

PROSPECTUS



**3,656,307 Shares of Common Stock to be Offered by the Selling Stockholder**

This prospectus relates to the resale or other disposition from time to time of up to an aggregate of 3,656,307 shares of common stock, par value of \$0.001 per share of MediciNova, Inc. by the selling stockholder identified in this prospectus (the "Selling Stockholder"). The Selling Stockholder acquired the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus in a private placement transaction in reliance on exemptions from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). We are registering the resale of all shares of common stock by the Selling Stockholder in connection with the terms of the Securities Purchase Agreement entered into with the Selling Stockholder on January 11, 2021 (the "Purchase Agreement" and such transaction the "Private Placement").

The Selling Stockholder may offer shares of our common stock from time to time in a number of different ways and at varying prices. For more information on possible methods of offer and sale by the Selling Stockholder, refer to the section of this prospectus entitled "Plan of Distribution."

The Selling Stockholder will receive all proceeds from the sale of shares of our common stock hereunder, and therefore we will not receive any of the proceeds from their sale of shares of our common stock hereunder. The shares which may be resold by the Selling Stockholder constituted approximately 7.5% of our issued and outstanding common stock as of January 27, 2021.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol "MNOV." On February 10, 2021, the last reported sale price for our common stock was \$6.31 per share.

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**INVESTING IN OUR SECURITIES INVOLVES SIGNIFICANT RISKS. SEE "[RISK FACTORS](#)" BEGINNING ON PAGE 4 OF THIS PROSPECTUS AND ANY APPLICABLE PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT BEFORE INVESTING IN ANY SECURITIES.**

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**NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR PASSED UPON THE ADEQUACY OR ACCURACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.**

**The date of this prospectus is February 10, 2021**

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## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we have filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. Under this registration process, the Selling Stockholder may, from time to time, sell or otherwise dispose of up to 3,656,307 shares of our common stock issued to them in the Private Placement pursuant to the terms of the Purchase Agreement. The registration statement containing this prospectus, including the exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. The registration statement, including the exhibits, can be read on the SEC's website or at the SEC offices mentioned under the section titled "Where You Can Find More Information."

In this prospectus, as permitted by law, we "incorporate by reference" information from other documents that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus and should be read with the same care. When we make future filings with the SEC to update the information contained in documents that have been incorporated by reference, the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is considered to be automatically updated and superseded. In other words, in case of a conflict or inconsistency between information contained in this prospectus and information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, you should rely on the information contained in the document that was filed later.

You should rely only on the information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. Neither we nor the Selling Stockholder is making an offer to sell or soliciting an offer to buy our securities in any jurisdiction in which an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making that offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, is accurate only as of the date of those respective documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations, and prospects may have changed since those dates.

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to "MediciNova," the "Company," "we," "us" and "our" refer to MediciNova, Inc.

The MediciNova logo is a registered trademark of MediciNova, Inc. This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus may also contain trademarks and trade names that are the property of their respective owners. We do not intend our use or display of other companies' trade names, trademarks or service marks to imply relationships with, or endorsements or sponsorship of us by, these other companies.

## PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

*This summary description about us and our business highlights selected information contained elsewhere in this prospectus or incorporated in this prospectus by reference. This summary does not contain all of the information you should consider before buying securities in this offering. You should carefully read this entire prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, including each of the documents incorporated herein or therein by reference, before making an investment decision. As used in this prospectus, “we,” “us,” “MediciNova,” “our,” and “the Company” refer to MediciNova, Inc., a Delaware corporation.*

### About MediciNova, Inc.

#### Overview

We are a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing novel, therapeutics for the treatment of serious diseases with unmet medical needs and a commercial focus on the United States market. Our current strategy is to focus our development activities on BC-PIV vaccine for COVID-19, MN-166 (ibudilast) for neurological and other disorders such as progressive multiple sclerosis (MS), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy, degenerative cervical myelopathy, glioblastoma, and substance dependence and addiction (e.g., methamphetamine dependence, opioid dependence, and alcohol dependence), as well as for acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), and MN-001 (tipelukast) for fibrotic diseases such as nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). Our pipeline also includes MN-221 (bedoradrine) for the treatment of acute exacerbation of asthma and MN-029 (denibulin) for solid tumor cancers. We were incorporated in Delaware in September 2000.

