

CHEMBIO DIAGNOSTICS, INC.

Form S-3

September 18, 2018

As filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on September 18, 2018

Registration No. 333-

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

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

CHEMBIO DIAGNOSTICS, INC.
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Nevada 88-0425691
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer
incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

3661 Horseblock Road
Medford, New York 11763
(631) 924-1135
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant's principal executive offices)

Neil A. Goldman
Chembio Diagnostics, Inc.
Chief Financial Officer
3661 Horseblock Road
Medford, New York 11763
(631) 924-1135

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

with copies to:
Alan L. Talesnick, Esq.
David S. Lightstone, Esq.
Haynes and Boone, LLP

1050 17th St., Suite 1800
Denver, Colorado 80265
(303) 382-6200

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.

Edgar Filing: CHEMBIO DIAGNOSTICS, INC. - Form S-3

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 the 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

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

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered(1) | Amount to be Registered(2) | Proposed Maximum Price per Unit(3) | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(4) | Amount of Registration Fee(5) |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Chembio Diagnostics, Inc.: | | | | |
| Common Stock (including Preferred Share Purchase Rights) (6) | | | | |
| Preferred Stock (6) | | | | |
| Warrants to purchase Common Stock (7) | | | | |
| Warrants to purchase Preferred Stock (7) | | | | |
| Units (8) | | | | |
| TOTAL: | \$ 50,000,000 | | \$ 50,000,000 | \$ 6,225 |

(1)

Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or together with other securities registered hereunder as units.

Edgar Filing: CHEMBIO DIAGNOSTICS, INC. - Form S-3

Includes such indeterminate number of shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock, warrants to purchase common stock, warrants to purchase preferred stock and units that Chembio Diagnostics, Inc. may sell pursuant to this Registration Statement, which may not exceed the maximum aggregate offering price of \$50,000,000. The securities registered hereunder also include such indeterminate number of shares of common stock, preferred stock, warrants or units that may be issued upon conversion, exchange or exercise of any of the securities being registered hereby.

Omitted pursuant to General Instruction II.D of Form S-3. The proposed maximum offering price per class of security will be determined from time to time by Chembio Diagnostics, Inc. in connection with, and at the time of, the issuance by Chembio Diagnostics, Inc. of the securities registered hereunder.

In no event will the aggregate initial offering price of the securities issued under this Registration Statement exceed the amount registered above or the equivalent thereof in one or more foreign currencies or currency units.

Estimated in accordance with Rule 457(o) solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee.

Such indeterminate number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, as may be issued from time to time at indeterminate prices. The common stock includes certain Preferred Share Purchase Rights (the "Rights") issued pursuant to the Rights Agreement dated as of March 8, 2016 (filed on Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on March 8, 2016) (the "Rights Agreement") between the Company and Action Stock Transfer Company, as Rights Agent. Until the occurrence of certain events specified in the Rights Agreement, none of which have occurred as of the filing of this Registration Statement, the Rights are not exercisable, are evidenced only by the certificates for common stock, and will be transferred along with and only with, and are not severable from, the common stock. The value attributable to the Rights, if any, is reflected in the market price of the common stock. No separate consideration will be payable for the Rights.

Warrants will represent rights to purchase common stock or preferred stock registered hereby. Because the warrants will provide a right only to purchase such securities offered hereunder, no additional registration fee is required.

Such indeterminate number of units, which will be comprised of two or more of the securities registered hereby in any combination.

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 which 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 Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

We will amend and complete the information in this prospectus. We may not sell any of these securities or accept your offer to buy any of them until the documentation filed with the SEC relating to these securities has been declared “effective” by the SEC. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities or our solicitation of your offer to buy these securities in any State or other jurisdiction where that would not be permitted or legal.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

PROSPECTUS

\$50,000,000

Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Warrants
Units

We may offer from time to time common stock, preferred stock, warrants and units. We may also issue any of the common stock, preferred stock, warrants or units upon the conversion, exchange or exercise of any of the securities listed above. The aggregate initial offering price of the securities that we offer will not exceed \$50,000,000.

We will offer the securities in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions at the time of the offering. We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol “CEMI.”

We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis.

You should refer to the risk factors included or incorporated by reference herein and that may be included in a prospectus supplement, and you should carefully consider that information before investing in our securities.

