

NOVAVAX INC
Form DEF 14A
April 02, 2004

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to Rule 14a-11(c) or Rule 14a-12

NOVAVAX, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the form or schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount previously paid:

(2) Form, schedule or registration statement no.:

(3) Filing party:

(4) Date filed:

NOVAVAX, INC.

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD MAY 5, 2004**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of Novavax, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the Company), will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at The Westin Philadelphia, 99 South 17th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 (the Meeting) for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following matters:

1. To approve an amendment to the Company's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of Common Stock (\$.01 par value) of the Company by 50,000,000 shares from 50,000,000 to 100,000,000.
2. To elect two directors as Class III directors to serve on the Board of Directors for a three-year term expiring at the 2007 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.
3. To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors of the Company for the current fiscal year ending December 31, 2004.
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors has no knowledge of any other business to be transacted at the Meeting.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on Friday, March 12, 2004 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting and any adjournments thereof.

A copy of the Company's Annual Report to Stockholders for the year ended December 31, 2003, which contains financial statements and other information of interest to stockholders, accompanies this Notice and the attached Proxy Statement.

By Order of the Board of Directors

David A. White,
Secretary

March 31, 2004

WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE PROMPTLY VOTE VIA THE INTERNET OR TELEPHONE AS PER THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE ENCLOSED PROXY OR COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY IN THE ACCOMPANYING ENVELOPE. NO POSTAGE NEED BE AFFIXED IF THE PROXY IS MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.

NOVAVAX, INC.

8320 Guilford Road

Columbia, Maryland 21046

**PROXY STATEMENT
For the Annual Meeting of Stockholders
To Be Held May 5, 2004**

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Novavax, Inc. (Novavax or the Company) for use at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. local time at The Westin Philadelphia, 99 South 17th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 and at any adjournments thereof (the Meeting). The Notice of Meeting, this Proxy Statement, the enclosed proxy and the Company s Annual Report to Stockholders for the year ended December 31, 2003 are being mailed to stockholders on or about March 31, 2004.

VOTING PROCEDURE AND QUORUM

The close of business on March 12, 2004 (the Record Date) has been fixed as the record date to determine stockholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Meeting. The only class of stock of the Company entitled to vote at the Meeting is its common stock, \$.01 par value (the Common Stock). Only the record holders of shares of Common Stock at the close of business on the Record Date may vote at the Meeting. On the Record Date, there were 34,719,085 shares of Common Stock outstanding and entitled to be voted at the Meeting. Each share entitles the holder to one vote on each of the matters to be voted upon at the Meeting. A stockholder may vote by mail, internet or telephone as directed by the enclosed proxy.

All properly executed proxies will be voted in accordance with the instructions of the stockholder. If no contrary instructions have been indicated, the proxies will be voted in favor of proposals 1, 2 and 3 as set forth in the accompanying Notice of Meeting. The Board of Directors knows of no other matters to be presented for consideration at the Meeting.

Stockholders may revoke proxies at any time before they are exercised at the Meeting by (a) signing and submitting a later-dated proxy to the Secretary of the Company, (b) delivering written notice of revocation to the Secretary of the Company, or (c) voting in person at the Meeting. Attendance at the Meeting will not itself be deemed to revoke a proxy unless the stockholder gives affirmative notice at the Meeting that the stockholder intends to revoke the stockholder s proxy and vote in person.

The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding on the Record Date and entitled to vote is required to constitute a quorum at the Meeting. If a quorum is not present, the stockholders entitled to vote who are present in person or represented by proxy at the Meeting have the power to adjourn the Meeting from time to time, without notice other than an announcement at the Meeting, until a quorum is present. At any adjourned meeting at which a quorum is present, any business may be transacted that might have been transacted at the Meeting as originally scheduled. Abstentions and broker non-votes will count in determining whether a quorum is present at the Meeting. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker or other nominee holds shares represented by a proxy and either does not have discretionary authority to vote such shares or has not received voting instructions with respect to a particular item.

**PROPOSAL ONE AMENDMENT TO CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO
INCREASE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED SHARES OF COMMON STOCK**

On March 9, 2004, the Board of Directors adopted, subject to stockholder approval, an amendment to the Company's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation providing for an increase in the number of authorized shares of Common Stock from 50,000,000 to 100,000,000 shares (the Amendment). On March 12, 2004 the Company had a total of 34,719,085 shares of Common Stock outstanding and 5,272,393 shares of Common Stock reserved for issuance upon exercise of stock options outstanding under its stock option plans, 70,000 shares of Common Stock reserved for issuance under outstanding warrants, and 5,188,147 shares of Common Stock reserved for issuance upon the conversion of outstanding convertible notes.