#### Private Placement and Related Transactions

On January 11, 2021, in connection with the Private Placement we entered into the Purchase Agreement with the Selling Stockholder, pursuant to which we agreed to issue to the Selling Stockholder \$20 million in shares of our common stock. The price per share in the Private Placement was \$5.47 per share. The Shares were sold and issued without registration under the Securities Act in reliance on the exemptions provided by Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act as transactions not involving a public offering and Rule 506 promulgated under the Securities Act as sales to accredited investors, and in reliance on similar exemptions under applicable state laws.

The Purchase Agreement also provided for customary registration rights, pursuant to which we were required to file the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

For more information regarding the number of shares of our common stock issued (or issuable) to the Selling Stockholder pursuant to the Private Placement, see the section entitled “*Selling Stockholder*” beginning on page 7 of this prospectus.

#### Risk Factors

An investment in our common stock is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. You should carefully consider the following, as well as the information contained under “*Risk Factors*” beginning on page 4 of this prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

- We have incurred significant operating losses since our inception and expect that we will incur continued losses for the foreseeable future.
- If we fail to obtain the capital necessary to fund our operations, we will be unable to develop and commercialize our product candidates.

- We do not have any products that are approved for commercial sale and therefore do not expect to generate any revenues from product sales in the foreseeable future, if ever.
- We are largely dependent on the success of our MN-166 (ibudilast) and MN-001 (tipelukast) product candidates and we cannot be certain that these product candidates will receive regulatory approval or be successfully commercialized.
- Because the results of early clinical trials are not necessarily predictive of future results, our product candidates we advance into clinical trials in any indication may not have favorable results in later clinical trials, if any, or receive regulatory approval.
- Our attempts to develop MN-001 (tipelukast) in NASH and IPF may detract from our efforts to develop other product candidates and may limit the effectiveness of our product development efforts as a whole.
- Our stock price may be volatile, and you may not be able to resell our shares at a profit or at all.

#### **Corporate Information**

We were incorporated in the State of Delaware in September 2000. Our principal executive offices are located at 4275 Executive Square, Suite 300, La Jolla, CA 92037. Our telephone number is (858) 373-1500. Our website is [www.medicinova.com](http://www.medicinova.com), which includes links to reports we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, our website is not part of, and is not incorporated into, this prospectus and should not be considered part of this prospectus.

#### **Offerings Under This Prospectus**

This prospectus relates to the proposed resale or other disposition from time to time of up to 3 656,307 shares of our common stock, \$0.001 par value per share, by the Selling Stockholder identified in this prospectus.

The Selling Stockholder may offer to sell the shares being offered in this prospectus at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at varying prices or at negotiated prices. Our common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol "MNOV."

We have agreed to register the offer and sale of the common stock to satisfy registration rights we have granted to the Selling Stockholder pursuant to the Purchase Agreement. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the securities by the Selling Stockholder.

## **RISK FACTORS**

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the risks, uncertainties and other factors described in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as supplemented and updated by subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K that we have filed or will file with the SEC, and in other documents which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement before investing in any of our securities. Our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The risks and uncertainties described in the documents incorporated by reference herein and any applicable prospectus supplement are not the only risks and uncertainties that you may face.

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement contain certain statements that constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The words “anticipate,” “expect,” “believe,” “goal,” “plan,” “intend,” “estimate,” “may,” “will,” and similar expressions and variations thereof are intended to identify forward-looking statements, but are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements. Those statements appear in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated herein and therein by reference, particularly in the sections entitled “Prospectus Summary,” “Risk Factors,” “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and “Business,” and include statements regarding the intent, belief or current expectations of the Company and management that are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions.

This prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement also contain statements that are based on the current expectations of our company and management. You are cautioned that any such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks and uncertainties, and that actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors.

Because forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, some of which cannot be predicted or quantified, you should not rely upon forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. The events and circumstances reflected in the forward-looking statements may not be achieved or occur and actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. The risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated or implied in our forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, those set forth above under the section entitled “Risk Factors” and in the applicable prospectus supplement, together with all of the other information contained in or incorporated by reference into the prospectus supplement or appearing or incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Except as required by applicable law, including the securities laws of the United States and the rules and regulations of the SEC, we do not plan to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements contained herein after we distribute this prospectus, whether as a result of any new information, future events or otherwise.

