common stock and could impair our ability to raise capital through the sale of additional equity securities. We are unable to predict the effect that sales by these stockholders may have on the prevailing market price of our Class A common stock.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains forward-looking statements about us and our industry that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. All statements other than statements of historical facts contained in this prospectus, including statements regarding our future results of operations or financial condition, business strategy and plans and objectives of management for future operations, are forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements because they contain words such as "anticipate," "believe," "contemplate," "continue," "could," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "may," "plan," "potential," "predict," "project," "should," "target," "will" or "would" or the negative of these words or other similar terms or expressions, although not all forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements concerning the following:

- the initiation, timing, progress and results of our research and development programs, preclinical studies, any clinical trials and IND and other regulatory submissions;
- our expectations regarding the activity of ATRC-101 or potential future product candidates once administered in a human subject;
- our expectations and beliefs regarding the market for cancer therapies and development of the immuno-oncology industry;
- our ability to identify and develop product candidates for treatment of additional disease indications;
- our or a potential future collaborator's ability to obtain and maintain regulatory approval of any of our current or potential future product candidates;
- the rate and degree of market acceptance of any approved product candidates;
- the implementation of our business model and strategic plans for our business, technologies, and current or potential future product candidates;
- our or any potential future collaborator's ability to obtain and maintain intellectual property protection for our discovery platform and current or potential future product candidates and our ability to operate our business without infringing the intellectual property rights of others; and
- our use of net proceeds to us from this offering.

You should not rely on forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. We have based the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus primarily on our current expectations and projections about future events and trends that we believe may affect our business, financial condition and operating results. The outcome of the events described in these forward-looking statements is subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors described in the section titled "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in this prospectus. Moreover, we operate in a very competitive and rapidly changing environment. New risks and uncertainties emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all risks and uncertainties that could have an impact on the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus. The results, events and circumstances reflected in the forward-looking statements may not be achieved or occur, and actual results, events or circumstances could differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. You should read this prospectus and the documents that we reference in this prospectus and have filed as exhibits to the registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part, that we have filed with the SEC with the understanding that our actual future results, levels of activity, performance and achievements may be materially different from what we expect.

In addition, statements that "we believe" and similar statements reflect our beliefs and opinions on the relevant subject. These statements are based on information available to us as of the date of this

prospectus. While we believe that information provides a reasonable basis for these statements, that information may be limited or incomplete. Our statements should not be read to indicate that we have conducted an exhaustive inquiry into, or review of, all relevant information. These statements are inherently uncertain, and investors are cautioned not to unduly rely on these statements.

The forward-looking statements made in this prospectus relate only to events as of the date on which the statements are made. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements made in this prospectus to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this prospectus or to reflect new information or the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as required by law. We may not actually achieve the plans, intentions or expectations disclosed in our forward-looking statements, and you should not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements. Our forward-looking statements do not reflect the potential impact of any future acquisitions, mergers, dispositions, joint ventures or investments. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale or other disposition of shares of our Class A common stock by the selling stockholders pursuant to this prospectus. The selling stockholders will receive all of the net proceeds from sales of the Class A common stock sold pursuant to this prospectus.

SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

The selling stockholders named in this prospectus may offer and sell up to an aggregate of 9,466,951 shares of our Class A common stock, which includes 5,934,191 shares of our Class A common stock issuable upon the conversion of our Class B common stock held by the selling stockholders named in this prospectus. The foregoing shares represent all shares of Class A common stock and Class B common stock reported to us as held by the selling stockholders as of June 30, 2020.