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

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2018.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| <u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u> | 1 |
| <u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u> | 2 |
| <u>ABOUT CHEMBIO</u> | 4 |
| <u>RISK FACTORS</u> | 4 |
| <u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u> | 4 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK</u> | 4 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK</u> | 6 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u> | 8 |
| <u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u> | 9 |
| <u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u> | 10 |
| <u>LEGAL MATTERS</u> | 12 |
| <u>EXPERTS</u> | 12 |
| <u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u> | 12 |

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, utilizing the “shelf” registration process. Under this shelf process, we may sell, either separately or together, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings for cash. We may also issue any of the common stock, preferred stock, warrants or units upon conversion, exchange or exercise of any of the securities mentioned above. The aggregate amount of securities that we may offer under the registration statement is \$50,000,000, denominated in U.S. dollars or the equivalent in foreign currencies, currency units or composite currencies.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we sell or otherwise issue securities pursuant to this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the offering and the specific terms of the securities being offered. The prospectus supplement also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, together with the additional information provided in any free writing prospectus or described under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.”

The registration statement that contains this prospectus, including the exhibits to the registration statement, contains additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. That registration statement can be read at the SEC website, our website, or at the SEC offices, which are referred to in this prospectus under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.”

We have not authorized anyone to provide you with any information or to make any representations other than those contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectuses prepared by or on behalf of us or to which we have referred you. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. We will not make an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement to this prospectus is accurate only as of the date on its respective cover, that the information appearing in any applicable free writing prospectus is accurate only as of the date of that free writing prospectus, and that any information incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, unless we indicate otherwise. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. This prospectus incorporates by reference, and any prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus may contain and incorporate by reference, market data and industry statistics and forecasts that are based on independent industry publications and other publicly available information. Although we believe these sources are reliable, we do not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this information and we have not independently verified this information. In addition, the market and industry data and forecasts that may be included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any applicable free writing prospectus may involve estimates, assumptions and other risks and uncertainties and are subject to change based on various factors, including those discussed under the heading “Risk Factors” contained in this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any applicable free writing prospectus, and under similar headings in other documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Accordingly, investors should not place undue reliance on this information.

The words “we,” “our,” “us,” “and “Chembio” refer to Chembio Diagnostics, Inc., unless we indicate otherwise.

Our logo is one of our trademarks. This prospectus also includes or incorporates by reference trademarks, tradenames, and service marks that are the property of other organizations. For convenience, our logo appears in this prospectus without the TM symbol, but those uses are not intended to indicate that we will not assert, to the fullest extent under applicable law, our rights to this trademark.

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplements contain or incorporate by reference forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. These forward-looking statements represent plans, estimates, objectives, goals, guidelines, expectations, intentions, projections and statements of our beliefs concerning future events, business plans, objectives, expected operating results and the assumptions upon which those statements are based. Forward-looking statements include, without limitation, any statement that may predict, forecast, indicate or imply future results, performance or achievements, and are typically identified with words such as “may,” “could,” “should,” “will,” “would,” “believe,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend” or words or phrases of similar meaning. We caution that the forward-looking statements are based largely on our expectations and are subject to a number of known and unknown risks and uncertainties that are subject to change based on factors which are, in many instances, beyond our control. Actual results, performance or achievements could differ materially from those contemplated, expressed, or implied by the forward-looking statements.

The following factors, among others, could cause our financial performance to differ materially from that expressed in such forward-looking statements:

• our ability to obtain or maintain necessary regulatory approvals for some of our products;

• the timely development of competitive new products and services, and the acceptance of these products and services by new and existing customers;

• the lack of availability of alternate third-party suppliers for certain important product components;

• the timely development of competitive new products and services, and the acceptance of these products and services by new and existing customers;

• the willingness of users to substitute competitors’ products and services for our products and services;

• new developments in health treatments or new non-diagnostic products that reduce or eliminate the demand for our products;

• changes in consumer spending and savings habits;

• the strength of the United States economy in general and the strength of the local economies in which the Company conducts operations;

• geopolitical conditions, including acts or threats of terrorism, actions taken by the United States or other governments in response to acts or threats of terrorism and/or military conflicts, which could impact business and economic conditions in the United States and abroad;

• the effects of, and changes in, trade, monetary and fiscal policies and laws, including interest rate policies of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the Federal Reserve Board; inflation, interest rate, market and monetary fluctuations;

• availability of resources for introduction and marketing of our products;

• technological changes;

our ability to attract and retain key employees;

continued funding of, and our ability to participate in, large testing programs in the U.S. and worldwide;

2

Table of Contents

•uncertainty as to our future profitability;

•the impact of changes in financial services policies, laws and regulations, including laws, regulations and policies concerning taxes, banking, securities and insurance, and the application thereof by regulatory bodies;

•the effect of acquisitions we may make, including, without limitation, the failure to achieve the expected revenue growth and/or expense savings from such acquisitions;

•the growth and profitability of non-interest or fee income being less than expected; and

•unanticipated regulatory or judicial proceedings.