## **USE OF PROCEEDS**

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus. The Selling Stockholder will receive all of the proceeds from any offering.

The Selling Stockholder will pay any underwriting discounts and commissions incurred by the Selling Stockholder for brokerage, accounting, tax or legal services or any other expenses incurred by the Selling Stockholder in disposing of the shares. We will bear other costs, fees and expenses incurred in effecting the registration of the shares covered by this prospectus, including, without limitation, all registration and filing fees, fees and expenses of our counsel, certain expenses of counsel to the Selling Stockholder and our independent registered public accountants.



**SELLING STOCKHOLDER**

This prospectus relates to the sale or other disposition of up to 3,656,307 shares of our common stock previously issued to the Selling Stockholder. Unless otherwise noted, the shares of common stock held by the Selling Stockholder were issued or issuable by us in connection with the Private Placement. See the section entitled “*Prospectus Summary—Private Placement and Related Transactions*” beginning on page 2 of this prospectus.

The table below sets forth information as of the date of this prospectus, to our knowledge, for the Selling Stockholder and other information regarding the beneficial ownership (as determined under Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder) of the shares of common stock held by the Selling Stockholder. The second column lists the number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by the Selling Stockholder as of January 29, 2021 (after giving effect to the Private Placement). The third column lists the maximum number of shares of common stock that may be sold or otherwise disposed of by the Selling Stockholder pursuant to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The Selling Stockholder may sell or otherwise dispose of some, all or none of their shares. Pursuant to Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 of the Exchange Act, beneficial ownership includes any shares of our common stock as to which a Selling Stockholder has sole or shared voting power or investment power, and also any shares of our common stock which the Selling Stockholder has the right to acquire within 60 days of January 29, 2021. The percent of beneficial ownership for the Selling Stockholder is based on 48,680,867 shares of our stock outstanding as of January 29, 2021 (after giving effect to the Private Placement). Except as described below, to our knowledge, the Selling Stockholder has not been an officer or director of ours or of our affiliates within the past three years or had any material relationship with us or our affiliates within the past three years. Our knowledge is based on information obtained from relevant Schedule 13D and 13G filings.

The shares of common stock being covered hereby may be sold or otherwise disposed of from time to time during the period the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part remains effective, by or for the account of the Selling Stockholder. After the date of effectiveness, the Selling Stockholder may have sold or transferred, in transactions covered by this prospectus or in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act, some or all of their common stock. See the section entitled “*Plan of Distribution*” beginning on page 14 of this prospectus.

Information about the Selling Stockholder may change over time. Any changed information will be set forth in an amendment to the registration statement or supplement to this prospectus, to the extent required by law.

Selling Stockholder	Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned Before this Offering		Number of Shares of Common Stock Being Offered	Shares of Common Stock To Be Beneficially Owned Upon Completion of this Offering <sup>(2)</sup>	
	Number	Percentage <sup>(1)</sup>		Number	Percentage
Entities affiliated with 3D Investment Partners Pte. Ltd.	5,502,047 <sup>(3)</sup>	11.3%	3,656,307 <sup>(3)</sup>	1,845,740	3.8%

- (1) Based on a denominator equal to the sum of (a) 48,680,867 shares of our common stock outstanding on January 29, 2021 (after giving effect to the Private Placement) and (b) the number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise or conversion of convertible securities that are currently exercisable or convertible or are exercisable or convertible within 60 days of January 29, 2021 beneficially owned by the applicable selling stockholder.
- (2) Assumes that the Selling Stockholder sells all shares of common stock registered under this prospectus directly held by such Selling Stockholder.
- (3) The shares of common stock reported herein are held of record by 3D Opportunity Master Fund, a Cayman Islands exempted company (“3DOMF”). 3D Investment Partners Pte. Ltd. (“3DIP”), is a Securities and Exchange Commission exempt investment adviser under Section 203(m) of the Investment Advisers

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Act of 1940, as amended. 3DOMF has delegated to 3DIP all voting and investment power over the shares of common stock and therefore 3DIP may be deemed to beneficially own 5,502,047 shares consisting of 5,502,047 shares of common stock held by 3DOMF. The address of 3DOMF is c/o Maples Corporate Services Limited, PO Box 309, Ugland House, Grand Cayman, KY1-1104, Cayman Islands. The address of 3DIP is 250 North Bridge Road, #13-01 Raffles City Tower, Singapore 179101.

## DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES SELLING STOCKHOLDER MAY OFFER

This prospectus relates to the resale of up to an aggregate of 3,656,307 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, by the Selling Stockholder identified in this prospectus. The following information describes our common stock and preferred stock, as well as certain provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws. This description is only a summary. You should also refer to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, which have been filed with the SEC as exhibits to our registration statement, of which this prospectus forms a part.

### General

Our authorized capital stock consists of 100,000,000 shares of common stock, with a \$0.001 par value per share, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, with a \$0.01 par value per share, all of which shares of preferred stock are undesignated. Our board of directors may establish the rights and preferences of the preferred stock from time to time. As of January 29, 2021, there were 48,680,867 shares of common stock issued and outstanding, held of record by 14 stockholders, including shares of our common stock purchased by the Selling Stockholder in connection with the Private Placement, although we believe that there may be a significantly larger number of beneficial owners of our common stock. We derived the number of stockholders by reviewing the listing of outstanding common stock recorded by our transfer agent as of January 29, 2021.

### Common Stock

The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted upon by the stockholders. The holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends, if any, as may be declared from time to time by the board of directors out of funds legally available, subject to preferences that may be applicable to preferred stock, if any, then outstanding. In the event of a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, the holders of common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities, subject to prior distribution rights of preferred stock, if any, then outstanding. The common stock has no preemptive or conversion rights or other subscription rights. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock. All outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and non-assessable.

The rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of our common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol "MNOV." The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC. Its address is 6201 15th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11219, and its telephone number is (718) 921-8200

### Preferred Stock

Under the terms of our restated certificate of incorporation, our board of directors is authorized to issue shares of preferred stock in one or more series without stockholder approval. Our board of directors has the discretion to determine the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions, including voting rights, dividend rights, conversion rights, redemption privileges and liquidation preferences, of each series of preferred stock. There are no restrictions presently on the repurchase or redemption of any shares of our preferred stock.

The issuance of preferred stock will affect, and may adversely affect, the rights of holders of common stock. It is not possible to state the actual effect of the issuance of any shares of preferred stock on the rights of holders

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of common stock until the board of directors determines the specific rights attached to that preferred stock. The effects of issuing preferred stock could include one or more of the following:

- restricting dividends on the common stock;
- diluting the voting power of the common stock;
- impairing the liquidation rights of the common stock; or
- delaying or preventing changes in control or management of our company.

We have no present plans to issue any shares of preferred stock nor are any shares of our preferred stock presently outstanding. Preferred stock will be fully paid and nonassessable upon issuance.

### **Effect of Certain Provisions of our Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws**

Provisions of our restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws could have the effect of delaying, deferring or discouraging another party from acquiring control of us. These provisions, which are summarized below, may have the effect of discouraging takeover bids. These provisions are also designed, in part, to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of us to first negotiate with our board of directors. We believe that the benefits of increased protection of our potential ability to negotiate with an unfriendly or unsolicited acquirer outweigh the disadvantages of discouraging a proposal to acquire us because negotiation of these proposals could result in an improvement of their terms.

*Undesignated Preferred Stock.* The authority of our board of directors to issue preferred stock could potentially be used to discourage attempts by third parties to obtain control of our company through a merger, tender offer, proxy contest, or otherwise by making it more difficult or more costly to obtain control of our company. Our board of directors may issue preferred stock with voting rights or conversion rights that, if exercised, could adversely affect the voting power of the holders of common stock.

*Limits on Ability of Stockholders to Call a Special Meeting.* Our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended and our amended and restated bylaws generally provide that special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by the Chairman of the board of directors, our Chief Executive Officer or by resolution of the board of directors. Stockholders are not permitted to call a special meeting or require our board of directors to call a special meeting.

*Limits on Stockholder Action by Written Consent.* Any action required or permitted to be taken by the stockholders must be taken at a duly called annual or special meeting and not by written consent.