On March 11, 2020, we entered into a registration rights agreement, or the Registration Rights Agreement, with the selling stockholders, pursuant to which the selling stockholders are entitled to certain resale registration rights with respect to shares of our Class A common stock held by the selling stockholders. Under the agreement, following a demand by the selling stockholders, we are obligated to file a resale registration statement on Form S-3, or other appropriate form, covering such Class A common stock held by the selling stockholders, and to keep such registration statement effective until the earlier of (i) all registrable securities covered by the registration statement have been sold or may be sold freely without limitations or restrictions as to volume or manner of sale pursuant to Rule 144 of the Securities Act, as amended, or Rule 144, or (ii) all registrable securities covered by the registration statement otherwise cease to be considered registrable securities pursuant to the terms of the agreement. Under the agreement, the selling stockholders have the right to one underwritten public offering per calendar year, but no more than three underwritten public offerings in total, to effect the sale or distribution of its registrable securities, subject to specified exceptions, conditions and limitations. The agreement requires us to bear expenses incurred by us in effecting any registration pursuant to the agreement, and up to \$50,000 of expenses per underwritten public offering for counsel for the selling stockholders and also includes customary indemnification obligations in connection with registrations conducted pursuant to the agreement. The rights of the selling stockholders under the agreement terminate automatically upon the earlier to occur of the following events: (i) all registrable securities covered by the agreement have been sold pursuant to an effective registration statement; (ii) all registrable securities covered by the agreement have been sold by pursuant to Rule 144, or other similar rule; (iii) all registrable securities covered by the agreement may be resold without limitations as to volume or manner of sale pursuant to Rule 144; or (iv) 10 years after the date of the agreement. Additional information with respect to the Registration Rights Agreement is contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 11, 2020 and our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on April 29, 2020.

Baker Brothers Life Sciences L.P. and 667, L.P., an entity affiliated with Baker Brothers Life Sciences L.P., together Baker Brothers, purchased an aggregate of 2,000,000 shares of our Class B common stock offered in our initial public offering at \$17.00 per share on June 24, 2019, for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$34.0 million. In addition, Baker Brothers purchased an aggregate of 7,466,951 shares of our Class A common stock and Class B common stock through several private placements of our convertible preferred stock prior to our initial public offering, effective as of October 15, 2015, August 10, 2017 and September 5, 2018, for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$94.8 million, of which 3,532,760 shares of convertible preferred stock was converted into Class A common stock and 3,934,191 shares of convertible preferred stock was converted into Class B common stock in connection with our initial public offering. The shares purchased in these transactions are included in the shares of Class A common stock offered by this prospectus.

On September 5, 2018, we entered into a nominating agreement with Baker Brothers, or the Nominating Agreement. Pursuant to the Nominating Agreement, during the period beginning at the closing of our initial public offering until when Baker Brothers no longer beneficially own at least 3,333,333 shares of our common stock (subject to adjustment for stock splits, combinations, recapitalizations and similar transactions), or the Nominating Agreement Period, we will have the obligation to support the nomination of, and to cause our board of directors to include in the slate of nominees recommended to our stockholders for election, two individuals designated by Baker Brothers,

each a Baker Brothers Designee, unless a majority of our disinterested directors reasonably and in good faith determines that a Baker Brothers Designee would not be qualified to serve as our director under law, rules of the stock exchange on which our shares are listed, our amended and restated bylaws, or any of our company policies. If a Baker Brothers Designee resigns his or her seat on our board of directors or is removed or does not become a director for any reason, the vacancy will be filled by the election or appointment of another designee of Baker Brothers as soon as reasonably practicable, subject to compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations. Furthermore, during the Nominating Agreement Period, if there is no Baker Brothers Designee on our board of directors, we will have the obligation to invite two board of directors observer designees of Baker Brothers, or the Baker Brothers Observers, to attend all meetings of our board of directors and all meetings of the committees of our board of directors as a nonvoting observer, subject to Baker Brothers Observers' agreement to hold in confidence the information they receive as observers of our board of directors and committee meetings, as well as subject to their exclusion from our board of directors' meetings to preserve our attorney-client privilege, to avoid conflicts of interest, if Baker Brothers is determined by our board of directors to be a competitor or other customary conditions. The Nominating Agreement automatically terminates upon the earlier of when Baker Brothers, together with its affiliates, no longer beneficially owns at least 3,333,333 shares of our common stock or the consummation of our acquisition in a change of control transaction, as such terms are defined in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation.