Forward-looking statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are based on assumptions and subject to risks and uncertainties. Given these uncertainties, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. We discuss many of these risks in greater detail under the heading “Risk Factors” of this prospectus and in our SEC filings. Also, these forward-looking statements represent our estimates and assumptions only as of the date of the document containing the applicable statement.

You should read this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement, the documents we have filed with the SEC that are incorporated by reference and any free writing prospectus that we have authorized for use in connection with this offering completely and with the understanding that our actual future results may be materially different from what we expect. We qualify all of the forward-looking statements in the foregoing documents by these cautionary statements. We do not undertake any obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which any such statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

Table of Contents

ABOUT CHEMBIO

We are a leading point-of-care diagnostics company focused on detecting and diagnosing infectious diseases. Our business commenced in 1985.

Our principal executive offices are located at 3661 Horseblock Road, Medford, New York 11763. Our telephone number is (631) 924-1135. Our website address is www.chembio.com. The information contained in, or accessible through, our corporate website does not constitute part of this prospectus.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in any securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement involves a high degree of risk. Before acquiring any of such securities, you should carefully consider the risk factors incorporated by reference in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, our most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and any subsequent Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K that we file after the date of this prospectus, and all other information contained or incorporated by reference into this prospectus, as updated by our subsequent filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the risk factors and other information contained in the applicable prospectus supplement and any applicable free writing prospectus. The occurrence of any of these risks might cause you to lose all or part of your investment in the offered securities.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of securities as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

General

This section of the prospectus describes the material terms and provisions of our common stock. When we offer to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock, we will describe the specific terms of the offering and the shares in a supplement to this prospectus. This summary does not purport to be exhaustive and is qualified in its entirety by reference to our articles of incorporation, as amended, our bylaws, as amended, and the applicable provisions of Nevada law.

Our authorized capital stock includes 100,000,000 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share. As of September 13, 2018, there were outstanding:

• shares of common stock held by approximately 124 stockholders of record

• 4,173,620 shares of common stock and

• stock options exercisable, upon vesting, to acquire 711,968 shares of common stock.

The actual number of stockholders is greater than the number of record holders and includes stockholders who are beneficial owners but hold their shares in street name by brokers and other nominees. The number of holders of record also does not include stockholders that may hold shares in trust or by other entities.

Our authorized common stock may be increased and altered from time to time in the manner prescribed by Nevada law upon the vote of at least a majority of the shares entitled to vote on the matter. Our shares of common stock are

traded on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol "CEMI."

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held by them of record on our books in all matters to be voted on by the stockholders. Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends as may be legally declared from time to time by the board of directors, and in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities and amounts owed with respect to any preferred stock or other senior securities. Declaration of dividends on common stock is subject to the discretion of the board of directors and will depend upon a number of factors, including our future earnings, capital requirements, financial condition, and/or restrictions, if any, imposed by debt instruments or senior securities. We have not declared dividends on our common stock in the past and we currently anticipate that retained earnings, if any, in the future will be applied to our expansion and development rather than the payment of dividends.

4

Table of Contents

The holders of common stock have no preemptive or subscription rights and are not subject to further calls or assessments. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock. Under our corporate documents and Nevada law, the election of directors requires a plurality of the votes cast by holders of our outstanding common stock at the annual meeting while other fundamental corporate actions, such as mergers and sales of substantial assets, or amendments of our articles of incorporation require the approval of the holders of a majority of our outstanding common stock.

Transactions with Interested Persons

Under Nevada law, a transaction with the Company (i) in which a Company director or officer has a direct or indirect interest, or (ii) involving another corporation, firm or association in which one or more of the Company's directors or officers are directors or officers of the corporation, firm or association or have a financial interest in the corporation firm or association, is not void or voidable solely because of the director's or officer's interest or common role in the transaction if any one of the following circumstances exists:

the fact of the common directorship, office or financial interest is known to the board of directors or a committee of the board of directors and a majority of disinterested directors on the board of directors (or on the committee) authorized, approved or ratified the transaction;

the fact of the common directorship, office or financial interest is known to the stockholders and disinterested stockholders holding a majority of the shares held by disinterested stockholders authorized, approved or ratified the transaction;

- the fact of the common directorship, office or financial interest is not known to the director or officer at the time the transaction is brought to the board of directors for action; or

the transaction was fair to the Company at the time it is authorized or approved.

Control Share Acquisition Provisions

Nevada law precludes an acquirer of the shares of a Nevada corporation who crosses one of three ownership thresholds (20%, 33 1/3% or 50%) from obtaining voting rights with respect to those shares unless the disinterested holders of a majority of the shares of the Company held by disinterested stockholders vote to accord voting power to those shares. Nevada permits a corporation to opt out of the application of these control share acquisition provisions by so providing in the articles of incorporation or bylaws. The Company has opted out of the application of these control share acquisition provisions in its bylaws, as amended.