*Classified Board of Directors.* Our board of directors is divided into three classes, one class of which is elected each year by our stockholders. The directors in each class serve for a three-year term. A third party may be discouraged from making a tender offer or otherwise attempting to obtain control of us as it is more difficult and time consuming for stockholders to replace a majority of the directors on a classified board of directors.

*Requirements for Advance Notification of Stockholder Nominations and Proposals.* Our amended and restated bylaws establish advance notice procedures with respect to stockholder proposals and the nomination of candidates for election as directors, other than nominations made by or at the direction of our board of directors or a committee of our board of directors. However, our amended and restated bylaws may have the effect of precluding the conduct of certain business at a meeting if the proper procedures are not followed. These provisions may also discourage or deter a potential acquirer from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect the acquirer's own slate of directors or otherwise attempting to obtain control of our company.

*No Cumulative Voting.* The Delaware General Corporation Law provides that stockholders are not entitled to the right to cumulate votes in the election of directors unless our restated certificate of incorporation provides otherwise. Our restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws do not expressly provide for cumulative voting.

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*Size of Board and Vacancies.* Our restated certificate provides that the number of directors on our board of directors is fixed exclusively by our board of directors. Newly created directorships resulting from any increase in our authorized number of directors or any vacancies in the board of directors resulting from death, resignation or other cause (including removal from office by a vote of the stockholders) may be filled only by a majority vote of the directors based on the total number of designated directors, though less than a quorum, or by the sole remaining director. The directors so chosen shall hold office for a term expiring at the next annual meeting of stockholders, and until their respective successors are elected, except in the case of the death, incapacity, resignation or removal of any director.

*Amendments of Governance Documents.* Our restated certificate of incorporation provides that the affirmative vote of the holders of at least sixty-six and two-thirds (66 2/3%) of our voting stock then outstanding is required to amend certain provisions relating to the number, term, election and removal of our directors, the filling of our board vacancies, the calling of special meetings of stockholders, and the indemnification of directors.

*Limitations on Liability, Indemnification of Officers and Directors and Insurance.*

The Delaware General Corporation Law (DGCL) authorizes corporations to limit or eliminate the personal liability of directors to corporations and their stockholders for monetary damages for breaches of directors' fiduciary duties as directors, subject to certain exceptions, by provision of the corporation's certificate of incorporation. Our restated certificate of incorporation contains a provision eliminating the personal liability of our directors to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL. In addition, restated certificate of incorporation includes provisions that require us to indemnify, to the fullest extent allowable under the DGCL, our directors and officers for monetary damages for actions taken as our director or officer, or for serving at our request as a director or officer or another position at another corporation or enterprise, as the case may be. Our restated certificate of incorporation also provides that we must advance reasonable expenses to our directors and officers, subject to our receipt of an undertaking from the indemnified party as may be required under the DGCL.

We are also expressly authorized by the DGCL to carry directors' and officers' insurance to protect us, our directors, officers and certain employees for some liabilities. The limitation of liability and indemnification and advancements provisions in our restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws, respectively, may discourage stockholders from bringing a lawsuit against directors for breach of their fiduciary duties. These provisions may also have the effect of reducing the likelihood of derivative litigation against directors and officers, even though such an action, if successful, might otherwise benefit us and our stockholders. However, the provision in our restated certificate of incorporation eliminating the personal liability of our directors to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL does not limit or eliminate our rights, or those of any stockholder, to seek non-monetary relief such as injunction or rescission in the event of a breach of a director's fiduciary duties, including the duty of care. The indemnification provisions will not alter the liability of directors under the federal securities laws. In addition, your investment may be adversely affected to the extent that, in a derivative or direct suit, we pay the litigation costs of our directors and officers and the costs of settlement and damage awards against directors and officers pursuant to these indemnification and advancements provisions.

We expect to maintain standard policies of insurance that provide coverage (i) to our directors and officers against loss arising from claims made by reason of breach of duty or other wrongful act and (ii) to us with respect to indemnification and advancements payments that we may make to such directors and officers.