We are party to an amended and restated investors' rights agreement, or the IRA, with certain holders of our Class A common stock and Class B common stock, as applicable, including Baker Brothers. The IRA provides these holders of our Class A common stock and Class B common stock with certain registration rights, including the right to demand that we file a registration statement or request that their shares be covered by a registration statement to request the their shares be covered by a registration statement or request that their shares be covered by a registration statement or request that their shares be covered by a registration statement or request that their shares be covered by a registration statement that we have filed and maintain as effective.

We filed our amended and restated certificate of incorporation with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on June 24, 2019. Thereunder, holders of shares of Class B common stock, all outstanding shares of which are currently held by Baker Brothers, has the right to convert each share of Class B common stock held by such holder into one share of Class A common stock at such holder's election, provided that such shares of Class B common stock may only be converted into shares of Class A common stock when, as immediately prior to or as a result of such conversion, such conversion would not result in such holder beneficially owning (for purposes of Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, or the Exchange Act, when aggregated with affiliates with whom such holder is required to aggregate beneficial ownership for purposes of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act, in excess of, initially, 4.99% of any class of securities of Atreca registered under the Exchange Act, which percentage may be increased to such other percentage as any holder of outstanding shares of Class B common stock may designate in writing upon 61 days' notice to Atreca, provided, however, that no holder may make such an election to change the percentage unless all holders managed by the same investment advisor as such electing holder make the same election. The Class B common stock is non-voting.

Except for the ownership of the shares of Class A common stock and Class B common stock, the Registration Rights Agreement, the Nominating Agreement, the IRA, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and the participation by entities affiliated with Brother Bakers in our private placements of convertible preferred stock and our initial public offering, the selling stockholders have not had any material relationship with us or our affiliates within the past three years.

The table below, including the footnotes, lists the selling stockholders and other information regarding the beneficial ownership of the shares of our Class A common stock and Class B common

stock held by the selling stockholders based on information provided to us by the selling stockholders. Generally, a person "beneficially owns" shares of our Class A common stock or Class B common stock, as applicable, if the person has or shares with others the right to vote those shares or to dispose of them, or if the person has the right to acquire voting or disposition rights within 60 days. The percentages of shares owned prior to and after the offering are based on an aggregate of 28,203,005 shares of our Class A common stock and Class B common stock outstanding as of July 1, 2020, which includes the outstanding shares of Class A common stock offered by this prospectus. The number of shares beneficially owned prior to the offering indicates the number of shares of Class A common stock and Class B common stock reported to us as beneficially owned by the selling stockholders as of June 30, 2020.

The maximum number of shares to be sold column indicates the total number of shares of our Class A common stock that the selling stockholders may offer under this prospectus.

The shares beneficially owned after offering number assumes the sale of all of the shares offered by the selling stockholders pursuant to this prospectus. However, because the selling stockholders may sell all or some of their shares under this prospectus from time to time, or in another permitted manner, we cannot assure you as to the actual number of shares that will be sold by the selling stockholders or that will be held by the selling stockholders after completion of any sales. We do not know how long any of the selling stockholders will hold the shares before selling them.

The selling stockholders may sell all, some or none of their shares in this offering. See "Plan of Distribution."

	Number of Class A Common	Prior to Offering N umber of Number of O Class A Class B to Common Common P		Maximum Number of Shares to be Sold Pursuant	Shares Beneficially Owned After Offering(1)		
Name of Selling Stockholder	Stock Shares	Percent	Stock Shares	Percent	to this Prospectus	Number	Percent
Entities Affiliated with Baker Brothers							
Life Sciences L.P.(2)	3,532,760	15.86%	5,934,191	100.0%	5 9,466,951		

(1) The selling stockholders may offer and sell all or part of the Class A common stock covered by this prospectus, but no estimates can be made as to the amount of shares of Class A common stock that will be held by the selling stockholders after the completion of this offering.