If the Amendment is approved by stockholders, it will become effective upon filing with the Delaware Secretary of State. Upon approval, the additional authorized shares of Common Stock would be available for issuance in the future for corporate purposes, including without limitation financings, acquisitions, strategic business partnerships and joint ventures, stock splits and stock dividends, and management incentive and employee benefit plans, as the Board of Directors may deem advisable, without the necessity of further stockholder action except as may be required by law, Securities and Exchange Commission rules or the listing requirements of The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. The Common Stock, including the shares proposed for authorization, do not have pre-emptive or similar rights; this means that current stockholders do not have the right to purchase any new shares in order to maintain their proportionate ownership in the Company. While the increase would not have any immediate effect on existing stockholders, the future issuance of additional shares of Common Stock (other than in connection with stock splits and stock dividends), while providing desirable flexibility in connection with possible acquisitions and other corporate purposes, would have the effect of diluting the Company's current stockholders and could have the effect of making it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or of discouraging a third party from attempting to acquire, control of the Company. Other than in connection with the Company's existing stock option plans, presently outstanding warrants to purchase Common Stock, and presently outstanding notes convertible into Common Stock, the Company has no present intention or plans to issue any shares of Common Stock.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock entitled to vote at the Meeting is required in order to adopt the proposed Amendment. Unless indicated to the contrary, the enclosed proxy will be voted for the proposed Amendment. Votes withheld or abstaining from voting will have the same effect as a negative vote or against the proposed Amendment. If you do not attend the Meeting in person or return a properly completed and signed proxy card, you will effectively be voting against the Amendment.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE **FOR** THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT.

PROPOSAL TWO ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Pursuant to the Company's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, the Company's Board of Directors may consist of no fewer than three directors, with the specific number to be authorized by the Board of Directors from time to time at its discretion. The Board of Directors is currently authorized to consist of eight members.

The members of the Company's Board of Directors are divided into three classes, designated Class I, Class II and Class III, each serving staggered three-year terms. The terms of the Class III directors expire at this Meeting. The terms of the Class I and Class II directors will expire at the 2005 and 2006 Annual Meetings of Stockholders, respectively. A director of any class who is elected by the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy resulting from an increase in the number of directors holds office for the remaining term of the class to which he is elected. A director who is elected by the Board to fill a vacancy arising in any other manner holds office for the remaining term of his predecessor. Directors elected by the stockholders at an annual meeting to succeed those whose terms expire are of the same class as the directors they succeed and are elected for a term to expire at the third annual meeting of stockholders after their election and until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Directors elected by the Board as a result of a change in the number of authorized directors are to be assigned to classes by the Board so as to ensure, as nearly as possible, that each class consists of one-third of the total number of members of the Board. However, no existing director may be reclassified from one class to another and, therefore, the number of directors in each class may become temporarily imbalanced.

Two directors are to be elected at this Meeting to fill the terms of the Class III directors that expire at this Meeting. The Board of Directors, by all of its independent directors, has designated Mitchell J. Kelly and Michael A. McManus, Jr. as nominees for reelection as Class III directors of the Company at this Meeting. If elected to be Class III directors, such nominees will serve until the expiration of their terms at the 2007 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until their successors are elected and qualified. Mr. Kelly and Mr. McManus are currently directors of the Company and have consented to being named in this Proxy Statement and to serve if elected. The Board of Directors has no reason to believe that either of the nominees will be unable to serve if elected. If a nominee becomes unavailable to serve as a director, the persons named as proxies in the accompanying proxy may vote the proxy for a substitute nominee.

The election of directors requires the affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares of Common Stock present or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Meeting. Accordingly, abstentions, broker non-votes and votes withheld for a nominee will not have any effect on the election of a director.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE **FOR** THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES.

Members of the Board of Directors

The following table provides certain information with respect to the directors of the Company. Comparable information regarding the executive officers of the Company is provided in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Nominees for Class III Directors

Name	Age	Director Since	Principal Occupation, Other Business Experience and Other Directorships
Mitchell J. Kelly	44	1997	Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Member of Anaconda Capital Management, L.L.C., an investment management firm, since 1995, and in various capacities with affiliates of Anaconda Capital since 1993. President and Chief Executive Officer of Novavax from September 2002 to August 2003 and from September 1998 to May 1999.
Michael A. McManus, Jr.	61	1998	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Misonix, Inc., a medical, scientific and industrial provider of ultrasonic and air pollution systems, since 1998. President and Chief Executive Officer of N.Y. Bancorp from 1990 to 1998. Assistant to the President of the United States from 1982 to 1985. Currently a director of L.Q. Corp., NWH, Inc. and American Home Mortgage Investment Corp.

Directors Continuing as Class I Directors

Name	Age	Director Since	Principal Occupation, Other Business Experience and Other Directorships
Denis M. O'Donnell, M.D.	50	1998	Chairman of the Board of Directors of Novavax since May 2000. Chief Executive Officer and Director of Molecular Diagnostics, Inc. since February 2003. General Partner at Seaside Partners, L.P., a private equity firm, from 1997 to 2003. Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Novavax from 1999 to 2000. Senior Advisor to Novavax from 1997 to 1998. President of Novavax from 1995 to 1997. Vice President, Business Development of Novavax from 1992 to 1995. Currently a director of Columbia Laboratories, Inc. and ELXSI Corp.
Nelson M. Sims	56	2003	President and Chief Executive Officer of Novavax since August 2003. Retired from Eli Lilly and Company in June 2001 after 28 years of service. Executive management positions at Eli Lilly included Executive Director of Strategic Alliance Management for Eli Lilly and Company from November 1999 to June 2001, President of Eli Lilly Canada Inc. from January 1991 to November 1999, and Vice President of Hybritech, Inc., a Lilly subsidiary. Currently a director of MDS Inc. and Hemosol Inc.