We have entered into an indemnification agreement with each of our officers and directors. These agreements require us to indemnify these individuals to the fullest extent permitted under Delaware law against liabilities that may arise by reason of their service to us, and to advance expenses incurred as a result of any proceeding against them as to which they could be indemnified. We believe that the limitation of liability provision in our restated certificate of incorporation and the indemnification agreements will facilitate our ability to continue to attract and retain qualified individuals to serve as directors and officers.

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Insofar as the above described indemnification provisions permit indemnification of directors, officers or persons controlling us for liability arising under the Securities Act, we understand that in the opinion of the SEC, this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

### **Delaware Anti-Takeover Statute**

We are subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law regulating corporate takeovers. In general, Section 203 prohibits a publicly-held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date on which the person became an interested stockholder unless:

- prior to the date of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction;
- upon completion of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the voting stock outstanding, but not the outstanding voting stock owned by the interested stockholder, (1) shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers and (2) shares owned by employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or
- at or subsequent to the date of the transaction, the business combination is approved by the board of directors of the corporation and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

In general, Section 203 defines business combination to include the following:

- any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;
- any sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of either the assets or outstanding stock of the corporation involving the interested stockholder;
- subject to certain exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to the interested stockholder;
- any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock of any class or series of the corporation beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or
- the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits by or through the corporation.

In general, Section 203 defines interested stockholder as an entity or person who, together with affiliates and associates, beneficially owns, or within three years prior to the determination of interested stockholder status did own, 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation.

The provisions of Delaware law and our restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws could have the effect of discouraging others from attempting hostile takeovers and, as a consequence, they may also inhibit temporary fluctuations in the market price of our common stock that often result from actual or rumored hostile takeover attempts. These provisions may also have the effect of preventing changes in our management. It is possible that these provisions may make it more difficult to accomplish transactions that stockholders may otherwise deem to be in their best interests.

### **Registration Rights**

Certain holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to contractual rights to require us to register such shares under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). These rights are provided under the

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terms of our amended and restated registration rights agreement. We will pay all expenses relating to any such registration, other than underwriting discounts and selling commissions. The registration rights terminate with respect to any holder if all of the following conditions are met: (a) as reflected on our books and records, such holder (together with its affiliates) holds less than 1% of our outstanding common stock (on an as-if-converted to common stock basis), (b) our securities trade on a national securities exchange or list on a national automatic quotation system, in each case, located in the United States, and (c) all shares of common stock issued or issuable upon conversion of the registrable securities held by such holder (and its affiliates) either (i) may be sold pursuant to Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act during any ninety (90) day period or (ii) have ceased to be outstanding.

*Piggyback Registration Rights.* If we propose to register any of our securities under the Securities Act either for our own account or for the account of other stockholders, the holders of shares having registration rights will, subject to certain exceptions, be entitled to include their shares in our registration statement. These piggyback registration rights are subject to specified conditions and limitations, including the right of the underwriters to limit the number of shares included in any such registration statement under certain circumstances, but not below 25% of the total number of shares covered by the registration statement without the consent of more than 50% of the holders of registrable securities.

## PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The Selling Stockholder, or their pledgees, distributees, transferees, or any of their successors in interest selling the securities received from the Selling Stockholder as a partnership distribution, or other non-sale-related transfer (and any successive pledgees, distributees or non-sale related transferees) after the date of this prospectus (all of whom may be a selling stockholder), may sell the securities, at fixed prices that may be changed, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices, or at prices otherwise negotiated, by one or more of the following methods, without limitation:

- on any stock exchange or automated interdealer quotation system on which the securities are traded, in the over-the-counter market, or otherwise;
- block trades in which the broker or dealer so engaged will attempt to sell the securities as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction, or in crosses in which the same broker acts as agent on both sides;
- purchases by a broker or dealer as principal and resale by the broker or dealer for its own account pursuant to this prospectus;
- an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of any stock exchange on which the securities are listed or any automated inter-dealer quotation system on which the securities are traded;
- ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker solicits purchases;
- privately negotiated transactions;
- short sales;
- through the writing of options on the securities, swaps or other derivatives, whether or not the options or other such instruments are listed on an exchange or inter-dealer quotation system;
- through the distribution of the securities by the Selling Stockholder to its partners, members, equityholders, or creditors who may from time to time effect sales or other distributions of the securities;
- one or more underwritten offerings on a firm commitment or best efforts basis or other purchases by underwriters, brokers, dealers, and agents who may receive compensation in the form of underwriting discounts, concessions, or commissions from the Selling Stockholder and/or the purchasers of the securities for whom they may act as agent;
- pledges of the securities as security for any loan or obligation, including pledges to brokers or dealers who may from time to time effect sales or other distributions of the securities (and such transactions may or may not involve brokers or dealers);
- sales in other ways not involving market makers or established trading markets, including direct sales to institutions or individual purchasers; and
- any combination of the foregoing methods or by any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law.