(2) The shares of Class A common stock and Class B common stock reported to us as beneficially owned by Baker Brothers consists of 3,223,030 shares of Class A common stock and 5,540,107 shares of Class B common stock held of record by Baker Brothers Life Sciences L.P. and 309,730 shares of Class A common stock and 394,084 shares of Class B common stock held of record by 667, L.P.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling stockholders may, from time to time, sell any or all of their shares of Class A common stock on any stock exchange, market or trading facility on which the shares are traded or in private transactions. These sales may be at fixed or negotiated prices. The selling stockholders may use any one or more of the following methods when selling shares:

- ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which a broker-dealer solicits purchasers;
- block trades in which a broker-dealer will attempt to sell the shares as agent, but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;
- purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its account under this prospectus;
- an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of the applicable exchange;
- privately negotiated transactions;
- "at the market" or through market makers or into an existing market for the shares;
- short sales;
- through the writing or settlement of options or other hedging transactions, whether through an options exchange or otherwise;
- through the distribution of the Class A common stock by any selling stockholder to its partners, members or stockholders;
- through broker-dealers that agree with the selling stockholders to sell a specified number of such shares at a stipulated price per share;
- through one or more underwritten offerings on a firm commitment or best efforts basis;
- a combination of any such methods of sale; and
- any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law.

The selling stockholders will act independently of us in making decisions with respect to the timing, manner and size of each sale. The selling stockholders also may resell all or a portion of the shares in open market transactions in reliance upon Rule 144, as permitted by that rule, or Section 4(a)(1) under the Securities Act, if available, rather than under this prospectus, provided that they meet the criteria and conform to the requirements of those provisions.

In connection with the sale of the shares, the selling stockholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions, which may in turn engage in short sales of the Class A common stock in the course of hedging the positions they assume. The selling stockholders may also sell shares of our Class A common stock short and deliver these securities to close out their short positions, or loan or pledge the Class A common stock to broker dealers that in turn may sell these securities. The selling stockholders may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions or the creation of one or more derivative securities which require the delivery to such broker-dealer or other financial institution of shares offered by this prospectus, which shares such broker-dealer or other financial institution may resell pursuant to this prospectus (as supplemented or amended to reflect such transaction).

The aggregate proceeds to the selling stockholders from the sale of the shares offered by them will be the purchase price of the Class A common stock less discounts or commissions, if any. Each of the selling stockholders reserves the right to accept and, together with their agents from time to time, to



reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of Class A common stock to be made directly or through agents. We will not receive any of the proceeds from this offering.

The selling stockholders and any broker-dealers that act in connection with the sale of securities may be deemed to be "underwriters" within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act in connection with such sales, and any commissions received by such broker-dealers and any profit on the resale of the securities sold by them while acting as principals may be deemed to be underwriting discounts or commissions under the Securities Act. In the event that any selling stockholder is deemed to be an "underwriter" within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act, the selling stockholder will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act. The selling stockholders may indemnify any broker-dealer that participates in transactions involving the sale of the shares against certain liabilities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act. To our knowledge, none of the selling stockholders received any shares as underwriting compensation.

The selling stockholders may from time to time pledge or grant a security interest in some or all of the shares of Class A common stock owned by them and, if they default in the performance of their secured obligations, the pledgees or secured parties may offer and sell the shares of Class A common stock from time to time under this prospectus after we have filed a supplement to this prospectus, or, if required, a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, supplementing or amending the list of selling stockholders to include the pledgee, transferee or other successors in interest as selling stockholders under this prospectus.

The selling stockholders also may transfer the shares of Class A common stock in other circumstances, in which case the transferees or other successors in interest will be the selling beneficial owners for purposes of this prospectus and may sell the shares of Class A common stock from time to time under this prospectus after we have filed a supplement to this prospectus or, if required, a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, supplementing or amending the list of selling stockholders to include the transferee or other successors in interest as selling stockholders under this prospectus.

To the extent required, the shares of our Class A common stock to be sold, the names of the selling stockholders, the respective purchase prices and public offering prices, the names of any agents, dealer or underwriter, any applicable commissions or discounts with respect to a particular offer will be set forth in an amendment or supplement to this prospectus.