Name	Age	Director Since	Principal Occupation, Other Business Experience and Other Directorships
Ronald H. Walker	66	1995	Currently retired. Chairman of the Board of Directors of Novavax from 1998 to 2000. Senior Partner/Managing Director of Korn/Ferry International, an executive search firm, from 1978 to 1999. Director of the National Park Service from 1972 to 1975. Special Assistant to the President of the United States from 1969 to 1972.

Directors Continuing as Class II Directors

Name	Age	Director Since	Principal Occupation, Other Business Experience and Other Directorships
Gary C. Evans	47	1998	President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Magnum Hunter Resources, Inc., an oil and gas exploration company, since 1995 and Chief Executive Officer of its predecessor, Hunter Resources, Inc., since 1985. Currently a trustee of TEL Offshore Trust, an oil and gas trust.
J.Michael Lazarus, M.D.	66	1995	Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President of Fresenius Medical Care North America since 1996. Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School from 1979 to 1996.
John O. Marsh, Jr.	77	1991	Visiting Professor, George Mason University, since 2001. Visiting Professor, Virginia Military Institute, 1998. Interim Chief Executive Officer of Novavax from July 1996 to March 1997 and Chairman of the Board of Directors from July 1996 to February 1997. Secretary of the Army from 1981 to 1989. Counselor with Cabinet rank to the President of the United States from 1974 to 1977. Assistant for National Security Affairs to Vice President of the United States, 1974. Assistant Secretary of Defense from 1973 to 1974. U.S. Representative in Congress from 1963 to 1971.

There are no family relationships among any of the directors or executive officers (or any nominee therefor) of Novavax.

Board of Directors and Committee Information

The Board of Directors has determined that, with the exception of Messrs. Kelly and Sims and Dr. O'Connell, each of whom is or was within the last three fiscal years an employee or executive officer of the Company, all of the members of the Board are independent directors, as that term is defined in Rule 4200(a)(15) of the listing standards of The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. and Rule 10A-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

The Board of Directors met 10 times during 2003 and acted by written consent once. Each of the directors attended at least 75% of the total number of meetings of the Board of Directors and the committees on which they served.

The Board of Directors of Novavax currently has three standing committees: a Compensation Committee, an Audit Committee, and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. In addition to the

descriptions below, please refer to the Report of the Compensation Committee and Report of the Audit Committee included in this Proxy Statement.

Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee, whose members during 2003 were Messrs. Evans (Chairman), Marsh, McManus and Walker, reviews and recommends salaries and other compensatory benefits for the officers and directors of Novavax. The Compensation Committee also administers the option plans of the Company, pursuant to which the committee grants stock options to executive officers, key employees and directors of Novavax and its subsidiaries. During 2003, the Compensation Committee met seven times and acted by written consent once. In March 2004, the Board appointed a new Compensation Committee to consist of Mr. Walker (Chairman), Mr. Kelly and Dr. Lazarus.

Audit Committee

During 2003, the Audit Committee consisted of Messrs. McManus (Chairman) and Evans and Dr. Lazarus, each of whom is a non-employee director and qualifies as independent as defined in the listing standards of Nasdaq. The Board has determined that Mr. McManus qualifies as the committee's audit committee financial expert as that term is defined by the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and is financially sophisticated as required by Nasdaq listing standards.

The Audit Committee acts pursuant to the Audit Committee Charter as adopted by the Board, which was recently materially amended; a copy of the amended and restated charter is attached as an exhibit to this Proxy Statement and will be made available on the Company's website at www.novavax.com. The Audit Committee reviews and evaluates the charter annually to ensure its adequacy and accuracy, and is charged with performing an annual self-evaluation with the goal of continuing improvement.

The Audit Committee is directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the Company's outside auditors. To this end, the committee meets with the Company's independent public accountants to discuss the scope and results of their examination and reviews the financial statements and reports contained in the Company's Forms 10-Q and 10-K. The Audit Committee also reviews the adequacy and efficacy of the Company's accounting, auditing and financial control systems, as well as the Company's disclosure controls and procedures, monitors the adequacy of the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes and practices, and considers any issues raised by its members, the Company's independent public accountants and the Company's employees. To assist in carrying out its duties, the Audit Committee is authorized to investigate any matter brought to its attention, retain the services of independent advisors (including legal counsel, auditors and other experts), and receive and respond to concerns and complaints relating to accounting, internal accounting controls and auditing matters. During 2003, the Audit Committee met five times. In March 2004, the Board appointed a new Audit Committee to consist of Messrs. McManus (Chairman), Evans and Marsh.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (the Governance Committee) consists of Messrs. Evans (Chairman), Marsh, McManus and Walker and Dr. Lazarus, each of whom qualifies as independent as defined in the listing standards of Nasdaq. The Governance Committee was established in March 2004, replacing the Nominating Committee.