We do not know of any current arrangements by the Selling Stockholder for the sale or transfer of any of the securities.

The Selling Stockholder may engage underwriters, brokers or dealers, and any underwriters, brokers or dealers may arrange for other underwriters, brokers or dealers to participate in effecting sales of the securities. These brokers, dealers or underwriters may act as principals, or as an agent of the Selling Stockholder. If the Selling Stockholder uses any underwriter, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will name any underwriter involved in the offer and sale of the securities and the terms of the offering.



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Broker-dealers may agree with the Selling Stockholder to sell a specified number of the securities at a stipulated price per security. If the broker-dealer is unable to sell securities acting as agent for the Selling Stockholder, it may purchase as principal any unsold securities at the stipulated price. Broker-dealers who acquire securities as principals may thereafter resell the securities from time to time in transactions in any stock exchange or automated interdealer quotation system on which the securities are then listed or in the over-the-counter market, at prices and on terms then prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to the then-current market price, or in negotiated transactions. Broker-dealers may use block transactions and sales to and through broker-dealers, including transactions of the nature described above.

From time to time, the Selling Stockholder may pledge, hypothecate or grant a security interest in some or all of the securities owned by it. The pledgees, secured parties, or persons to whom the securities have been so pledged or hypothecated (or otherwise subject to a security interest) will, upon foreclosure in the event of default, be deemed to be a selling stockholder for purposes of this prospectus. The plan of distribution for that selling stockholder's securities will otherwise remain unchanged. The Selling Stockholder (or its pledgees, distributees or other non-sale related transferees, or other successors in interest) also may transfer and donate the securities in other circumstances in which case the successive pledgees, distributees or other non-sale related transferees or other successors in interest thereof will be the Selling Stockholder for purposes of this prospectus and, if required under the Securities Act, will be identified in a prospectus supplement.

In addition, the Selling Stockholder may, from time to time, sell the securities short, and, in those instances, this prospectus may be delivered in connection with the short sales and the securities offered under this prospectus may be used to cover short sales.

To the extent required under the Securities Act, the aggregate amount of Selling Stockholder's securities being offered and the terms of the offering, the names of any agents, brokers, dealers or underwriters and any applicable commission with respect to a particular offer will be set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement. Any underwriters, dealers, brokers or agents participating in the distribution of the securities may receive compensation in the form of underwriting discounts, concessions, commissions or fees from the Selling Stockholder and/or purchasers of Selling Stockholder's securities, for whom they may act (which compensation as to a particular broker-dealer might be in excess of customary commissions).

The Selling Stockholder and any underwriters, brokers, dealers or agents that participate in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be "underwriters" within the meaning of the Securities Act, and any discounts, concessions, commissions or fees received by them and any profit on the resale of the securities sold by them may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions.

The Selling Stockholder may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers and the broker-dealers may engage in short sales of the securities in the course of hedging the positions they assume with that Selling Stockholder, including, without limitation, in connection with distributions of the securities by those broker-dealers. The Selling Stockholder may enter into options or other transactions with broker-dealers that involve the delivery of the securities offered hereby to the broker-dealers, who may then resell or otherwise transfer those securities. The Selling Stockholder may also loan or pledge the securities offered hereby to a broker-dealer and the broker-dealer may sell the securities offered hereby so loaned or upon a default may sell or otherwise transfer the pledged securities offered hereby.

The Selling Stockholder may also sell the securities in accordance with Rule 144 under the Securities Act, or in accordance with Section 4(a)(1) of the Securities Act, rather than pursuant to this prospectus, regardless of whether the securities are covered by this prospectus.

To comply with the securities laws of some states, if applicable, the securities may be sold in these jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in some states the securities may not be sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale or an exemption from registration or qualification requirements is available and is complied with.