We will pay all registration expenses incurred relating to the registration of the shares with the SEC (including up to \$50,000 of reasonable legal expenses of the selling stockholders) pursuant to the Registration Rights Agreement, and the selling stockholders will pay all selling expenses, including underwriting discounts and selling commissions, related to the sale of the shares registered under this registration statement. We have agreed to indemnify the selling stockholders against certain losses, claims, damages and liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

The selling stockholders have advised us that they have not entered into any agreements, understandings or arrangements with any underwriters or brokerdealers regarding the sale of their shares of Class A common stock, nor is there an underwriter or coordinating broker acting in connection with a proposed sale of shares of Class A common stock by any selling stockholder. If we are notified by any selling stockholder that any material arrangement has been entered into with a broker-dealer for the sale of shares of Class A common stock, if required, we will file a supplement to this prospectus. If the selling stockholders use this prospectus for any sale of the shares of Class A common stock, they will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act.

We have advised the selling stockholders that the anti-manipulation rules of Regulation M under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of shares of our Class A common stock in the market and to the activities of the selling stockholders and their affiliates. These rules may limit the timing of purchases

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and sales of the shares by such selling stockholders. Regulation M may also restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of the shares of Class A common stock to engage in market-making activities with respect to the shares of Class A common stock. All of the foregoing may affect the marketability of the shares of Class A common stock and the ability of any person or entity to engage in market-making activities with respect to the shares of Class A common stock.

Our Class A common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "BCEL." There can be no assurance that any selling stockholder will sell any or all of the shares of Class A common stock registered pursuant to this prospectus.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the Class A common stock being offered hereby was passed upon by Cooley LLP, Palo Alto, California.

EXPERTS

The financial statements, incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Company's <u>Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31</u>, <u>2019</u>, have been audited by OUM & Co. LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which is incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 we filed with the SEC. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and the exhibits to the registration statement. For further information with respect to us and the securities we are offering under this prospectus, we refer you to the registration statement and the exhibits and schedules filed as a part of the registration statement. Neither we nor any agent, underwriter or dealer has authorized any person to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front page of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any sale of the securities offered by this prospectus.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public at the SEC's website at http://www.sec.gov, which contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers like us that file electronically with the SEC. We maintain a website at www.atreca.com. The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, our website is not incorporated by reference herein and is not part of this prospectus.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents instead of having to repeat the information in this prospectus. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings (including those made after the date of the initial filing of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and prior to the effectiveness of such registration statement) we will make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act until the termination of the offering of the shares covered by this prospectus (other than information furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K):

- our <u>Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2019, filed with the SEC on March 11, 2020</u>, including the information specifically incorporated by reference therein from our <u>Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, filed on April 29, 2020</u>;
- <u>our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2020, filed with the SEC on May 14, 2020;</u>
 - our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on <u>May 21, 2020</u>, and <u>June 16, 2020</u>; and

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the description of our Class A common stock set forth in our registration statement on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on June 10, 2019, including any amendments thereto or reports filed for the purposes of updating this description.

You can request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address or telephone number:

Atreca, Inc. 450 East Jamie Court South San Francisco, California 94080 (650) 595-2595 Attn: General Counsel

PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN THE PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

The following sets forth the estimated costs and expenses, all of which shall be borne by us, in connection with the offering of the securities pursuant to this Registration Statement:

SEC Registration Fee	\$ 25,5	96
Legal Fees and Expenses	75,0	000*
Accounting Fees	47,5	00
Printing and Miscellaneous Fees	25,0	000
Total	\$ 173,0	96

Estimated.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law authorizes a court to award, or a corporation's board of directors to grant, indemnity to directors and officers in terms sufficiently broad to permit such indemnification under certain circumstances for liabilities, including reimbursement for expenses incurred, arising under the Securities Act. Our certificate of incorporation authorizes us to indemnify our directors, officers, employees and other agents to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. Our bylaws provide that we are required to indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law and may indemnify our other employees and agents. Our bylaws also provides that, on satisfaction of certain conditions, we will advance expenses incurred by a director or officer in advance of the final disposition of any action or proceeding, and permit us to secure insurance on behalf of any officer, director, employee or other agent for any liability arising out of his or her actions in that capacity regardless of whether we would otherwise be permitted to indemnify him or her under the provisions of Delaware law.