The Governance Committee acts pursuant to a written charter, a copy of which is attached to this Proxy Statement and which will be made available on the Company's website at www.novavax.com. As provided in the charter, the primary function of the Governance Committee is to assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities by: reviewing and making recommendations to the Board regarding the Board's size, structure and composition; establishing criteria for Board membership; identifying and evaluating candidates qualified to become members of the Board, including candidates proposed by stockholders; selecting, or recommending to the Board for selection, director nominees to be presented for approval at the annual meeting of stockholders and to fill vacancies on the Board; evaluating Company policies relating to the recruitment of

Board members; developing and recommending to the Board corporate governance policies and practices applicable to the Company; monitoring compliance with the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics; and handling such other matters as the Board or committee deems appropriate. The Governance Committee's goal is to contribute to the effective representation of the Company's stockholders and play a leadership role in shaping the Company's corporate governance.

As noted above, it is the Governance Committee's responsibility to review and evaluate director candidates, including candidates submitted by stockholders. In performing its evaluation and review, the Governance Committee does not differentiate between candidates based on the proposing constituency, but rather applies the same criteria to each candidate.

Stockholders who wish to nominate qualified candidates to serve as directors of the Company may do so in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Company's By-laws, which procedures did not change during the last fiscal year. As set forth in the By-laws, a stockholder must notify the Company in writing, by notice delivered to the attention of the Secretary of the Company at the address set forth on the first page of this Proxy Statement, of a proposed nominee. In order to ensure meaningful consideration of such candidates, notice must be received not less than 60 days nor more than 90 days prior to the meeting (with certain exceptions).

The notice must set forth as to each proposed nominee:

- the name, age, business address and, if known, residence address,
- his or her principal occupation or employment,
- the number of shares of stock of the Company, if any, which are beneficially owned by such nominee, and
- any other information concerning the nominee that must be disclosed as to nominees in proxy solicitations pursuant to applicable law.

The notice must also set forth with respect to the stockholder giving the notice:

- the name and address, as they appear on the Company's books, of such stockholder, and
- the number of shares of the Company that are beneficially owned by such stockholder.

The Company may require any proposed nominee to furnish such other information as may reasonably be required to determine the eligibility of the nominee to serve as a director. Submissions received through this process will be forwarded to the Governance Committee for review.

When considering candidates, the Governance Committee strives to achieve a balance of knowledge, experience and achievement such that the Company's Board reflects a broad range of talents, ages, skills and expertise. While there are no set minimum requirements, a candidate should:

- be intelligent, thoughtful and analytical,
- possess superior business-related knowledge, skills and experience,
- reflect the highest integrity, ethics and character,
- have excelled in both academic and professional settings,
- demonstrate achievement in his or her chosen field,
- be free of actual or potential conflicts of interest,
- have the ability to devote sufficient time to the business and affairs of the Company, and
- demonstrate the capacity and desire to represent the best interests of the Company's stockholders as a whole.

In addition to the above criteria (which may be modified from time to time), the Governance Committee may consider such other factors as the committee deems in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders and that may enhance the effectiveness and responsiveness of the Board and its committees. Finally, the Governance Committee must consider both a candidate's independence to make certain that the Board includes at least a majority of independent directors so as to satisfy all applicable independence requirements, and a candidate's financial sophistication and special competencies.

The Governance Committee identifies potential candidates through referrals and recommendations, including by incumbent directors, management and stockholders, as well as through business and other organizational networks. To date, the Governance Committee has not retained or paid any third party to identify or evaluate, or assist in identifying or evaluating, potential director nominees, although it reserves the right to engage executive search firms and other third parties to assist in finding suitable candidates.

Current members of the Board with the requisite skills and experience are considered for re-nomination, balancing the value of the member's continuity of service with that of obtaining a new perspective, and considering each individual's contributions, performance and level of participation, the current composition of the Board, and the Company's needs. If any existing members do not wish to continue in service or if it is decided not to re-nominate a director, new candidates are identified in accordance with those skills, experience and characteristics deemed necessary for new nominees, and are evaluated based on the qualifications set forth above. In every case, the Governance Committee meets (in person or telephonically) to discuss each candidate, and may require personal interviews before final approval. Once a slate is selected, the Governance Committee presents it to the full Board.

Both of this year's nominees for director, Messrs. Kelly and McManus, are current directors of the Company and were selected and approved by the independent members of the Board of Directors in accordance with applicable law and listing requirements. There were no candidates submitted for consideration by stockholders of the Company.

Executive Committee

During 2003, the Company had an Executive Committee which met three times. The Executive Committee, whose members were Dr. O'Donnell (Chairman) and Messrs. Evans, Kelly, McManus and Sims, had the authority to exercise the powers of the Board of Directors between Board meetings. The Executive Committee was disbanded in 2004.

Stockholder Communications

The Board welcomes communications from stockholders and has adopted a procedure for receiving and addressing such communications. Stockholders may send written communications to the entire Board or individual directors, addressing them to Novavax, Inc., 8320 Guilford Road, Columbia, MD 21046, Attention: Secretary. Communications by e-mail should be addressed to ir@novavax.com and marked "Attention: Secretary" in the Subject field. All such communications will be forwarded to the full Board of Directors or to any individual director or directors to whom the communication is directed unless the communication is clearly of a marketing nature or is unduly hostile, threatening, illegal, or similarly inappropriate, in which case the Company has the authority to discard the communication or take appropriate legal action regarding the communication.

Recognizing that director attendance at the Company's annual meetings of stockholders can provide stockholders with an opportunity to communicate with members of the Board, Novavax strongly encourages (but does not require) members of the Board to attend such meetings. All of the directors attended the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Company.

Director Compensation

Cash Compensation

During 2003, each director not employed by Novavax received an annual retainer of \$10,000, an additional \$1,500 for each meeting of the Board of Directors he attended in person, and \$750 for each meeting attended telephonically. In addition, each committee member not employed by Novavax received \$250 per committee meeting attended, except that the Chairman of each committee received \$500 per committee meeting attended. No other cash compensation is paid to the directors for their services to the Company as directors. For information relating to shares of the Company owned by each of the directors, see *Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock* below. For information concerning the compensation of directors who are also officers of the Company, see the Summary Compensation Table. Directors are also reimbursed by the Company for reasonable costs and expenses incurred for attending Board and committee meetings.

Stock Option Plan

Directors of Novavax are eligible to participate in the Company's 1995 Stock Option Plan adopted by the Board of Directors and approved by the stockholders of Novavax on September 13, 1995, as amended (the *Plan*). The Plan is administered by the Compensation Committee under delegation by the Board of Directors. There were no options granted to non-officer directors in fiscal 2003 under the Plan or otherwise.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

Messrs. Evans, Marsh, McManus and Walker served on the Compensation Committee during 2003, none of whom was at any time during fiscal 2003 an officer or employee of Novavax. No executive officer of the Company currently serves, or during 2003 served, as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving as a member of the Company's Board of Directors or Compensation Committee.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires the Company's directors, executive officers and holders of more than 10% of the Company's Common Stock to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Nasdaq National Market initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of Common Stock and other equity securities of the Company. Based solely on a review of the copies of such reports (and any amendments thereto) furnished to the Company or written representations that no other reports were required, the Company believes that during fiscal 2003 its officers, directors and holders of more than 10% of the Company's Common Stock complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements, except that Dr. Lazarus filed one Form 4 late with respect to an open-market purchase by Dr. Lazarus and an open-market purchase of Common Stock by his wife, which shares were later transferred to a jointly-held account.

Certain Relationships and Related Transactions

In March 2002, pursuant to the Company's 1995 Stock Option Plan, the Company approved the payment of the exercise price of options by two directors, Denis M. O'Donnell, M.D. and Mitchell J. Kelly, through the delivery of full recourse, interest-bearing promissory notes in the amounts of \$1,031,668 and \$447,600, respectively, or an aggregate of \$1,479,268. The borrowings accrue interest at 5.07% per annum and are secured by 166,667 and 95,000 shares of Common Stock, respectively, or an aggregate of 261,667 shares of Common Stock owned by the directors. The notes are payable upon the earlier to occur of the following: (i) payable in full upon the date on which the director ceases for any reason to be a director of the Company, (ii) payable in part to the extent of net proceeds, upon the date on which the director sells all or any portion of the pledged shares, or (iii) payable in full on March 21, 2007. In addition, during 2002, the Company executed a conditional guaranty of a brokerage margin account for Dr. O'Donnell in the amount of \$500,000.

In 2002, the Company made a loan to its former general counsel, Ann McGeehan, in the amount of \$92,500. In accordance with Ms. McGeehan's employment agreement, on the anniversary of her employ-

ment with the Company in 2003 the Company forgave \$18,500 principal plus accrued interest thereon. The principal and interest due and outstanding at March 12, 2004 was approximately \$78,000.

REPORT OF THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Executive Compensation Policies

During 2003, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors (the Committee) was composed of four non-employee directors, each of whom is independent under applicable rules and regulations. The Committee is responsible for the development and administration of the Company's compensation policies and programs and grants stock options to executives, key employees and directors of the Company and its subsidiaries pursuant to its mandate to administer the Company's stock option plans.

The objectives of the Company's executive compensation program are to: (i) support the achievement of the strategic goals and objectives of the Company; (ii) attract and retain key executives critical to the success of the Company; and (iii) align executive officers' interests with the success of the Company. The Company's executive compensation program currently consists of base salary, annual cash incentive compensation and long-term incentive compensation in the form of stock options.

Cash Compensation

The Committee's policy is to set base salary levels for the Company's executive officers based on a review of compensation for competitive positions in the market, the executives' job skills and experience, and judgments as to past and future contributions of the executives to the Company's success. The corporations whose compensation practices have been studied are not limited to the peer group listed in the stock performance chart, but include the full range of companies with which the Company believes it competes for executive talent. The annual cash incentive compensation is designed to tie annual awards to Company and individual executive performance. The Committee considers a number of factors in determining whether annual incentive awards should be paid, including the achievement by the Company of approved budgets, new product introductions and progress in the development of new products, and the achievement by the executives of their individually-assigned objectives. In considering individual performance, as contrasted to Company performance, the Committee relies more on subjective evaluations of executive performance than on quantitative data or objective criteria.

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company seeks to provide its executives with opportunities for higher compensation through stock option awards. The Committee believes that stock ownership by executive officers is important in aligning management and stockholder interests for the long-term enhancement of stockholder value. In selecting executives eligible to receive option grants and determining the number of shares subject to such options, the Committee evaluates a variety of factors including:

- the job level of the executive,
- option grants awarded by competitors to executives at a comparable job level, and
- past, current and prospective services rendered, or to be rendered, to the Company by the executive.

The exercise price for the options granted to executives to date has been equal to at least 100% of the fair market value per share on the date of grant and the Committee intends to continue to fix the exercise price of option grants at no less than 100% of the fair market value per share on the date of grant. During 2003, the Committee awarded options for a total of 2,091,000 shares to all employees, including options to purchase 1,460,000 shares awarded to executive officers of the Company.

Chief Executive Officer Compensation

Nelson M. Sims was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company effective August 2003. The criteria used to establish Mr. Sims' compensation included, among other things, the compensation packages of executive officers of comparable companies of similar size in the specialty pharmaceutical industry and the factors described above for all executive officers. Pursuant to Mr. Sims' employment agreement with the Company, he is entitled to receive an initial base salary of \$400,000, subject to merit-based increases commencing January 1, 2005. In addition, he is entitled to receive performance and incentive bonuses and was granted stock options to purchase 900,000 shares of the Common Stock of the Company at \$5.63 per share, which price was the fair market value at the date of grant. The options vest in three equal increments on the first three anniversaries of the date of the grant.

Mitchell J. Kelly was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company effective September 2002 following the resignation of John A. Spears as President and Chief Executive Officer, and resigned from those positions in August 2003. In recognition of the interim nature of Mr. Kelly's engagement, the Company remitted compensation payable to Mr. Kelly to his employer, Anaconda Capital Management, L.L.C., for Mr. Kelly's services as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company during 2003 in the amount of \$200,000. The Company also remitted \$93,333 to Anaconda Capital in 2003 for salary accrued during 2002 for Mr. Kelly. The criteria used to establish Mr. Kelly's compensation included, among other things, the compensation packages of executive officers of comparable companies of similar size in the specialty pharmaceutical industry. Prior to his resignation, Mr. Kelly was granted options to purchase 250,000 shares of Common Stock at a purchase price of \$4.05 per share, which price was the fair market value of the Common Stock at the date of grant. One-half of such options vested in May 2003 and one-half in August 2003.

Tax Considerations

Section 162(m) of the Code generally disallows a tax deduction to public companies for compensation over \$1,000,000 paid to its Chief Executive Officer or its four other most highly compensated executive officers. Qualifying performance-based compensation will not be subject to the deduction limit if certain requirements are met. In 2003, no compensation paid by the Company was nondeductible as a result of the \$1,000,000 limitation. Furthermore, the Committee believes that, given the general range of salaries and bonuses for executive officers of the Company, the \$1,000,000 threshold of Section 162(m) will not be reached by any executive officer of the Company in the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Committee has not formulated a policy to address non-qualifying compensation.

Compensation Committee

Gary C. Evans, Chairman
John O. Marsh, Jr.
Michael A. McManus, Jr.
Ronald H. Walker

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors is comprised of three members, each of whom is a non-employee director and satisfies all applicable independence requirements. The responsibilities and duties of the Audit Committee, summarized below, are more fully set forth in the committee's charter, a copy of which is attached to this Proxy Statement and which will be made available on the Company's website at www.novavax.com.

The primary purpose of the Audit Committee is to represent and assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its responsibilities for oversight of: the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes; the preparation, presentation and integrity of the financial reports and other financial information provided by the Company to any governmental or regulatory body, the public or other users thereof; the adequacy and efficacy of the Company's systems of internal accounting, auditing and financial controls; the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; the conduct, independence and qualifications of the Company's outside auditor; and the performance of the annual independent audit of the Company's financial statements.

In discharging its oversight role, the Audit Committee is empowered to investigate any matter brought to its attention with full access to all books, records, facilities and personnel of the Company, and to retain outside counsel, auditors and other experts for this purpose. The Board and the Audit Committee are in place to represent the Company's stockholders. Accordingly, the outside auditor is ultimately accountable to the Audit Committee and the Board.

In keeping with its responsibilities, the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the Company's audited financial statements with management. The Audit Committee has discussed with Ernst & Young LLP, the Company's independent accountants, the matters required to be discussed by Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61, Communication with Audit Committees, as currently in effect, which includes, among other items, matters related to the conduct of the audit of the Company's financial statements. The Audit Committee meets with the independent auditors, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, their evaluations of the Company's internal controls, and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting. The Audit Committee has also received written disclosures and the letter from Ernst & Young LLP required by the Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (as currently in effect) relating to the accountant's independence from the Company and its related entities, discussed with Ernst & Young LLP their independence from the Company, and considered the compatibility of the accountants' provision of non-audit services with maintaining the accountants' independence.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Company's Board of Directors, and the Board has approved, that the Company's audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003. The Audit Committee has selected, subject to stockholder ratification, Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent auditors for the current fiscal year ending December 31, 2004.

The Audit Committee pre-approved all audit and permissible non-audit services provided to the Company by its independent auditors during fiscal 2003. It is the Audit Committee's policy to pre-approve the audit and permissible non-audit services (both the type and amount) performed by the Company's outside auditor in order to ensure that the provision of such services does not impair the auditor's independence, in appearance or fact.

Audit Committee

Michael A. McManus, Jr., Chairman

Gary C. Evans

J. Michael Lazarus, M.D.

PROPOSAL THREE RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Independent Public Accountants

The Audit Committee has selected Ernst & Young LLP as the independent auditor of the Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2004, subject to ratification by stockholders at the Meeting. A representative of Ernst & Young is expected to be present at the Meeting to respond to appropriate questions and to make a statement if he so desires.

Audit Fees

The aggregate fees billed by Ernst & Young LLP for professional services rendered for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements for fiscal years 2003 and 2002, and the reviews of the financial statements included within the Company's Forms 10-Q during fiscal years 2003 and 2002, were approximately \$120,220 and \$105,669, respectively.

Audit-Related Fees

The aggregate fees billed by Ernst & Young LLP for assurance and related services that were reasonably related to the performance of the outside auditor's audit or review of the Company's financial statements for fiscal years 2003 and 2002 were approximately \$66,377 and \$54,172, respectively. The fees incurred during 2003 related to the preparation of a shelf registration statement on Form S-3 for the Company and a subsequent take-down financing from that registration statement. The fees incurred during 2002 related to several proposed financings by the Company.

Tax Fees

The aggregate fees billed by Ernst & Young LLP for professional services rendered for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning for the Company for fiscal years 2003 and 2002 were approximately \$35,311 and \$53,000, respectively. These amounts represent those billed for tax return preparation for the Company and its subsidiaries.

All Other Fees

The aggregate fees billed by Ernst & Young LLP for products and services provided other than those otherwise described above for fiscal years 2003 and 2002 were approximately \$15,540 and \$39,386, respectively. Services for such other fees included audits in connection with a federal grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Pre-Approval Policies

As contemplated by applicable law and as provided by the Audit Committee's charter, the Audit Committee is responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the Company's outside auditor. In connection with such responsibilities, the Audit Committee is required, and it is the Audit Committee's policy, to pre-approve the audit and permissible non-audit services (both the type and amount) performed by the Company's outside auditor in order to ensure that the provision of such services does not impair the auditor's independence, in appearance or fact.

Under the policy, unless a type of service to be provided by the outside auditor has received general pre-approval (which services are detailed in an appendix to the policy and periodically reassessed), it will require separate pre-approval by the Audit Committee. If fees for a proposed service of a type that has been pre-approved approach pre-determined fee triggers, the Audit Committee and the outside auditor must confer and the Audit Committee must grant its approval before further work may be performed.

For audit services (including the annual financial statement audit, required quarterly statement reviews, subsidiary audits, and other procedures required to be performed by the independent auditor to be able to form an opinion on the Company's consolidated financial statements), the outside auditor must provide to the Audit

Committee in advance an engagement letter, outlining the scope of audit services proposed to be performed with respect to the audit for that fiscal year and associated fees. If agreed to by the Audit Committee, the engagement letter is formally accepted by the committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

All permissible non-audit services not specifically approved in advance must be separately pre-approved by the Audit Committee, as noted above. Requests or applications to provide services must be in writing and include a description of the proposed services, the anticipated costs and fees, and the business reasons for engaging the outside auditor to perform the services. The request must also include a statement as to whether the request or application is consistent with applicable rules regarding auditor independence.

To ensure prompt handling of unexpected matters, the Audit Committee has delegated authority to pre-approve audit and permissible non-audit services between regularly scheduled meetings of the committee to its Chairman, who is responsible for reporting any pre-approval decisions to the Audit Committee at its next scheduled meeting. The Audit Committee has not and will not delegate to management of the Company the Audit Committee's responsibilities to pre-approve services performed by the outside auditor.

The Audit Committee pre-approved all audit and permissible non-audit services provided to the Company by the independent auditors during fiscal 2003.

Ratification

Stockholder ratification of the appointment of independent auditors is not required by the Company's By-laws or otherwise, but is being done as a matter of good corporate governance. If stockholders fail to ratify the selection, the Audit Committee will reconsider this selection. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee in its discretion may direct the appointment of a different independent auditing firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of Novavax and its stockholders.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of Common Stock present in person or represented by proxy at the Meeting and entitled to vote is required for the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors of the Company. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted as shares voting on such matter and accordingly will have no effect on the approval of Proposal Three.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT THE STOCKHOLDERS VOTE **FOR** THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP AS THE COMPANY'S INDEPENDENT AUDITORS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004.

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF COMMON STOCK

The following table sets forth information as of March 12, 2004 with respect to the beneficial ownership of shares of Common Stock by (i) each person known to the Company to beneficially own more than 5% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock, (ii) the current directors of the Company, (iii) the Chief Executive Officer and the other named executive officers of the Company during 2003 as identified in the Summary Compensation Table below, and (iv) all directors and executive officers of the Company as a group. Unless otherwise noted, the persons named in the table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of Common Stock shown as beneficially owned by them.

Beneficial Owner	Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned(1)	Percent of Class Outstanding
SJ Strategic Investments LLC 340 Edgemont Ave., Suite 500 Bristol, TN 37620	5,772,339(2)	16.6%
King Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 501 Fifth Street Bristol, Tennessee 37620	5,513,468(3)	13.8%
Mitchell J. Kelly c/o Anaconda Opportunity Fund, L.P. 730 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10019	2,445,101(4)	7.0%
Anaconda Opportunity Fund, L.P. 730 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10019	2,080,962(5)	6.0%
Gary C. Evans	170,500(6)	*
J. Michael Lazarus, M.D.	109,427(7)	*
John O. Marsh, Jr.	233,500(8)	*
Michael A. McManus, Jr.	112,500(9)	*
Denis M. O'Donnell, M.D.	642,519(10)	1.8%
Nelson M. Sims	0(11)	*
Ronald H. Walker	138,880(12)	*
Dennis W. Genge	173,067(13)	*
Ford R. Lynch	0(14)	*
D. Craig Wright, M.D.	445,150(15)	1.3%
Ann P. McGeehan	0(16)	*
All executive officers and directors, as a group (12 Persons)	4,470,644(17)	12.3%

* Less than 1% of the Common Stock outstanding.

- (1) In accordance with Rule 13d-3 of the Securities and Exchange Commission, a person is deemed to have beneficial ownership of securities that such person has the right to acquire within 60 days. For purposes of calculating percentage ownership, each person's holdings have been calculated assuming full exercise of outstanding options and warrants exercisable by such person within 60 days of March 12, 2004, but not the exercise of options or warrants held by any other person.
- (2) As reported on Schedule 13D dated February 18, 2003 and Form 4 dated February 27, 2003, each as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by SJ Strategic Investments LLC.
- (3) Includes 5,188,147 shares that may be acquired pursuant to the terms of four convertible notes and related agreements.
- (4) Includes 250,000 shares issuable upon the exercise of options. Also includes 2,080,962 shares (listed below) beneficially owned by Anaconda Opportunity Fund, L.P., of which Mitchell J. Kelly is the general partner of the general partner.

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- (5) Includes 2,080,962 shares owned by Anaconda Opportunity Fund, L.P. Excludes shares directly owned by Mitchell J. Kelly, the general partner of Anaconda Capital, L.P., the general partner of Anaconda Opportunity Fund, L.P.
- (6) Includes 82,500 shares issuable upon the exercise of options. Also includes 12,500 shares owned of record by Mr. Evans as trustee of the Evans 1997 Trust. Mr. Evans disclaims control or beneficial ownership of shares held by the Evans 1997 Trust.
- (7) Includes 97,500 shares issuable upon the exercise of options.
- (8) Includes 202,500 shares issuable upon the exercise of options.
- (9) Includes 82,500 shares issuable upon the exercise of options.
- (10) Includes 239,469 shares issuable upon the exercise of options and 2,000 shares owned of record by Dr. O Donnell as custodian for the benefit of his minor children.
- (11) Mr. Sims was granted options to purchase 900,000 shares of Common Stock on August 11, 2003, one-third of which are exercisable on the first three anniversaries of the date of grant.
- (12) Includes 132,500 shares issuable upon the exercise of options.
- (13) Includes 166,667 shares issuable upon the exercise of options.
- (14) Mr. Ford was granted options to purchase 175,000 shares of Common Stock on September 24, 2003, one-third of which are exercisable on the first three anniversaries of the date of grant.
- (15) Includes 393,524 shares issuable upon the exercise of options.
- (16) Options granted in 2002 and 2003 were cancelled following Ms. McGeehan's departure from the Company in October 2003.
- (17) Includes 1,647,160 shares issuable upon the exercise of options.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Summary of Compensation

The following table sets forth the cash and non-cash compensation paid during each of the last three fiscal years to each of the individuals who served as the Company's Chief Executive Officer during the last completed fiscal year, the four other most highly compensated individuals who were serving as executive officers of the Company at the end of the last completed fiscal year and who received compensation in excess of \$100,000 during fiscal 2003 for services provided to the Company, and one former executive officer (collectively, the Named Executive Officers).

Summary Compensation Table

Name and Principal Position	Year	Annual Compensation			Long Term Compensation Awards(1)	All Other Compensation(3)(\$)
		Salary (\$)	Bonus(\$)	Other Annual Compensation(2)	Securities Underlying Options(#)	
Nelson M. Sims(4)	2003	157,692			900,000	
President and Chief Executive Officer	2002					
	2001					
Mitchell J. Kelly(5)	2003	202,250			250,000	
President and Chief Executive Officer	2002	112,483				
	2001	10,200			15,000	
D. Craig Wright, M.D.	2003	248,400	62,744			1,715
Chief Scientific Officer	2002	225,867	11,223			2,309
	2001	204,149	56,666			2,256
Dennis W. Genge	2003	171,600	75,210		50,000	2,873
Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer	2002	165,000	75,000			2,374
	2001	159,663				