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The Selling Stockholder and other persons participating in the sale or distribution of the securities will be subject to applicable provisions of the Exchange Act, and the rules and regulations thereunder, including Regulation M. This regulation may limit the timing of purchases and sales of any of the securities by the Selling Stockholder and any other person. The anti-manipulation rules under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of securities in the market and to the activities of the Selling Stockholder and their affiliates. Furthermore, Regulation M may restrict the ability of any person engaged in the distribution of the securities to engage in market-making activities with respect to the particular securities being distributed for a period of up to five business days before the distribution. These restrictions may affect the marketability of the securities and the ability of any person or entity to engage in market-making activities with respect to the securities.

We have agreed to indemnify the Selling Stockholder against certain liabilities that it may incur in connection with the sale of the securities registered hereunder, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and to contribute to payments that the Selling Stockholder may be required to make with respect thereto.

The Selling Stockholder will act independently of us in making decisions with respect to the timing, manner and size of each sale of shares of common stock covered by this prospectus. We will not receive any proceeds from sales of any securities by the Selling Stockholder. We cannot assure you that the Selling Stockholder will sell all or any portion of the securities offered hereby.

To the extent permitted by applicable law, this plan of distribution may be modified in a prospectus supplement.

## LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon by Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian, LLP, San Diego, California.

## EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2019 and 2018 and for the years then ended and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2019 incorporated by reference in this Prospectus have been so incorporated in reliance on the reports of BDO USA, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated herein by reference, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and other reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and Current Reports on Form 8-K, including any amendments to those reports, and other information that we file with or furnish to the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act can also be accessed free of charge through the Internet. These filings will be available as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 relating to the offering of these securities. The registration statement, including the attached exhibits, contains additional relevant information about us and the securities. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement. You can obtain a copy of the registration statement, at prescribed rates, from the SEC at the address listed above. The registration statement and the documents referred to below under "Incorporation by Reference" are also available on our Internet website, [www.medicinova.com](http://www.medicinova.com). We have not incorporated by reference into this prospectus the information on our website, and you should not consider it to be a part of this prospectus.

## INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus certain information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information contained in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below that we have previously filed with the SEC (excluding any portions of any Form 8-K that are not deemed “filed” pursuant to the General Instructions of Form 8-K):

- our annual report on [Form 10-K](#) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019, filed on February 13, 2020 (File No. 001-33185-20610924);
- our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2020, June 30, 2020, and September 30, 2020 filed on [April 23, 2020](#), [July 28, 2020](#), and [October 26, 2020](#) respectively (File Nos. 001-33185-20811254, 001-33185-201054640, and 001-33185-201260915, respectively);
- our current reports on Form 8-K filed on [April 16, 2020](#) (File No. 001-33185-20794839), [April 23, 2020](#) (File No. 001-33185-20811208), [June 17, 2020](#) (File No. 001-33185-20969682), [June 22, 2020](#) (File No. 001-33185-20976809), [October 21, 2020](#) (File No. 001-33185-201249543), and [January 12, 2021](#) (File No. 001-33185-21522506); and
- the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on [Form 8-A](#) as filed with the SEC on December 5, 2006 pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act (File No. 001-33185-061257707).

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus additional documents that we may file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the completion or termination of the offering, including all such documents we may file with the SEC after the date of the initial registration statement and prior to the effectiveness of the registration statement, but excluding any information deemed furnished and not filed with the SEC. Any statements contained in a previously filed document incorporated by reference into this prospectus is deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus, or in a subsequently filed document also incorporated by reference herein, modifies or supersedes that statement.

This prospectus may contain information that updates, modifies or is contrary to information in one or more of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date of this prospectus or the date of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request, at no cost to the requester, a copy of any and all of the information that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Requests for such documents should be directed to:

MediciNova, Inc.  
Attn: Investor Relations  
4275 Executive Square, Suite 300  
La Jolla, California 92037  
(858) 373-1500

You may also access the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus through our website at [www.medicinova.com](http://www.medicinova.com). Except for the specific incorporated documents listed above, no information available on or through our website shall be deemed to be incorporated in this prospectus or the registration statement of which it forms a part.



**3,656,307 Shares of Common Stock**

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**PROSPECTUS**

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