We have entered into indemnification agreements with our directors and officers whereby we have agreed to indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by law, including indemnification against expenses and liabilities incurred in legal proceedings to which the director or officer was, or is threatened to be made, a party by reason of the fact that such director or officer is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of Atreca, provided that such director or officer reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interest of Atreca. At present, there is no pending litigation or proceeding involving a director or officer of Atreca regarding which indemnification is sought, nor is the registrant aware of any threatened litigation that may result in claims for indemnification.

We maintain insurance policies that indemnify our directors and officers against various liabilities arising under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, that might be incurred by any director or officer in his capacity as such.

The underwriting agreement(s) that the Registrant may enter into may provide for indemnification by any underwriters of the Registrant, its directors, its officers who sign the registration statement and the Registrant's controlling persons for some liabilities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted for directors, executive officers or persons controlling us, we have been informed that in the opinion of the

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SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

Item 16. Exhibits.

Exhibit Number

3.2(2)<u>Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant.</u>

- 4.1(3) Specimen Class A Common Stock Certificate of the Registrant.
- 4.2(4) Specimen Class B Common Stock Certificate of the Registrant.
- 4.3(5) Registration Rights Agreement, dated March 11, 2020, by and among the Registrant, Baker Brothers Life Sciences, L.P. and 667, L.P.
- 4.4(6) <u>Amended and Restated Investors' Rights Agreement, dated September 5, 2018, by and among the Registrant and certain of its stockholders.</u>
- 5.1 <u>Opinion of Cooley LLP.</u>
- 23.1 Consent of OUM & Co. LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
- 23.2 <u>Consent of Cooley LLP is contained in Exhibit 5.1 to this Registration Statement.</u>
- 24.1 <u>Power of Attorney is contained on the signature pages.</u>
- (1) Previously filed as an exhibit to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 26, 2019 (File No. 001-38935) and incorporated herein by reference.
- (2) Previously filed as an exhibit to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 26, 2019 (File No. 001-38935) and incorporated herein by reference.
- (3) Previously filed as an exhibit to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 26, 2019 (File No. 001-38935) and incorporated herein by reference.
- (4) Previously filed as an exhibit to the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 26, 2019 (File No. 001-38935) and incorporated herein by reference.
- (5) Previously filed as an exhibit to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 11, 2020 (File No. 001-38935) and incorporated herein by reference.
- (6) Previously filed as an exhibit to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed with the SEC on May 24, 2019 (File No. 333-231770) and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 17. Undertakings.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

- (a) 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 posteffective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the 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 SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective 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 (i), (ii) and (iii) of this section do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-1, Form S-3, Form SF-3 or Form F-3 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or, as to a registration statement on Form S-3, Form SF-3 or Form F-3, is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.
- (d) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:
 - (i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement;
 - (ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement tor made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date; and
 - (iii) Each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) as part of a registration statement relating to an offering, other than registration statements relying on Rule 430B or other than

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prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.

- (e) 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.
- (f) 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 SEC 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, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 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 this 2nd day of July, 2020.

Atreca, INC.

By: /s/ JOHN A. ORWIN

John A. Orwin President, Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints John A. Orwin, Herbert Cross and Courtney Phillips, his or her true and lawful agent, proxy and attorney-in-fact, each acting alone, 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 (i) act on, sign, and file with the SEC any and all amendments (including posteffective amendments) to this registration statement together with all schedules and exhibits thereto, (ii) act on, sign and file such certificates, instruments, agreements and other documents as may be necessary or appropriate in connection therewith, (iii) act on and file any supplement to any prospectus included in this registration statement or any subsequent registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, and (iv) take any and all actions which may be necessary or appropriate to be done, as fully for all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby approving, ratifying and confirming all that such agent, proxy and attorney-in-fact or any of his substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