Combinations with Interested Stockholders

Under Nevada law, except under certain circumstances, a corporation is not permitted to engage in a business combination with any "interested stockholder" for a period of two years following the date such stockholder became an interested stockholder. An "interested stockholder" is a person or entity who owns 10% or more of the outstanding shares of voting stock. Nevada permits a corporation to opt out of the application of these business combination provisions by so providing in the articles of incorporation. The Company did not opt out of the application of these business combination provisions in its articles of incorporation, as amended.

Table of Contents

Stockholder Rights Agreement

On March 8, 2016, the Company entered into a Rights Agreement (the “Rights Agreement”) between the Company and Action Stock Transfer Corp., as Rights Agent. Pursuant to the Rights Agreement, the Company declared a dividend distribution of one Preferred Share Purchase Right (a “Right”) for each outstanding share of our common stock, par value \$0.01, in the manner described below. The board of directors set the payment date for the distribution of the Rights as March 8, 2016, and the Rights were distributed to our shareholders of record on that date. The Rights Agreement also provides that Rights are issued with respect to any shares of our common stock that are newly issued after March 8, 2016, such as with respect to the Company’s underwritten public offering in February 2018. The description and terms of the Rights are set forth in the Rights Agreement.

Rights Initially Not Exercisable. The Rights are not exercisable until a Distribution Date (as defined in the Rights Agreement). Until a Right is exercised, the holder thereof, as such, has no rights as a shareholder of the Company, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends.

Separation and Distribution of Rights. The Rights are to be evidenced by the certificates for shares of common stock registered in the names of the holders thereof, and not by separate rights certificates until the earlier to occur of (i) the close of business on the tenth business day following a public announcement that an Acquiring Person (as defined in the Rights Agreement) has acquired a Combined Ownership (as defined in the Rights Agreement) of 20% or more of the outstanding shares of the common stock or (ii) the close of business on the tenth business day (or such later date as may be determined by action of the board of directors prior to such time as any person or group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an Acquiring Person) after the date that a tender or exchange offer or intention to commence a tender or exchange offer by any person is first published, announced, sent or given within the meaning of Rule 14d-4(A) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the consummation of which would result in any person having Combined Ownership of 20% or more of the outstanding shares of the common stock.

Transfer Agent

The transfer agent and registrar for the Company’s common stock is Action Stock Transfer Corp.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

General

This section of the prospectus describes the material terms and provisions of our preferred stock. When we offer to sell or otherwise issue shares of our preferred stock, we will describe the specific terms of the offering and the shares in a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will also indicate whether the terms and provisions described in this prospectus apply to the particular series of preferred stock. This summary does not purport to be exhaustive and is qualified in its entirety by reference to our articles of incorporation, as amended, our bylaws, as amended, and the applicable provisions of Nevada law.

Our authorized capital stock includes 10,000,000 shares of our preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. Under our Articles of Incorporation, as amended, we may issue shares of preferred stock in one or more series, as may be determined by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee. Our board of directors or a committee thereof also may establish, from time to time, the number of shares to be included in each series and may fix the designation, powers, preferences and rights of the shares of each such series and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, and may increase or decrease the number of shares of any series without any further vote or action by the stockholders.

Our board of directors is authorized to determine or fix from time to time by resolution the following terms for each series of preferred stock, which will be described in a prospectus supplement:

the distinctive serial designation of such series and the number of shares to constitute such series;

the class or voting rights, if any;

6

Table of Contents

the dividend rate;

whether dividends are cumulative and, if so, the date from which dividends cumulate;

the payment date for dividends;

redemption rights, the applicable redemption prices and such other conditions of redemption;

amounts payable to holders on our liquidation, dissolution or winding up;

the amount of the sinking fund, if any;

whether the shares will be convertible or exchangeable into other equity securities, and, if so, the prices and terms of conversion and such other terms and conditions of such conversion or exchange; and

any other voting powers, designations, preferences, limitations, restrictions, and relative rights.

The preferred stock will be, when issued, fully paid and non-assessable. Holders of preferred stock will not have any preemptive or subscription rights to acquire more stock of the Company.

The transfer agent, registrar, dividend disbursing agent and redemption agent for shares of each series of preferred stock will be named in the prospectus supplement relating to such series.

The rights of holders of the preferred stock offered may be adversely affected by the rights of holders of any shares of preferred stock that may be issued in the future. The board of directors may cause shares of preferred stock to be issued in public or private transactions for any proper corporate purpose. Examples of proper corporate purposes include issuances to obtain additional financing in connection with acquisitions or otherwise, and issuances to our officers, directors and employees pursuant to benefit plans or otherwise.

Rank

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement relating to the shares of any series of preferred stock, such shares will rank on an equal basis with each other series of preferred stock and prior to the common stock as to dividends and distributions of assets.

Dividends

The holders of each series of preferred stock will be entitled to receive cash dividends if declared by our board of directors out of funds we can legally use for payment. The prospectus supplement will indicate the dividend rates and the dates on which we will pay dividends as to each series of preferred stock. The rates may be fixed or variable or both. If the dividend rate is variable, the formula used to determine the dividend rate will be described in the prospectus supplement. We will pay dividends to the holders of record of each series of preferred stock as they appear on the record dates fixed by our board of directors.

Conversion or Exchange

The applicable prospectus supplement for any series of preferred stock will state the terms, if any, on which shares of that series are convertible or exchangeable into shares of our common stock or another series of our preferred stock. The terms of any such conversion or exchange and any such preferred stock will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of preferred stock.

Redemption

If so specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, a series of preferred stock may be redeemable at any time, in whole or in part, at our option or at the option of the holder thereof. It also may be mandatorily redeemed subject to a mandatory redemption.

7

Table of Contents

Unless we default in the payment of the redemption price, dividends will cease to accrue after the redemption date on shares of preferred stock called for redemption and all rights of holders of such shares will terminate, except for the right to receive the redemption price.

Liquidation Preference

Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, holders of each series of preferred stock will be entitled to receive distributions upon liquidation in the amount set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of preferred stock. Such distributions will be made before any distribution is made on common stock or on any other securities ranking junior to the preferred stock with respect to liquidation.

If the liquidation amounts payable relating to the preferred stock of any series and any other securities ranking on a parity regarding liquidation rights are not paid in full, the holders of the preferred stock of such series and such other securities will share in any such distribution of our available assets on a ratable basis in proportion to the full liquidation preferences. Holders of such series of preferred stock will not be entitled to any other amounts from us after they have received their full liquidation preference.

Voting Rights

The holders of shares of preferred stock will have no voting rights, except as otherwise stated in the prospectus supplement and the certificate of designation establishing such series, or as required by applicable law.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

In this section, we describe the general terms and provisions of the warrants for the purchase of preferred stock or common stock that we may issue. Warrants issued pursuant to this prospectus may be issued independently or together with any preferred stock or common stock. Warrants sold with other securities may be attached to or separate from the other securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent who will be specified in the warrant agreement and in the prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants of that series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

This summary of some of the terms and other provisions of the warrants that may be issued is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable warrant agreement and related warrant certificate and the prospectus supplement, which both will be filed with the SEC. You should refer to this prospectus, the prospectus supplement, the free writing prospectus, and the warrant agreement, including the forms of securities warrant certificate representing the securities warrants, relating to the specific warrants that we may offer for the complete terms of the warrant agreement and the warrants. For more information on how you can obtain copies of the applicable warrant agreement, if we offer warrants, see “Where You Can Find More Information.” We urge you to read the applicable warrant agreement and the applicable prospectus supplement and any other offering material in their entirety.

The applicable prospectus supplement related to an issuance of warrants will describe the following terms, where applicable, of the warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered:

• the title of the warrants;

• the aggregate number of the warrants;

• the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the currency or currencies (including composite currencies) in which the price or prices of the warrants may be payable;

8

Table of Contents

- the designation, amount and terms of the offered securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;
- if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the offered securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants will be separately transferable;
- the terms of the securities purchasable upon exercise of such warrants and the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of such warrants;
- any provisions for adjustment of the number or amount of securities receivable upon exercise of the warrants or the exercise price of the warrants;
- the price or prices at which and currency or currencies in which the offered securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;
- the date on which the right to exercise the warrants shall commence and the date on which the right shall expire;
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants that may be exercised at any one time;
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any; and
- any other material terms of the warrants.

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants to purchase equity securities may also include, if applicable, a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax and ERISA considerations.

Each warrant will entitle its holder to purchase the number of shares of preferred stock or common stock at the exercise price set forth in, or calculable as set forth in, the applicable prospectus supplement and warrant agreement.

After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void. We will specify the place or places where, and the manner in which, warrants may be exercised in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Upon receipt of payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the purchased securities. If less than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate are exercised, a new warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining warrants.

Prior to the exercise of any warrants to purchase preferred stock or common stock, holders of the warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon exercise, including, the right to vote or to receive any payments of dividends on the preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon exercise.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

In this section, we describe the general terms and provisions of the units that we may offer. We may issue units consisting of one or more of the securities described in this prospectus in any combination. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit also is the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which a unit is issued may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately at any time or at any time before a specified date.

The applicable prospectus supplement will specify the following terms of any units in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered:

9

Table of Contents

the terms of the units and of any of the common stock, preferred stock and warrants comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the units may be traded separately;

a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units;

a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or the securities comprising those units; and

whether the units will be issued fully registered or in global form.

The description in the applicable prospectus supplement and other offering material of any units we offer will not necessarily be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable unit agreement, which will be filed with the SEC if we offer units. For more information on how you can obtain copies of the applicable unit agreement if we offer units, see “Where You Can Find More Information.” We urge you to read the applicable unit agreement and the applicable prospectus supplement and any other offering material in their entirety.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities described in this prospectus to or through one or more agents, underwriters, dealers or directly to purchasers on a continuous or delayed basis.

The distribution of the securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed from time to time, at market prices prevailing at the times of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

Each time that we use this prospectus to sell our securities, we will also provide a prospectus supplement. For each series of securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the terms of the offering including:

the public offering price;

the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;

the purchase price of the securities;

the proceeds from the sale of the securities to us;

any underwriting discounts, agency fees, or other compensation payable to underwriters or agents;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallowed or repaid to dealers; and

the securities exchanges on which the securities will be listed, if any.

If we use underwriters in the sale of securities, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account. The underwriters may then resell the securities in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale or thereafter. The securities may be either offered to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters, or directly by underwriters. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities offered if they purchase any securities. The public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time. If an underwriter is utilized in the sale of the securities being offered by this prospectus, an underwriting agreement will be executed with the

underwriter at the time of sale and the name of any underwriter will be provided in the prospectus supplement used by the underwriter to make resales of the securities to the public.

Table of Contents

If we use dealers in the sale of securities, we will sell securities to such dealers as principals. The dealers may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealers at the time of resale. We may solicit offers to purchase the securities directly, and we may sell the securities directly to institutional or other investors, who may be deemed underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any resales of those securities. The terms of these sales will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If we use agents in the sale of securities, unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, they will use their reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment. Unless otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement, if we sell directly, no underwriters, dealers or agents would be involved. We will not make an offer of securities in any jurisdiction that does not permit such an offer.

We may grant underwriters who participate in the distribution of securities an option to purchase additional securities to cover overallotments, if any, in connection with the distribution. Any underwriter may engage in overallotment, stabilizing transactions, short covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with SEC orders, rules and regulations and applicable law. To the extent permitted by applicable law and SEC orders, rules and regulations, an overallotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. To the extent permitted by applicable law and SEC orders, rules and regulations, short covering transactions involve purchases of the common stock in the open market after the distribution is completed to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the common stock originally sold by the dealer is purchased in a covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the common stock to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time.

Any underwriters who are qualified market makers on the Nasdaq Capital Market may engage in passive market making transactions in the common stock on the Nasdaq Capital Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the common stock. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded.

Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in any distribution of securities may be deemed to be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act. Any discounts, commissions or profit they receive when they resell the securities may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Only underwriters named in the prospectus supplement are underwriters of the securities offered in the prospectus supplement. We may have agreements with underwriters, dealers and agents to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including certain liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute with respect to payments that they may be required to make.

We may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers from certain institutions whereby the institution contractually agrees to purchase the securities from us on a future date at a specific price. This type of contract may be made only with institutions that we specifically approve. Such institutions could include banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies and educational and charitable institutions. The underwriters, dealers or agents will not be responsible for the validity or performance of these contracts.

Each series of securities will be a new issue of securities and will have no established trading market, other than our common stock, which is listed on the Nasdaq Capital Market. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the securities will not be listed on any exchange. It has not presently been established whether the underwriters, if any, of the securities will make a market in the securities. If the underwriters make a market in the securities, such market making may be discontinued at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the

liquidity of the trading market for the securities.

Agents, dealers and underwriters may be entitled to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which the agents, dealers or underwriters may be required to make in respect thereof. Agents, dealers or underwriters may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us and our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

11

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain matters concerning this prospectus and future offerings will be passed upon for us by Haynes and Boone, LLP, Denver, Colorado. As of the date of this prospectus, certain partners of Haynes and Boone, LLP held 29,497 shares of Common Stock.

The validity of the securities offered hereby has been passed upon for us by Ballard Spahr LLP.

Additional legal matters may be passed upon for us or any underwriters or agents by counsel that we will name in the applicable prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and schedule as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 and for the years then ended, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017 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

This prospectus is a part of a registration statement on Form S-3 filed by us with the SEC under the Securities Act.

This prospectus does not contain all the information set forth in the registration statement, certain parts of which are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information with respect to us and the securities offered by this prospectus, reference is made to the registration statement. Statements contained in this prospectus concerning the provisions of such documents are necessarily summaries of such documents and each such statement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the copy of the applicable document filed with the SEC.

We file periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our filings with the SEC are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Our filings with the SEC are also available to the public on our website at www.chembio.com, as well as through document retrieval services. You may read and copy any periodic reports, proxy statements or other information we file at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C., which is located at the following address: Public Reference Room, 100 F Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can request copies of these documents, upon payment of a duplicating fee, by writing to the SEC. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the SEC's public reference rooms.

We "incorporate by reference" into this prospectus the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus and information that we file subsequently with the SEC will automatically update this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, after the initial filing of the registration statement that contains this prospectus and prior to the time that we sell all the securities offered by this prospectus, provided, however, that we are not incorporating any documents or portions thereof, whether specifically listed below or filed in the future, that are not deemed "filed" with the SEC, including any Compensation Committee report and performance graph and including information furnished under either Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K or related exhibits furnished pursuant to Item 9.01 of Form 8-K:

(a) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, filed on March 8, 2018.

(b) Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2018, filed with the SEC on May 9, 2018, and for the quarter ended June 30, 2018, filed with the SEC on August 8, 2018.

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 8, 2019; February 8, 2018; February 9, 2018; February 13, (c)2018; February 27, 2018; April 26, 2018; April 27, 2018; May 9, 2018; May 16, 2018; May 25, 2018; May 30, 2018; July 19, 2018; July 30, 2018; August 8, 2018; August 13, 2018; September 17, 2018.

Table of Contents

- (d) Portions of our Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders, held on May 10, 2018, that have been incorporated by reference in our 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K.
- (e) The description of our common stock contained in our Form 8-A as filed with the SEC on June 6, 2012 pursuant to Sections 12(b) and 12(g) of the Exchange Act.

The description of our Preferred Share Purchase Rights contained in our Form 8-A filed on March 8, 2016, (f)including any amendment to that form that we may file in the future for the purpose of updating the description of our Preferred Share Purchase Rights.

You may request a copy of these filings (other than an exhibit to a filing unless that exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into that filing) at no cost, by writing to or telephoning us at the following address and telephone number:

Chembio Diagnostics, Inc.
3661 Horseblock Road
Medford, New York 11763
(631) 924-1135
ATTN: Investor Relations

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with additional or different information. We may only use this prospectus to sell securities if it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. We are only offering these securities in states where the offer is permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the dates on the front of those documents.

Table of Contents

CHEMBIO DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEMS, INC.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Warrants

Units

PROSPECTUS

14

Table of Contents

PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN THE PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution

The following table sets forth estimates (other than the SEC registration fee and FINRA filing fee) of the amounts of expenses to be incurred in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, all of which will be paid by Chembio.

| | |
|---|---------|
| SEC registration fee | \$6,225 |
| FINRA filing fee | \$8,000 |
| Legal fees and expenses | (1) |
| Accounting fees and expenses | (1) |
| Printing expenses | (1) |
| Blue Sky, qualification fees and expenses | (1) |
| Transfer agent fees and expenses | (1) |
| Warrant agent fees and expenses | (1) |
| Other | (1) |
| Total | \$(1) |

-
- (1) These fees are calculated based on the securities offered and the number of issuances and accordingly cannot be estimated at this time and will be reflected in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

The Registrant's bylaws provide that it will indemnify any of its directors, officers, other employees or agents against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such director, officer, other employee or agent in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, relating to service for or at the request of the Registrant. The Registrant will not indemnify a director, officer, other employee or agent if in relation to matters such director, officer, other employee or agent is adjudged in the action, suit or proceeding to not have acted in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Registrant in the performance of the individual's duties.

The Registrant's bylaws also provide that it will advance expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred by an officer or director defending an action, suit or proceeding, upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such officer or director to repay such amount if that officer or director is determined to not be entitled to indemnification. Such expenses incurred by other employees and agents may be paid in advance by the Registrant upon certain terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the board of directors of Chembio.

The Registrant's articles of incorporation provide that no director will be personally liable to the Registrant or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except that the director's liability will not be eliminated or limited: (A) for acts or omissions involving intentional misconduct, fraud or a knowing violation of the law; or (B) for the payment of any distribution in violation of Nevada law.

Nevada law permits a Nevada corporation, such as the Registrant, to indemnify its directors and officers in certain circumstances. Specifically, Section 78.7502 of the Nevada Revised Statutes provides as follows:

“(1) A corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, except an action by or in the right of the corporation, by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses, including attorneys’ fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the action, suit or proceeding if the person: (a) is not liable pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 78.138 or (b) acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, does not, of itself, create a presumption that the person is liable pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 78.138 or did not act in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, or that, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, he or she had reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was unlawful.

Table of Contents

(2) A corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses, including amounts paid in settlement and attorneys' fees actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the defense or settlement of the action or suit if the person: (a) is not liable pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 78.138 or (b) acted in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation. Indemnification may not be made for any claim, issue or matter as to which such a person has been adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction, after exhaustion of all appeals therefrom, to be liable to the corporation or for amounts paid in settlement to the corporation, unless and only to the extent that the court in which the action or suit was brought or other court of competent jurisdiction determines upon application that in view of all the circumstances of the case, the person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the court deems proper.

(3) To the extent that a director, officer, employee or agent of a corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections (1) and (2), or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, the corporation shall indemnify him or her against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the defense.”

Item 16. Exhibits

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

| No. | Description |
|-------|---|
| 1.1* | Form of Underwriting Agreement |
| 3.1** | Articles of Incorporation, as amended |
| 3.2** | Amended And Restated Bylaws |
| 4.5** | Rights Agreement dated as of March 8, 2016 between Chembio Diagnostics, Inc. and Action Stock Transfer Corp., as Rights Agent |
| 4.6* | Form of Warrant under Rights Agreement |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Ballard Spahr LLP |
| 8.1* | Opinion as to certain federal income tax matters |
| 23.1 | Consent of BDO USA, LLP |
| 23.2 | Consent of Ballard Spahr LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1) |
| 24 | Power of Attorney of certain officers and directors (located on the signature page to the Registration Statement) |

* To be filed, as applicable, by amendment or as an exhibit to a document incorporated by reference herein for the specific offering of securities, if any, to which it relates.

** Previously filed.

Item 17. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

Table of Contents

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(A) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended;

(B) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. 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 Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and

(C) 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) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, to any purchaser:

(A) 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; and

(B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of the 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 of 1933, as amended, 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 the 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 will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, 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 effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned Registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

17

Table of Contents

- (A) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
- (B) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned Registrant;
- (C) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant; and
- (D) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.
- (b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended), that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, 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 Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, 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 of 1933, as amended, and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, 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 state of New York, on September 18, 2018.

CHEMBIO DIAGNOSTICS, INC.

By: /s/ John J. Sperzel III
 John J. Sperzel III
 President and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the date indicated. Each person whose signature appears below, hereby makes, constitutes and appoints John J. Sperzel III and Neil A. Goldman, or either of them, as their respective true and lawful attorney, with full power to sign for such person and in such person's name and capacity indicated below, and with full power of substitution, any and all amendments, including post-effective amendments, to this Registration Statement, hereby ratifying and confirming such person's signature as it may be signed by said attorney to any and all amendments.

| Name | Title | Date |
|--|--|--------------------|
| /s/ John J. Sperzel III John J. Sperzel III | Chief Executive Officer, President and Director (principal executive officer) | September 17, 2018 |
| /s/ Neil A. Goldman Neil A. Goldman | Chief Financial Officer (principal financial officer & accounting officer) | September 18, 2018 |
| /s/ Katherine L. Davis Katherine L. Davis | Director | September 18, 2018 |
| /s/ Gail S. Page Gail S. Page | Director | September 17, 2018 |
| /s/ Mary Lake Polan Mary Lake Polan | Director | September 17, 2018 |
| /s/ John Potthoff John Potthoff | Director | September 17, 2018 |

Table of Contents
EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

| No. | Description |
|---------------|---|
| 1.1* | Form of Underwriting Agreement |
| <u>3.1</u> ** | Articles of Incorporation, as amended |
| <u>3.2</u> ** | Amended And Restated Bylaws |
| <u>4.5</u> ** | Rights Agreement dated as of March 8, 2016 between Chembio Diagnostics, Inc. and Action Stock Transfer Corp., as Rights Agent |
| 4.6* | Form of Warrant under Rights Agreement |
| <u>5.1</u> | Opinion of Ballard Spahr LLP |
| 8.1* | Opinion as to certain federal income tax matters |
| <u>23.1</u> | Consent of BDO USA, LLP |
| 23.2 | Consent of Ballard Spahr LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1) |
| 24 | Power of Attorney of certain officers and directors (located on the signature page to the Registration Statement) |

* To be filed, as applicable, by amendment or as an exhibit to a document incorporated by reference herein for the specific offering of securities, if any, to which it relates.

** Previously filed.