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

<u>Signatures</u> /s/ JOHN A. ORWIN	<u>Title</u> Director, President and Chief Executive Officer		
John A. Orwin	(Principal Executive Officer)		
/s/ HERBERT CROSS Herbert Cross	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	July 2, 2020	
/s/ BRIAN ATWOOD Brian Atwood	Chairman of the Board of Directors	July 2, 2020	
/s/ KRISTINE BALL Kristine Ball	Director	July 2, 2020	
/s/ FRANKLIN BERGER Franklin Berger	Director	July 2, 2020	
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<u>Signatures</u> /s/ DAVID LACEY	<u>Title</u> Director	Date
David Lacey		July 2, 2020
/s/ WILLIAM H. ROBINSON	Director	July 2, 2020
William H. Robinson, M.D., Ph.D.		July 2, 2020
/s/ LINDSEY ROLFE	Director	July 2, 2020
Lindsey Rolfe, BSc, MB ChB, MRCP, FFPM		<i>ouly</i> 1 , <u>1</u> 0 <u>1</u> 0
/s/ TITO A. SERAFINI	Director	July 2, 2020
Tito A. Serafini, Ph.D.		July 2, 2020
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Michael E. Tenta +1 650 843 5636 mtenta@cooley.com

July 2, 2020

Atreca, Inc. 450 East Jamie Court South San Francisco, CA 94080

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Atreca, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "*Company*"), in connection with the filing by the Company of a Registration Statement on Form S-3 (the "*Registration Statement*") with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including a related prospectus that is included in the Registration Statement (the "*Prospectus*"), covering the registration for resale of 9,446,951 shares of the Company's Class A common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share including 3,532,760 shares of Class A Common Stock (the "*Class A Shares*") and 5,934,191 shares of Class A common stock issuable upon the conversion of an aggregate of 5,934,191 shares of Class B common stock (the "*Conversion Shares*" and, together with the Class A Shares, the "*Securities*"), on behalf of certain selling stockholders identified in the Prospectus.

In connection with this opinion, we have examined and relied upon (a) the Registration Statement and the Prospectus, (b) the Company's Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws, each as currently in effect and in effect at the time of the issuance of the Securities, and (c) originals, or copies certified to our satisfaction, of such records, documents, certificates, opinions, memoranda and other instruments as in our judgment are necessary or appropriate to enable us to render the opinion expressed below. We have assumed the genuineness of all signatures; the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals; the conformity to originals of all documents submitted to us as copies thereof; the accuracy, completeness and authenticity of certificates of public officials; and the due authorization, execution and delivery of all documents by all persons other than by the Company where authorization, execution and delivery are prerequisites to the effectiveness thereof. As to certain factual matters, we have relied upon a certificate of an officer of the Company and have not independently verified such matters.

Our opinion is expressed solely with respect to the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. We express no opinion to the extent that any other laws are applicable to the subject matter hereof and express no opinion and provide no assurance as to compliance with any federal or state securities law, rule or regulation.

On the basis of the foregoing, and in reliance thereon, we are of the opinion that (i) the Class A Shares have been validly issued and are fully paid and nonassessable and (ii) the Conversion Shares, when issued upon conversion in accordance with the terms of the Company's Certificate of Incorporation, will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

Cooley LLP 3175 Hanover Street Palo Alto, CA 94304-1130 t: (650) 843-5000 f: (650) 849-7400 cooley.com We hereby consent to the reference to our firm under the caption "Legal Matters" in the Prospectus and to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement.

Sincerely,

Cooley LLP

By: /s/ MICHAEL E. TENTA

Michael E. Tenta

QuickLinks

Exhibit 5.1

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference, in the prospectus constituting a part of this Registration Statement on Form S-3 for the registration of the resale of 9,466,951 shares of the Class A common stock of Atreca, Inc., of our report dated March 11, 2020, relating to the consolidated financial statements of Atreca, Inc. appearing in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2019.

We also consent to the reference to us under the caption "Experts" in the prospectus.

/s/ OUM & CO. LLP

San Francisco, California July 2, 2020

QuickLinks

Exhibit 23.1

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM