

VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC
Form DEF 14A
December 30, 2015
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant x

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant "

Check the appropriate box:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Proxy Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Definitive Proxy Statement | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Definitive Additional Materials | (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2)) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12 | |

VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS, 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):

x No fee required.

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Table of Contents

Varian Medical Systems, Inc.

3100 Hansen Way

Palo Alto, CA 94304

December 30, 2015

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend Varian Medical Systems, Inc.'s 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time at our headquarters at 3100 Hansen Way, Palo Alto, California 94304.

The Secretary's formal notice of the meeting and the Proxy Statement appear on the following pages and describe the matters to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting. You also will have the opportunity to hear what has happened in our business in the past year.

We hope that you can join us. However, whether or not you plan to be there, please vote your shares as soon as possible so that your vote will be counted.

Sincerely,

R. Andrew Eckert
Chairman of the Board

Table of Contents

Varian Medical Systems, Inc.

3100 Hansen Way

Palo Alto, CA 94304

December 30, 2015

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

AND PROXY STATEMENT

Varian Medical Systems, Inc. will hold its Annual Meeting of Stockholders on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time at its headquarters at 3100 Hansen Way, Palo Alto, California 94304.

This Annual Meeting is being held for the following purposes:

to elect three directors to serve until the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders;

to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers as described in the accompanying Proxy Statement;

to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2016; and

to transact any other business that properly comes before the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors has selected December 15, 2015 as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. A list of stockholders as of that date will be available for inspection during ordinary business hours at our principal executive offices at 3100 Hansen Way, Palo Alto, California 94304 for 10 days before the Annual Meeting.

Except for those stockholders that have already requested printed copies of our proxy materials, we are furnishing our proxy materials for this Annual Meeting to you through the Internet. On or about December 30, 2015, we mailed to stockholders as of the record date a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice"). Certain stockholders who previously requested email notice in lieu of mail received the Notice by email. If you received a Notice by mail or email, you will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials unless you specifically request one. Instead, the Notice instructs you on how to access and review all of the important information contained in our Proxy Statement and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 2, 2015 (which we posted on the Internet on December 30, 2015), as well as how to submit your proxy over the Internet. We believe that mailing or emailing the Notice and posting other materials on the Internet allows us to provide you with the information you need while lowering the costs of delivery and reducing the environmental impact of the Annual Meeting. If you received the Notice and would still like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials, you may request a printed copy of the proxy materials by any of the following methods: through the Internet at www.proxyvote.com; by telephone at 1-800-579-1639 or by sending an email to sendmaterial@proxyvote.com.

Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please vote your shares as soon as possible in accordance with the instructions provided to you to ensure that your vote is counted at the Annual Meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

John W. Kuo
Corporate Secretary

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>PROXY SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u>	5
<u>PROPOSAL ONE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>	10
<u>Our Board; Selection of Nominees</u>	10
<u>Nominees for Election for a One-Year Term Ending with the 2017 Annual Meeting</u>	11
<u>Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2017 Annual Meeting</u>	12
<u>Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2018 Annual Meeting</u>	14
<u>PROPOSAL TWO ADVISORY VOTE ON THE COMPENSATION OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>	24
<u>Background to the Advisory Vote</u>	24
<u>Varian's Key Executive Compensation Principles</u>	24
<u>Our Compensation Program</u>	24
<u>PROPOSAL THREE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	27
<u>Selection of the Accounting Firm</u>	27
<u>Policy on Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Permissible Non-Audit Services of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	27
<u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	27
<u>AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	29
<u>STOCK OWNERSHIP</u>	30
<u>Beneficial Ownership of Certain Stockholders, Directors and Executive Officers</u>	30
<u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u>	31
<u>COMPENSATION OF THE NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS</u>	32
<u>Compensation and Management Development Committee Report</u>	50
<u>Relationship between Compensation Plans and Risk</u>	50
<u>Summary Compensation Table</u>	52
<u>Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation</u>	65
<u>CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS</u>	66
<u>Review, Approval or Ratification of Related Person Transactions</u>	66
<u>Transactions with Related Persons</u>	66

Table of Contents

PROXY SUMMARY

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this Proxy Statement. This summary does not contain all of the information you should consider, and you should read the entire Proxy Statement carefully before voting.

Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Meeting Agenda

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016

Election of three directors

Time: 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time

Advisory vote on executive compensation

Place: 3100 Hansen Way
Palo Alto, California 94304

Ratification of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2016

Record Date: December 15, 2015

Voting: Stockholders as of the record date are entitled to vote. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote for each director nominee and one vote for each of the proposals to be voted on.

Transact any other business that properly comes before the Annual Meeting

Voting Matters and Vote Recommendation

Voting Matter

Board vote recommendation

1. Election of directors

For each director nominee

2. Advisory vote to approve executive compensation

For

3. Ratification of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2016

For

Table of Contents**Our Director Nominees**

See Proposal One Election of Directors for more information.

The following table provides summary information about each director nominee and our other Board members.

Name	Director		Occupation	Other public boards	Committee memberships				
	Age	since			AC	EC	CC	NC	EX
<u>Nominees for Election for a One-Year Term Ending with the 2017 Annual Meeting</u>									
R. Andrew Eckert (a) (b)	54	2004	CEO, Valence Health	0	M		M		C
Mark R. Laret (a)	61	2007	CEO, UCSF Medical Center	1			M	C	M
Erich R. Reinhardt (a)	69	2012	Former CEO & President, Siemens Healthcare	0		M		M	
<u>Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2017 Annual Meeting</u>									
Susan L. Bostrom (a)	55	2004	Former EVP, Chief Marketing Officer, Cisco Systems, Inc.	4			C		M
Regina E. Dugan (a)	52	2013	VP of Engineering, Google, Inc.	1		M			M
Venkatraman Thyagarajan (a)	69	2008	Former SVP, GlaxoSmithKline Asia Pacific	1	M		M		
Dow R. Wilson	56	2012	President & CEO, Varian Medical Systems, Inc.	0					
<u>Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2018 Annual Meeting</u>									
Timothy E. Guertin	66	2005	Former President & CEO, Varian Medical Systems, Inc.	1					
David J. Illingworth (a)	62	2011	Former CEO, Smith & Nephew plc	1	M	C			
Ruediger Naumann-Etienne (a) (b)	69	2003	Managing Director, Intertec Group	2	C	M			M

(a) Independent Director

AC Audit Committee

CC Compensation and Management Development Committee

EC Ethics and Compliance Committee

NC Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

(b) Audit Committee Financial Expert

EX Executive Committee

C Chair

M Member

Attendance

Each director nominee is a current director and all directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate of all fiscal year 2015 meetings of the Board and each committee on which he or she served, except for Mr. Laret, who attended 72% of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of the Board and each committee on which he served.

Table of Contents

Corporate Governance Highlights

We are committed to strong corporate governance and have adopted strong governance policies and practices that include:

- Establishing an Ethics and Compliance Committee to oversee our ethical compliance programs and activities involving legal and ethical business conduct;
- Adding three new independent directors to the Board since 2011;
- Declassifying our Board commencing with this Annual Meeting;
- Appointing an independent non-employee director as Chairman in fiscal year 2014 and separating the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since 2006;
- Having a majority of the Board members, and all members of our key Board committees, be independent;
- Having a majority voting policy;
- Adopting a guideline for director retirement and completing annual assessments of the Board and its committees;
- Adopting stock ownership guidelines for our directors and executive officers; and
- Reviewing at least annually the Company's business strategy and enterprise risk.

Executive Compensation Matters

See Proposal Two Advisory Vote on the Compensation of Our Named Executive Officers and Compensation of the Named Executive Officers and Directors for more information.

Executive compensation advisory vote

Our Board of Directors recommends that stockholders vote to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation paid to our Named Executive Officers, as described in this Proxy Statement, for the following reasons:

Business results

- Fiscal year 2015 revenues were \$3.1 billion, up 2%, or 6% on a constant currency basis, from fiscal year 2014.
- Net earnings per diluted share for fiscal year 2015 were \$4.09, up 7% from fiscal year 2014.
- Our total gross orders in fiscal year 2015 increased 3% over fiscal year 2014.
- Our backlog at the end of fiscal year 2015 was \$3.5 billion, 10% higher than at the end of fiscal year 2014.

Pay for performance

At the core of our executive compensation program is our pay for performance philosophy that links competitive levels of compensation to achievements of our overall strategy and business goals, as well as individual performance. We believe our compensation program is strongly aligned with the interests of our stockholders and sound corporate governance principles. See Compensation of the Named Executive Officers and Directors Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

Sound program design

We designed our executive officer compensation programs to attract, reward and retain the key executives who drive our business strategy; achieve our short- and long-term goals; and provide continued success for our customers, stockholders, employees and communities. We strive to pay competitively and appropriately based on Company, business unit and individual performance. We achieve our objectives through compensation that:

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

takes into account past performance, our growth targets and the high cost of living in the geographic location of our headquarters; structures variable cash compensation for executives so that a significant portion is at-risk, with 80% of the potential payout based on Company and business unit financial performance measures and 20% based on other measures, including non-financial qualitative measures; links a significant portion of total compensation to our stock performance so executives' interests are closely aligned with those of our stockholders; and provides incentives for our executives to work for long-term profitable growth that will ultimately enhance stockholder returns without exposing us to excessive risk.

Table of Contents***Best practices in executive compensation***

Our compensation programs for our Named Executive Officers incentivize superior individual and business performance and do not reward unnecessary or excessive risk taking. Our executive compensation programs contain many features considered to be best practices, including:

- an executive compensation recovery policy in the event that our financial statements require restatement as a result of executive misconduct;
- executive stock ownership guidelines;
- an insider trading policy prohibiting directors and executive officers from margining, pledging or hedging our common stock;
- a requirement that executives enter into 10b5-1 trading plans in order to sell shares of our common stock;
- limited executive perquisites and no tax gross-ups, including in connection with our change of control arrangements; and
- an equity incentive plan that prohibits the repricing of stock options without stockholder approval.

Auditors

See Proposal Three Ratification of the Appointment of Our Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm for more information.

We ask that our stockholders ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2016. Below is summary information about PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's fees for services provided in fiscal years 2015 and 2014.

Fiscal Year	2015	2014
Audit fees	\$ 3,790,233	\$ 4,114,946
Audit related fees	200,000	218,758
Tax fees	1,335,129	879,878
All other fees	15,800	15,800
Total	\$ 5,341,162	\$ 5,229,382

2017 Annual Meeting

Stockholder proposals submitted for inclusion in our 2017 proxy statement pursuant to SEC Rule 14a-8 must be received by us no later than September 1, 2016.

Notice of stockholder proposals to be raised from the floor of the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders outside of SEC Rule 14a-8 must be delivered to us no earlier than October 14, 2016 and no later than November 13, 2016.

Table of Contents

GENERAL INFORMATION

Q: Who is soliciting my proxy?

A: The Board of Directors (the Board) of Varian Medical Systems, Inc. (we, us or the Company) is sending you this Proxy Statement in connection with the Board's solicitation of proxies for use at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or any adjournment or postponement thereof (the Annual Meeting). Certain of our directors, officers and employees also may solicit proxies on the Board's behalf by mail, telephone, email or fax or in person. We have hired Georgeson Inc., 480 Washington Blvd., Jersey City, New Jersey 07310, to assist in soliciting proxies from brokers, bank nominees and other stockholders.

Q: Who is paying for this solicitation?

A: We will pay for the solicitation of proxies. Our directors, officers and employees will not receive additional remuneration. We expect that we will pay Georgeson Inc. not more than \$10,000, plus reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, and also will reimburse banks, brokers, custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable charges and expenses to forward our proxy materials to the beneficial owners of our common stock.

Q: What am I voting on?

A: You will be voting on three proposals. Proposal One is for the election of R. Andrew Eckert, Mark R. Laret and Erich R. Reinhardt to the Board for a one-year term ending at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Proposal Two is an advisory vote on the compensation of the executive officers listed in the Summary Compensation Table (the Named Executive Officers) as described in this Proxy Statement.

Proposal Three is the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2016.

Q: Who can vote?

A: Only our stockholders of record at the close of business on December 15, 2015 may vote. Each share of common stock outstanding on that date is entitled to one vote on all matters to come before the meeting.

Q: Why did I receive a one-page notice in the mail regarding the Internet availability of proxy materials this year instead of a full set of proxy materials?

A: Pursuant to rules adopted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), we have elected to provide access to our proxy materials (consisting of the Notice of Annual Meeting, this Proxy Statement and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 2, 2015, as filed with the SEC on November 25, 2015) over the Internet. Therefore, we are sending a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the Notice) to our stockholders. Starting on the date of distribution of the Notice, all stockholders will have the ability to access the proxy materials on the website referred to in the Notice or request a printed set of the proxy materials. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet or to request printed copies may be found in the Notice. If you request

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

printed versions of the proxy materials by mail, the materials will also include a proxy card or other voting instruction form.

Q: Can I receive proxy materials for future annual meetings by email rather than receiving a paper copy of the Notice?

A: If you are a holder of record, you may elect to receive the Notice or other future proxy materials by email by logging into www.proxyvote.com and entering your email address before you vote if you are voting by

Table of Contents

Internet or any time at www.computershare.com/investor or <http://enroll.icsdelivery.com/var>. If your shares are registered in street name, please check with your broker, bank or other nominee about how to receive future proxy materials by email, or enroll at <http://enroll.icsdelivery.com/var>. If you choose to receive proxy materials by email, next year you will receive an email with instructions on how to view those materials and vote before the next annual meeting. Your choice to obtain documents by email will remain in effect until you notify us otherwise. Delivering future notices by email will help us further reduce the cost and environmental impact of our stockholder meetings.

Q: What is the difference between a stockholder of record and a street name holder?

A: If your shares are registered directly in your name with Computershare Trust Company, N.A., our stock transfer agent, you are considered the stockholder of record for those shares.

If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank or other nominee, you are considered the beneficial owner of the shares and your shares are said to be held in street name. Street name holders generally cannot vote their shares directly and must instead instruct the broker, bank or other nominee how to vote their shares using the method described under How do I vote and how do I revoke my proxy? below.

Q: How do I vote and how do I revoke my proxy?

A: If you hold your shares in your own name as a stockholder of record, you may vote your shares either in person at the meeting or by proxy. To vote in person, please bring a form of identification, such as a valid driver's license or passport, and proof that you were a stockholder as of December 15, 2015, and we will give you a ballot when you arrive. To vote by proxy, please vote in one of the following ways:

Via the Internet. You may vote through the Internet at www.proxyvote.com by following the instructions provided in the Notice.

Via Telephone. If you received your proxy materials or request printed copies by mail, stockholders located in the United States may vote by calling the toll-free number found on the proxy card.

Via Mail. If you received your proxy materials or request printed copies by mail, you may vote by mail by marking, dating, signing and mailing the proxy card in the envelope provided.

Voting by proxy will not affect your right to vote your shares if you attend the Annual Meeting and want to vote in person by voting in person you automatically revoke your proxy. You also may revoke your proxy at any time before the applicable voting deadline by giving our Secretary written notice of your revocation, by submitting a later-dated proxy card or by voting again using the telephone or Internet (your latest telephone or Internet proxy is the one that will be counted).

If you vote by proxy, the individuals named as proxyholders will vote your shares as you instruct. If you vote your shares over the telephone, you must select a voting option (For or Withhold (for directors) and For, Against or Abstain (for Proposals Two and Three)) in order for your proxy to be counted on that matter. If you validly vote your shares over the Internet or by mail but do not provide any voting instructions, the individuals named as proxyholders will vote your shares **FOR** all directors and **FOR** all proposals. In that case, the proxyholders will have full discretion and authority to vote in the election of directors and to allocate votes among any or all of the nominees for director in any order they determine.

If your shares are registered in street name, you must vote your shares in the manner prescribed by your broker, bank or other nominee. In most instances, you can do this over the telephone or Internet, or if you have received or request a hard copy of the proxy statement and accompanying voting instruction form, you may mark, sign, date and mail your voting instruction form in the envelope your broker, bank or other nominee provides. The materials that were sent to you have specific instructions for how to submit your

Table of Contents

vote and the deadline for doing so. If you would like to revoke your proxy, you must follow the broker, bank or other nominee's instructions on how to do so. If you wish to vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you must obtain a legal proxy from the broker, bank or other nominee holding your shares.

Q: What is the deadline for submitting a proxy?

A: Telephone and Internet voting facilities for stockholders of record will be available 24 hours a day. In order to be counted, proxies submitted by telephone or the Internet must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 10, 2016. Proxies submitted by mail must be received prior to the start of the Annual Meeting.

Q: What constitutes a quorum?

A: On the record date, we had 95,995,729 shares of common stock, \$1.00 par value, outstanding. Voting can take place at the Annual Meeting only if stockholders owning a majority of the issued and outstanding stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting are present in person or represented by proxy.

Q: What are abstentions and broker non-votes and how do they affect voting?

A: *Abstentions* If you specify that you wish to abstain from voting on an item, your shares will not be voted on that particular item. Abstentions are counted toward establishing a quorum and included in the shares entitled to vote on Proposals Two and Three. On Proposals Two and Three, abstentions have the effect of a vote against the proposal.

Broker Non-Votes Under the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) rules, if your broker holds your shares in its name and does not receive voting instructions from you, your broker has discretion to vote these shares on certain routine matters, including the ratification of the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm. However, on non-routine matters such as the election of directors and Proposal Two, your broker must receive voting instructions from you, as your broker does not have discretionary voting power for that particular item. So long as the broker has discretion to vote on at least one proposal, these broker non-votes are counted toward establishing a quorum. When voted on routine matters, broker non-votes are counted toward determining the outcome of that routine matter.

Q: What vote is needed?

A: For Proposal One, the election of directors, the three nominees receiving the highest number of votes of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote on Proposal One will be elected as directors. As a result, if you withhold your authority to vote for any nominee, your vote will not affect the outcome of the election.

For Proposals Two and Three, an affirmative vote of the majority of shares present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote on the relevant proposal is required to approve those proposals.

Because your vote on Proposal Two is advisory, it will not bind the Board or the Compensation and Management Development Committee (the Compensation Committee). However, the Board and the Compensation Committee will review the voting results and take the results into consideration in making future determinations on executive compensation.

Q: What happens if a director receives a plurality, but not a majority, of votes cast at the Annual Meeting?

A: In an uncontested election, if a nominee for director who is an incumbent director is elected by a plurality of the votes cast but does not receive the vote of at least the majority of the votes cast (*i.e.*, the number of

Table of Contents

shares voted for a director's election does not exceed 50% of the total number of votes cast with respect to that director's election, including votes to withhold authority), the director is deemed elected but is obligated to offer his or her resignation to the Board. Following submission of the offer of resignation, the Board, after considering relevant factors, including the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (the Nominating Committee), will decide whether or not to accept the offer of resignation and thereafter publicly disclose its decision. If a director's offer of resignation is not accepted by the Board, the director will continue to serve until his or her successor is duly elected, or his or her earlier resignation or removal. If a director's offer of resignation is accepted by the Board, then the Board, in its sole discretion, may fill any resulting vacancy or decrease the size of the Board pursuant to the provisions of our By-Laws.

Q: Can I vote on other matters?

A: You are entitled to vote on any other matters that are properly brought before the Annual Meeting. Our By-Laws limit the business conducted at any annual meeting to (1) business in the notice of the annual meeting, (2) business directed by the Board and (3) business brought by a stockholder of record entitled to vote at the meeting so long as the stockholder has met the requirements for submitting stockholder proposals provided in our By-Laws. Under our By-Laws, a stockholder must notify our Secretary in writing (at our Palo Alto, California headquarters) of the proposal not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days before the anniversary of the prior year's annual meeting, which for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders will be no earlier than October 14, 2016 and no later than November 13, 2016. The notice must give a brief description of the business to be brought before the annual meeting, the reasons for conducting the business and the text of the proposal, as well as the name and address of the stockholder giving the notice and the beneficial owner on whose behalf the proposal is made, the number of shares owned and information about that beneficial ownership, all as detailed in our By-Laws. The notice must also describe any material interest the stockholder or beneficial owner has in the business and arrangements between such stockholder or beneficial owner and any other person in connection with the proposal and must include certain representations, all as detailed in our By-Laws.

To have your stockholder proposal be considered for presentation in the proxy statement and proxy card for our 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, rather than just voted upon at the meeting without inclusion in the proxy statement and proxy card, a stockholder must submit to our Secretary (at our Palo Alto, California headquarters) a written proposal no later than September 1, 2016. The submission must contain the information required under Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act).

We do not expect any matters other than those listed in this Proxy Statement to come before the Annual Meeting. If any other matter is presented, your proxy gives the individuals named as proxyholders the authority to vote your shares to the extent authorized by Rule 14a-4(c) under the Exchange Act, which includes matters that the proxyholders did not know were to be presented at least 90 days before the anniversary of the mailing of last year's proxy statement.

Q: How do I suggest potential candidates for director positions?

A: A stockholder may suggest one or more potential candidates for consideration by the Board as nominees for election as one of our directors at an annual meeting of stockholders. This can be done by notifying our Corporate Secretary in writing (at our Palo Alto, California headquarters) not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days before the anniversary of the prior year's annual meeting, which for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders will be no earlier than October 14, 2016 and no later than November 13, 2016. The notice must include all information about the potential candidate that must be disclosed in proxy solicitations pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Exchange Act (including the potential candidate's written consent to being named as a nominee and serving as a director) and a description of all material monetary agreements during the past three years and any other material relationships, between such stockholder and a beneficial owner on whose behalf the potential candidacy is made and their affiliates and associates, or others acting in

Table of Contents

concert, on the one hand, and each potential candidate, and his/her affiliates and associates, or others acting in concert, on the other hand, including all information that would be required to be disclosed pursuant to Item 404 under Regulation S-K if the stockholder were a registrant, all as described in our By-Laws. The notice must also include certain additional information about and representations by the stockholder and/or the beneficial owner, all as detailed in our By-Laws.

Q: How does the Board select nominees for election to the Board?

A: The Nominating Committee will consider potential candidates for directors submitted by stockholders, in addition to those suggested by other Board members and members of our management, and does not evaluate potential candidates differently based upon the source of the potential candidate. The Nominating Committee considers and evaluates each properly submitted potential candidate for director in an effort to achieve a balance of skills and characteristics on the Board, as well as to ensure that the composition of the Board at all times adheres to the independence requirements applicable to NYSE-listed companies and other regulatory requirements applicable to us. Please refer to Proposal One Election of Directors and our Corporate Governance Guidelines for additional details on our policy, process and membership criteria. A stockholder may recommend potential candidates for director by notifying our Corporate Secretary in writing (at our Palo Alto, California headquarters) as detailed in the question and answer above.

Q: How may I communicate with the Board of Directors?

A: Stockholders and other interested parties may communicate directly with the Board, the Board's Chairman or any other director or with the independent directors as a group or any other group of directors through the Board's Chairman by sending an email to *lead.director@varian.com*. Messages received will be forwarded to the appropriate director or directors.

Q: When and where is the Annual Meeting being held?

A: The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time at our headquarters at 3100 Hansen Way, Palo Alto, California 94304. If you need directions to the Annual Meeting so that you may attend or vote in person, please contact our Investor Relations department at *investors@varian.com*.

Q: How can I find the results of the Annual Meeting?

A: Preliminary results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Final results also will be published in a Current Report on Form 8-K to be filed with the SEC within four business days after the Annual Meeting. If the official results are not available at that time, we will provide preliminary voting results in the Form 8-K and will provide the final results in an amendment to the Form 8-K as soon as they become available.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL ONE

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

BOARD RECOMMENDATION

VOTE FOR EACH OF THE NOMINEES

Our Board; Selection of Nominees

Our Board currently is divided into three classes serving staggered three-year terms. However, commencing with this Annual Meeting, our directors will be elected for one-year terms. Therefore, at this Annual Meeting, you and the other stockholders will elect three individuals to serve as directors for one-year terms that end at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Directors elected by stockholders prior to this Annual Meeting will serve out their three-year terms, and the entire Board will be elected annually commencing with the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Our Nominating Committee is charged with identifying, evaluating and recommending to the full Board director nominees. There are no minimum qualifications for directors. The Nominating Committee generally seeks individuals who have or provide:

Knowledge about our industries and technologies.

Experience in industries beyond healthcare;

International business experience;

Cultural, gender, ethnic or age diversity;

Experience in financial oversight and with the financial community, and a strong reputation with the financial community;

Experience in business management and the potential to succeed top management in the event of unexpected necessary Board intervention;

Broad experience at policy making level in business, government, education, technology or public interest; or

Business contacts, knowledge or influence useful to our business and product lines.

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

We believe that all of our directors should be committed to enhancing stockholder value and should have sufficient time to carry out their duties and to provide insight and practical wisdom based on experience. Their service on other boards of public companies should be limited to a number that permits them, given their individual circumstances, to perform and carry out all director duties in a responsible manner. Each director must also represent the interests of all stockholders.

When seeking new director candidates, the Nominating Committee will consider potential candidates for directors submitted by Board members, members of our management and our stockholders. The Nominating Committee does not evaluate candidates differently based upon the source of the nominee.

All of the nominees, R. Andrew Eckert, Mark R. Laret and Erich R. Reinhardt, are now members of the Board.

The individuals named as proxyholders will vote your proxy for the election of the three nominees unless you direct them to withhold your vote. If any nominee becomes unable to serve as a director before the Annual Meeting (or decides not to serve), the individuals named as proxyholders may vote for a substitute.

Set forth below are the names and ages of these nominees and the other continuing directors, the years they became directors, their principal occupations or employment for at least the past five years, the names of other

Table of Contents

public companies for which they serve as a director or have served as a director during the past five years. Also set forth are the specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that led our Nominating Committee to conclude that each person should serve as a director. All of our directors have held high-level positions in companies and have experience in dealing with complex issues. We believe that each is an individual of high character and integrity and has the ability to exercise sound judgment.

Nominees for Election for a One-Year Term Ending with the 2017 Annual Meeting

R. Andrew Eckert

Principal occupation, business experience and directorships

Age: 54 Chief Executive Officer, Valence Health, a healthcare solutions company (August 2015 present)

Director Since: 2004 Chief Executive Officer, TriZetto Corporation, a healthcare IT solutions firm (March 2014 November 2014)

Chairman Since: 2014 Chief Executive Officer, CRC Health Corporation, a provider of substance abuse treatment and adolescent youth services (January 2011 March 2014)

Independent Managing Director, Symphony Technology Group, a private equity firm (October 2009 January 2011)

President and Chief Executive Officer, Eclipsys Corporation, a former publicly traded healthcare information management software provider (October 2005 May 2009)

Chief Executive Officer, SumTotal Systems, Inc., an enterprise software provider (2004 2005)

Chief Executive Officer, Docent Inc., an enterprise software provider that was acquired by SumTotal Systems (2002 2004)

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, ADAC Laboratories, a former publicly traded medical imaging company (1997 2001)

Experience, qualifications, attributes or skills supporting directorship

Extensive experience obtained over 15 years serving as an executive officer of several public companies, including a medical imaging company and healthcare information management company;

Deep knowledge of operational, financial, strategic planning, product development and marketing matters; and

Experience serving on the board of directors of several public companies in the healthcare industry.

Mark R. Laret

Principal occupation, business experience and directorships

Age: 61 Chief Executive Officer, University of California, San Francisco Medical Center (April 2000 Present)

Director Since: 2007 Chief Executive Officer, University of California, Irvine Medical Center (1995 March 2000)

Independent

Other Current Public Company Board Memberships: Nuance Communications, Inc., a provider of voice and language solutions.

Experience, qualifications, attributes or skills supporting directorship

In-depth knowledge of the healthcare industry, hospital operations and managed care industry;

Experience in strategic planning, finance, financial management of hospital and physician practice, medical education and clinical research, and business turnaround through service as chief executive officer of leading medical institutions; and

Experience serving on the board of directors of another public company in the technology sector.

Table of Contents

Erich R. Reinhardt

Principal occupation, business experience and directorships

Age: 69

Advisor to the Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG, a global technology company (May 2008 - March 2011)

Director Since: 2012

President and Chief Executive Officer, Siemens Healthcare, formerly Siemens Medical Solutions, a supplier to the healthcare industry (1994 - April 2008)

Independent

Member of Managing Board, Siemens AG (2001 - 2008)

Experience, qualifications, attributes or skills supporting directorship

Extensive experience in medical device and healthcare industry;

Significant operational and international experience through service as a manager and executive in a leading international healthcare company; and

Experience serving on board of directors of private healthcare companies, a hospital and a research institute in Germany

Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2017 Annual Meeting

Susan L. Bostrom

Principal occupation, business experience and directorships

Age: 55

Positions at Cisco Systems, Inc., a networking equipment provider:

Director Since: 2004

Executive Vice President, Chief Marketing Officer, Worldwide Government Affairs (January 2006 - January 2011)

Independent

Senior Vice President (February 2000 - January 2006), taking on responsibility for Worldwide Government Affairs in October 2002 and becoming Chief Marketing Officer in January 2006

Vice President, Internet Business Solutions Group (1998 - February 2000)

Other Current Public Company Board Memberships: Cadence Design Systems, Inc., an electronic design company; Marketo, Inc., a marketing automation SaaS company; Rocket Fuel Inc., a provider of artificial intelligence advertising solutions; and ServiceNow, Inc., an enterprise IT cloud company.

Experience, qualifications, attributes or skills supporting directorship

Extensive experience and service in leadership roles at one of the world's leading technology companies;

Deep knowledge of marketing, government affairs, public policy and developing trends in networking and new media such as virtual collaboration, social media and information exchanges; and

Experience serving on the boards of directors and/or as a member of the compensation, nominating and corporate governance, strategy and IT committees of several public technology companies, a hospital, a university and a private company, and on the advisory board for two educational institutions.

Regina E. Dugan

Principal occupation, business experience and directorships

Age: 52

Vice President of Engineering, Google Inc., a global technology company, leading the Advanced Technology and Products group (a group charged with breakthrough innovations in mobile computing and accelerating the development of promising technologies to market) (February 2014 Present)

Director Since: 2013

Independent

Senior Vice President, Google Inc. and Motorola Mobility LLC, a mobile technology company Google acquired in May 2012 (March 2012 February 2014)

Table of Contents

Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), a research and development organization of the U.S. Department of Defense (July 2009 - March 2012)

Co-Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer, RedXDefense LLC, a security solutions company (2005 - July 2009)

Co-Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer, Dugan Ventures, an investment firm (currently a non-voting partner) (2001 - July 2009)

Other Current Public Company Board Memberships: Zynga Inc., a social game developer.

Experience, qualifications, attributes or skills supporting directorship

Experience leading DARPA, the principal agency within the U.S. Department of Defense for research, development and demonstration of high-risk, high-payoff capabilities;

Familiarity with defense, security and commercial industries;

Expertise with a wide range of advanced technologies and demonstrated track record in moving to use new technologies, from sensor systems to big data products;

Years of experience serving in senior executive positions with responsibilities including fostering innovation and developing strategic business relationships across diverse industries and commercial entities large and small; and

Experience serving on the board of another public company.

Venkatraman Thyagarajan

Age: 69

Director Since: 2008

Independent

Principal occupation, business experience and directorships

Senior Vice President and Area Director, GlaxoSmithKline Asia Pacific, a global pharmaceutical company (January 2003 - April 2008)

Vice President for South Asia, GlaxoSmithKline Asia Pacific and Managing Director, GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd., an Indian pharmaceutical company (January 2001 - December 2002)

Other Current Public Company Board Memberships: Tata Consultancy Services Ltd., an India-based global leader in IT services, digital and business solutions.

Public Company Board Memberships in Past Five Years: Vice Chairman, GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd., India, a pharmaceuticals company publicly listed in India.

Experience, qualifications, attributes or skills supporting directorship

Extensive knowledge of the global healthcare industry gained from working for over four decades in different parts of the world, including Europe, Asia Pacific, India, the Middle East and Africa;

Significant operational, financial, marketing and senior management experience in one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies; and

Experience serving on the board and on committees of other public companies.

Dow R. Wilson

Principal occupation, business experience and directorships

Age: 56

Positions at the Company:

Director Since: 2012

President and Chief Executive Officer (September 2012 - Present)

Corporate Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (October 2011 - September 2012)

Corporate Executive Vice President and President, Oncology Systems (August 2005 - September 2011)

Corporate Vice President and President, Oncology Systems (January 2005 - August 2005)

Table of Contents

Prior to joining the Company in January 2005, held various senior management positions within General Electric Company, a diversified industrial company

Public Company Board Memberships in Past Five Years: Saba Software, an e-learning software provider.

Presidential Appointment: Appointed to U.S. President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa in November 2014.

Experience, qualifications, attributes or skills supporting directorship

Deep knowledge of our business, strategy and technology gained through serving as President of our Oncology Systems business and Chief Operating Officer before becoming our President and Chief Executive Officer;

Significant knowledge of domestic and international medical and healthcare industries gained from serving in management positions at General Electric;

Critical insight into operational requirements of a company with worldwide reach, knowledge of corporate and business unit strategies, and operational expertise, each gained from executive management experience at two large, global organizations; and

Experience serving on the board of directors and as lead director of another public company.

Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2018 Annual Meeting

Timothy E. Guertin

Principal occupation, business experience and directorships

Age: 66

Positions at the Company:

Director Since: 2005

Chief Executive Officer (February 2006 - September 2012)

Vice Chairman Since: 2012

President (August 2005 - September 2012)

Chief Operating Officer (October 2004 - February 2006)

Corporate Executive Vice President (October 2002 - August 2005)

President, Oncology Systems (1992 - January 2005)

Corporate Vice President (1992 - 2002)

Other Current Public Company Board Memberships: Teradyne, Inc., a supplier of automatic test equipment.

Experience, qualifications, attributes or skills supporting directorship

Deep knowledge of our management structure, strategy and users of our technology, which he has gained over more than 30 years with the Company;

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

Extensive knowledge of radiation producing technologies, software controls and safety measures gained through service in various leadership roles, including President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company and President of our Oncology Systems business

Broad experience in product development, regulatory, marketing, financial and operational matters;

Service on the board of directors of a public company; a medical technology company; several medical, healthcare and technology industry organizations and as a former director and chairman of the board of directors of TechAmerica (a nationwide technology trade association); and

Service on the board of trustees and as treasurer of the Radiation Oncology Institute (ROI, a non-profit organization engaged in cancer treatment research).

Table of Contents

David J. Illingworth

Principal occupation, business experience and directorships

Age: 62 Chief Executive Officer, Smith & Nephew plc, a medical devices company (July 2007 April 2011)

Director Since: 2011 Chief Operating Officer and Division President, Smith & Nephew plc (2002 July 2007)

Independent Other Senior Management Experience: President, XL Vision, Inc.; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, VidaMed, Inc.; President, Nellcor Puritan Bennett LLC; and Managing Director, Asia/Pacific, GE Medical Systems.

Other Current Public Company Board Memberships: Domtar, Inc., a manufacturer of fiber-based products.

Public Company Board Memberships in Past Five Years: Smith & Nephew plc.

Experience, qualifications, attributes or skills supporting directorship

In-depth knowledge of the medical technology industry;

Extensive experience in sales, operations and general management in the United States, United Kingdom and Asia through his service as an executive of various medical technology companies; and

Service on the board of directors and as a member of the audit committee and the environmental, health, safety and sustainability committee, of another public medical device company.

Ruediger Naumann-Etienne

Principal occupation, business experience and directorships

Age: 69 Owner and Managing Director, Intertec Group, an investment company specializing in the medical technology field (1989 present)

Director Since: 2003 Chairman of the Board of Directors, Cardiac Science Corporation, a provider of cardiology products (2006 2010)

Independent

Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, Cardiac Science Corporation (2005 2006)

Chairman of Quinton Cardiology Systems, a predecessor Cardiac Science Corporation (2000 2005)

Chairman of the Board of Directors, OEC Medical Systems, a provider of interoperative imaging solutions, acquired by General Electric Company (1993 1999)

Other Current Public Company Board Memberships: Encision Inc., a provider of laparoscopic surgery instruments; and IRIDEX Corporation, a provider of light-based medical systems and delivery devices.

Public Company Board Memberships in Past Five Years: Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.

Experience, qualifications, attributes or skills supporting directorship

Experience working in the medical device business for nearly three decades;

Experience working in senior business and finance executive roles with a leading electronics company for a decade;

Extensive experience with finance and mergers and acquisitions;

International experience, having lived and worked in Europe and Latin America, and gained fluency in four languages; and

Service as Chief Executive Director, Chairman or director, and a member of the audit, nominating and compensation committees, of a number of public medical device companies.

Table of Contents

Director Qualifications Matrix

The following matrix is provided to illustrate the skills and qualifications of our Board, as tied to our corporate strategic objectives, and demonstrate our commitment to inclusiveness and diversity.

Governance of the Corporation

Overview

We are committed to strong corporate governance, and have adopted policies and practices that comply with or exceed the NYSE listing requirements and the Exchange Act. These policies and practices include:

Ethical Conduct and Strong Governance

The Board's Ethics and Compliance Committee (the Ethics Committee) oversees our ethical compliance programs and compliance with requirements involving legal and ethical business conduct.

The Board's Corporate Governance Guidelines articulate clear corporate governance policies, which include basic director duties and responsibilities.

The Board has adopted a Code of Conduct applicable to all of our employees, including the executive officers, and to our directors.

Table of Contents

We have hotlines for employees to report concerns regarding ethics and financial matters, including accounting, internal controls and audit concerns, and the Audit Committee has established procedures for anonymous submission of these matters.

The Board has adopted a policy regarding conflicts of interest and related-person transactions under which potential conflicts of interest and related-person transactions must be reviewed and pre-approved by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee has determined that certain categories of transactions are pre-approved under this policy. Please refer to the discussion under [Certain Relationships and Related Transactions](#) for more information on this policy and the related procedures.

Directors are expected to attend all stockholder meetings, and all current directors attended our 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

The Board conducts an annual assessment on its effectiveness and the effectiveness of each of its committees.

The Board encourages director continuing education through a mix of in-house and third-party presentations and programs. The Nominating Committee is charged with tracking director continuing education. We pay or reimburse directors for expenses associated with attending these continuing education events.

We did not renew our stockholders' rights plan when it expired in December 2008.

Director Independence

In fiscal year 2014, the Board appointed an independent non-employee director as Chairman, and since 2006 we have separated the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Eckert served in the capacity of lead independent director from February 2012 to February 2014 and has served as Chairman since February 2014.

A majority of the Board members are independent of the Company and our management. The definition of independent is included in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, which can be found through the [Corporate Governance](#) link on the Investors page on our website at www.varian.com.

All members of our key Board committees—the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Nominating Committee—are independent.

Majority Voting

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines include a policy under which an incumbent director in an uncontested election who is elected by a plurality but does not receive the majority of the votes cast is obligated to offer his or her resignation to the Board.

Board Structure

We are in the process of declassifying our Board. Commencing with this Annual Meeting, directors standing for election will be elected for one-year terms and our entire Board will be elected annually commencing with the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

The Board has since August 2011 added three new independent directors to the Board, including most recently Ms. Dugan, and has a commitment to inclusiveness and diversity.

The Board has adopted a guideline for director retirement that provides that a director should not serve on the Board for more than 15 years or after a director reaches the age of about 75. This guideline may be adjusted as the Board deems appropriate.

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines contain committee rotation guidelines that recommend adding a new member to each committee every three years.

Table of Contents

The annual cycle of agenda items for Board and committee meetings reflects Board and committee requests and changing business and legal issues. The Board receives regularly scheduled presentations from our finance, legal and compliance departments and major business units and operations, and reviews enterprise risk at least annually. The Board's and committees' annual agenda includes, among other items, our long-term strategic plans, periodic reports on progress against long-term strategic plans, emerging and disruptive technologies, potential acquisition or investment targets, capital projects and evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer and management and Board succession.

Director & Executive Compensation

The Board has adopted stock ownership guidelines for our directors and executive officers. For directors, the stock ownership guidelines are tied to a multiple of the directors' annual retainer fee. In 2015, we shifted compensation away from equity compensation to cash compensation, which had the effect of increasing the minimum ownership threshold.

The Board has adopted a recoupment policy to recover certain incentive payments made to executives in the event of a restatement of our financial statements.

The Board has eliminated certain perquisites for executives, including the Executive Car Program and tax gross-ups, as further described in Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

Director Independence

The Board has determined that Ms. Bostrom, Ms. Dugan, Mr. Eckert, Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Laret, Mr. Naumann-Etienne, Mr. Reinhardt and Mr. Thyagarajan are independent for purposes of the NYSE listing requirements and under our Corporate Governance Guidelines. Mr. Wilson, our President and Chief Executive Officer, is an employee and therefore not independent. Mr. Guertin, our Vice Chairman, was an employee until February 2013 and is therefore not independent. The Board considered transactions and relationships, both direct and indirect, between each director (and his or her immediate family) and the Company and its subsidiaries and affirmatively determined that none of Ms. Bostrom, Ms. Dugan, Mr. Eckert, Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Laret, Mr. Naumann-Etienne, Mr. Reinhardt or Mr. Thyagarajan has any material relationship, either direct or indirect, with us other than as a director and stockholder.

Additionally, in making its determination the Board analyzed the following relationships and determined that these relationships are immaterial and are not inconsistent with a determination that these directors are independent for purposes of the NYSE listing requirements and under our Corporate Governance Guidelines:

Ms. Bostrom serves as an outside director of a hospital and a university that are customers of ours, and as an outside director of one of our service providers.

Mr. Eckert serves as an outside director of a company from whom we are licensing and with whom we are developing certain technology.

Mr. Laret is the Chief Executive Officer of UCSF Medical Center, which is a customer of ours and with whom we have a research agreement. We have also made charitable donations to UCSF Medical Center and the Regents of the University of California in the past.

Board Meetings

The Board met eight times in fiscal year 2015. Four of these Board meetings included executive sessions of either the independent directors or the non-management directors, or both, with Mr. Eckert presiding at such meetings. We have five standing committees of the Board: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Executive Committee. Each current director attended at least 75% of the total Board meetings and meetings of the committees on which they served that were held in fiscal year 2015, except for Mr. Laret, who attended 72% of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of the

Table of Contents

Board and each committee on which he served. Directors are encouraged to attend meetings of committees on which they do not serve as members. However, each of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Nominating Committee regularly hold executive sessions of only the committee members or non-management directors.

Board Leadership Structure

The Board has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines designed to promote the functioning of the Board and its committees. These Guidelines address Board composition, Board functions and responsibilities, qualifications, leadership structure, committees and meetings.

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines do not indicate a particular Board structure, and the Board is given the flexibility to select its Chairman and our Chief Executive Officer in the manner that it believes is in the best interests of our stockholders. Accordingly, the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer may be filled by one individual or two. The Board has determined that having Mr. Eckert, who is independent within the meaning of the NYSE listing standards, serve as Chairman and Mr. Wilson serve as Chief Executive Officer is in the best interests of the stockholders. We have separated the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman in recognition of the differences between the two roles as they are presently defined. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for setting our strategic direction and for our day-to-day leadership and performance, while the Chairman provides guidance to the Chief Executive Officer and leads the Board. The Board believes its administration of its risk oversight function has not affected the Board's leadership structure.

Director Stock Ownership Guidelines

To align the Board's interests with the interests of our stockholders, the Board has adopted stock ownership guidelines for its members. The guidelines state that each director should own shares of common stock (including Deferred Stock Units) with a value at least equal to five times his or her applicable annual retainer fee. Directors who were first appointed or elected to the Board after February 2004 must achieve the guideline within five years after such appointment or election. At the end of fiscal year 2015, all directors met the guidelines or were within the allowed time frame for meeting the guidelines. Under our insider trading policy, purchases on margin and the buying and selling of puts and calls of Company securities are prohibited.

The Board's Role in Risk Oversight

Our Company faces a number of risks, including operational, economic, financial, legal, regulatory and competitive risks. Our management is responsible for the day-to-day management of the risks we face. While our Board, as a whole, has ultimate responsibility for the oversight of risk management, it administers its risk oversight role in part through the Board committee structure, with the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Ethics Committee and Nominating Committee responsible for monitoring and reporting on the material risks associated with their respective subject matter areas.

The Board's role in our risk oversight process includes receiving regular reports from members of senior management, as well as external advisors such as Frederic W. Cook, & Co., Inc. (FWC) and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), on areas of material risk to us, including operational, economic, financial, legal, regulatory and competitive risks. The full Board (or the appropriate committee in the case of risks that are reviewed by a particular committee) receives these reports from those responsible for the relevant risk in order to enable it to understand our risk exposures and the steps that management has taken to monitor and control these exposures. When a committee receives the report, the Chairman of the relevant committee generally provides a summary to the full Board at the next Board meeting. This enables the Board and its committees to coordinate the risk oversight role. The Audit Committee assists the Board in oversight and monitoring of principal risk exposures related to financial statements, legal, regulatory and other matters, as well as related mitigation efforts. The Compensation Committee assesses, at least annually, the risks associated with our

Table of Contents

compensation policies. See also Compensation of the Named Executive Officers and Directors Relationship Between Compensation Plans and Risk. The Ethics Committee assists the Board in oversight and monitoring of principal risks related to ethical compliance matters, such as compliance with anti-corruption and anti-bribery laws, as well as related mitigation efforts. The Nominating Committee assists the Board in oversight of risks that we have relative to compliance with corporate governance standards.

Board Committees and Committee Meetings

Each of our standing committees has a written charter approved by the Board that clearly establishes the committee's roles and responsibilities. Copies of the charters for the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Executive Committee and the Nominating Committee, as well as our Corporate Governance Guidelines and Code of Conduct, can be found through the Corporate Governance link on the Investors page on our website at www.varian.com. Please note that information on, or that can be accessed through, our website is not part of the proxy soliciting materials, is not deemed filed with the SEC and is not to be incorporated by reference into any of our filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, and, except for information filed by the Company under the cover of Schedule 14A, is not deemed to be proxy soliciting materials.

Audit Committee

Chair: Mr. Naumann-Etienne

Additional Members: Mr. Eckert, Mr. Illingworth and Mr. Thyagarajan

Meetings in Fiscal Year 2015: 12

Functions

The Audit Committee performs the following principal functions:

Oversees our accounting and financial reporting process and audits of financial statements.

Assists the Board in oversight and monitoring of (i) the integrity of our financial statements, (ii) our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, (iii) the independent registered public accounting firm's qualifications and independence, (iv) the performance of our internal audit function and of the independent registered public accounting firm and (v) the principal risk exposures facing the corporation that are related to financial statements, legal, regulatory and other similar matters, as well as the corporation's related mitigation efforts.

Prepares the Audit Committee Report included in our proxy statement.

Reviews and approves our foreign exchange exposure management policy, including but not limited to entering swaps thereunder and the exemption of swaps from any execution and clearing requirements.

Reports to the Board the results of its monitoring and recommendations.

Provides to the Board any additional information and materials as the committee may determine is necessary to make the Board aware of significant financial matters requiring the Board's attention.

Member Qualifications

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

Each member of the Audit Committee meets the additional requirements regarding independence for Audit Committee members under the NYSE listing requirements. The Board has determined that Mr. Naumann-Etienne is an audit committee financial expert as defined in Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K under the Exchange Act based upon his experience as the chief financial officer and principal accounting officer of Dasonics, Inc. between 1984 and 1987 and as group controller for Texas Instruments Inc. between 1982 and 1984, and his formal education represented by his doctorate degree in international finance from the University of Michigan.

Table of Contents

The Board has determined that Mr. Eckert is also an audit committee financial expert based upon his experience as the chief executive officer of Eclipsys Corporation from 2005 to 2009, of SumTotal Systems Inc. from 2004 to 2005, of Docent, Inc. from 2002 to 2004, and of ADAC Laboratories from 1997 to 2001, as well as other business experience, and his formal education represented by his Masters in Business Administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. The Board has also determined that Mr. Illingworth and Mr. Thyagarajan are financially literate based upon each of their familiarity with financial statements and, for Mr. Illingworth, his experience as chief executive officer of Smith & Nephew plc.

Compensation and Management Development Committee

Chair: Ms. Bostrom

Additional Members: Mr. Eckert, Mr. Laret and Mr. Thyagarajan

Meetings in Fiscal Year 2015: 6

Functions

The Compensation Committee performs the following principal functions:

Discharges the Board's responsibilities relating to compensation of our executive officers.

Evaluates our compensation plans, policies and programs for executive officers and recommends the establishment of policies dealing with various compensation and employee benefit plans.

Administers our stock and cash incentive plans.

Provides advice on management development matters that have major implications for the growth, development and depth of our management team, including reviewing succession plans.

Reviews and discusses with management and recommends to the Board whether the disclosures under Compensation Discussion and Analysis should be included in our proxy statement.

Assesses, at least annually, the risks associated with our compensation policies, and reports to the Board and the Audit Committee whether our compensation policies and practices create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us.

The Compensation Committee determines all compensation for our executive group. Before making decisions on compensation for each of the executives other than the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Compensation Committee reviews with our CEO each individual's performance and accomplishments over the prior year. Except for his own position, our CEO makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee about base salary increases, any changes to the incentive plan target awards and the amount of equity awards for each executive. However, the Compensation Committee retains and does not delegate any of its exclusive power to determine all matters of executive compensation and benefits. The Compensation Committee meets alone with its independent advisors to develop and establish a proposal for CEO pay. This proposal is also reviewed with the other independent members of the Board.

Compensation Committee Advisors

To independently assist and advise the Compensation Committee, the Compensation Committee has for a number of years retained Frederic W. Cook, & Co., Inc. The engagement of FWC is exclusively with the Compensation Committee, which has sole authority to retain and terminate any compensation consultant or other advisor that it uses. FWC has no relationship with the Company or management except as it may relate to

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

performing services on behalf of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee has assessed the independence of FWC pursuant to SEC rules and concluded that no conflict of interest exists that would prevent them from independently representing the Compensation Committee.

Table of Contents

Typically, on an annual basis, FWC reviews and analyzes our executive compensation programs, compensation strategy and effectiveness of pay delivery. FWC provides market information on compensation trends and practices and makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee based on competitive data. FWC advises the Compensation Committee chair on agenda items for Compensation Committee meetings, reviews management proposals and is available to perform special projects at the Compensation Committee chair's request. FWC also periodically provides the Compensation Committee with updates on regulatory and legislative developments pertaining to executive compensation and compensation committee governance. FWC provides analyses and recommendations that inform the Compensation Committee's decisions, but does not decide or approve any compensation actions. As needed, the Compensation Committee also consults with FWC on program design changes.

Member Qualifications

In addition to being independent, each member of the Compensation Committee is a non-employee director for purposes of the Exchange Act and is an outside director for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Internal Revenue Code).

Ethics and Compliance Committee

Chair: Mr. Illingworth

Additional Members: Ms. Dugan, Mr. Naumann-Etienne and Mr. Reinhardt

Meetings in Fiscal Year 2015: 4

Functions

The Ethics Committee performs the following principal functions:

Oversees compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

Oversees compliance program(s) designed to foster legal and ethical business conduct, related to business ethical conduct and interactions with government officials, as well as interactions with healthcare providers.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Chair: Mr. Laret

Additional Members: Ms. Bostrom, Ms. Dugan and Mr. Reinhardt

Meetings in Fiscal Year 2015: 4

Functions

The Nominating Committee performs the following principal functions:

Develops and recommends to the Board corporate governance principles, including our Corporate Governance Guidelines, Code of Conduct and policy regarding conflicts of interest and related person transactions.

Identifies, evaluates and recommends to the Board potential nominees to the Board, including stockholder suggestions.

Reviews with the Board annually the independence, skills and characteristics of all individual members and the skills and characteristics of the Board as a whole in determining whether to recommend incumbent directors for re-election.

Table of Contents

Evaluates and makes recommendations to the Board concerning the size of the Board, the appointment of directors to Board committees, the qualifications of committee members and the selection of Board committee chairs.

Oversees the annual review of director independence and evaluation of the Board's performance.

Executive Committee

Chair: Mr. Eckert

Additional Members: Mr. Laret and Mr. Naumann-Etienne

Meetings in Fiscal Year 2015: 0

Functions

The Executive Committee performs the following principal functions:

Acts on matters when a meeting of the full Board is impracticable.

Has all the powers of the Board except those powers reserved by law to the full Board.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL TWO

ADVISORY VOTE ON THE COMPENSATION OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

BOARD RECOMMENDATION

VOTE **FOR** THE APPROVAL OF THE COMPENSATION

OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Background to the Advisory Vote

Under an amendment to the Exchange Act adopted by Congress as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the Dodd-Frank Act), stockholders are able to vote to approve, on an advisory (non-binding) basis no less frequently than once every three years, the compensation of the named executive officers (an Advisory Vote on Compensation). We submitted both our first Advisory Vote on Compensation and an advisory vote on how frequently such a vote would occur to our stockholders at our 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. At that meeting, stockholders showed significant support for an annual vote. As a result, our Compensation Committee and Board have submitted an Advisory Vote on Compensation at each Annual Meeting of Stockholders since 2011 and are again submitting for the vote of stockholders at the 2016 Annual Meeting an Advisory Vote on Compensation in connection with the executive officers named in this Proxy Statement (the NEOs). In each of the prior votes, stockholders holding approximately 89% or more of the shares that voted cast their votes for approval of the compensation.

Varian's Key Executive Compensation Principles

The key principles underlying our executive compensation programs include:

Our compensation programs are designed to reward, retain and attract executives to drive business strategy, achieve our short- and long-term goals and provide continued success for our customers, stockholders, employees and communities;

We have adopted a pay-for-performance philosophy that links competitive levels of compensation to achievements of overall strategy, business goals and individual performance; and

We intend to keep our compensation program strongly aligned with the interests of our stockholders and sound corporate governance principles.

Our Compensation Program

We urge you to read the Compensation of the Named Executive Officers and Directors Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this Proxy Statement and the tables and narrative for the details on our executive compensation, including the fiscal year 2015 compensation of our NEOs. Highlights of our executive compensation programs include the following:

We target total compensation (consisting of base salary, annual cash incentives and long-term incentive grant values) for executives, taking into account our past performance and future growth targets, between the median and 75th percentile of our competitive peer group.

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

A significant portion of our executives' compensation is considered to be at risk where actual pay directly depends upon achieving both financial and individual performance goals and/or stock price appreciation.

NEOs may receive long-term equity awards subject to long-term vesting requirements. We believe these awards ensure that a significant portion of the executives' compensation is tied to long-term stock price performance and therefore align our executives' interests with those of our stockholders. Our long-term incentive awards are comprised of a balance of stock options, restricted stock units and performance-based stock units.

Table of Contents

Executive perquisites are limited, and we do not provide tax gross-ups, including in connection with our change-in-control agreements.

The Compensation Committee has adopted guidelines under which officers are expected to hold a significant amount of our common stock to discourage them from taking a short-term view of performance or exposing us to excessive risk.

Each of our executive officers is employed at will without contractual severance protection other than pursuant to the change-in-control agreements described below

We believe the compensation program for our NEOs has been instrumental in helping us achieve our operational goals and manage through a challenging year where changes in foreign currency exchange rates had a significant negative impact on our financial performance. Our revenues for fiscal year 2015 were \$3.1 billion, up 2% from fiscal year 2014, or 6% on a constant currency basis. Net earnings per diluted share (EPS) for fiscal year 2015 were \$4.09, up 7% from fiscal year 2014. Our total gross orders in fiscal year 2015 increased 3% over fiscal year 2014, and we ended fiscal year 2015 with a \$3.5 billion backlog, up 10% from the end of fiscal year 2014. Our fiscal year 2015 financial performance, along with the individual performance of our executive officers, were key factors in determining the three primary components of total compensation for fiscal year 2015, including the following:

Base Salaries: Base salaries for our NEOs increased an average of 5.2% for fiscal year 2015 over fiscal year 2014. This increase was comprised of a 3.7% average increase that reflected each NEO's performance and experience, internal equity considerations and market competitive considerations, as well as a 1.5% one-time increase to offset the discontinuation of the benefits of the Executive Car Program. As with all of our NEOs, we evaluate each individual's compensation by looking at pay for similar positions within our peer group and external competitive market pay data.

Annual Cash Incentives: Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) and gross orders were the key financial performance measures in determining our NEOs' annual cash incentives under the Company's Management Incentive Plan. These measures provide a balance between a top line (e.g., in using orders—an example of financial measures before costs and expenses are considered) and bottom line (e.g., in using EBIT—an example of a financial measure that incorporates top line results plus costs and expenses) approach to measuring our annual performance. Per the measurement criteria of the Company's Management Incentive Plan (which excludes Proton Therapy orders and adjusts for the impact of exchange rate variances and other pre-approved adjustments), during fiscal year 2015 gross orders were flat and EBIT grew 2% versus the prior year. Achievement against our pre-established financial performance targets for the year, when combined with individual performance, resulted in the payment of annual cash incentive awards that on average was 70% of target for our NEOs.

Long-Term Incentives: Equity awards are an integral part of our long-term incentive program. Equity awards that were made to our NEOs in fiscal year 2015 consisted of approximately one-third each in value of stock options, full-value shares (i.e., restricted stock units) and performance-based stock units. The performance-based stock units granted to our NEOs in fiscal year 2015 vest at the end of a three-year period based primarily on growth in EPS in fiscal year 2015, as adjusted to reflect our total stockholder return relative to the companies in the Dow Jones Medical Equipment Index over the three-year period. By linking our long-term incentives to these important Company and market metrics, we seek to more closely align our NEOs' incentives with the long-term interests of our stockholders.

The Compensation Committee will continue to analyze our executive compensation policies and practices and adjust them as appropriate to reflect our performance and competitive needs.

Table of Contents

Based on the above, we request that you indicate your support for our executive compensation philosophy and practices, by voting in favor of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables and narrative discussion, is hereby APPROVED.

As an advisory vote, the vote on Proposal Two is not binding. Nonetheless, the Compensation Committee, which is responsible for designing and administering our executive compensation program, and the Board value the opinions expressed by stockholders, and will consider the outcome of the vote when making future compensation decisions for our NEOs.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL THREE

RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED

PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

BOARD RECOMMENDATION

VOTE **FOR** THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF
 PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP AS OUR INDEPENDENT
 REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Selection of the Accounting Firm

The Audit Committee has appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm to perform the audit of our financial statements for fiscal year 2016, and we are asking you and other stockholders to ratify this appointment. Since 1962, PwC or its predecessors has been our independent accounting firm.

The Audit Committee annually reviews the independent registered public accounting firm's independence, including reviewing all relationships between the independent registered public accounting firm and us and any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the independent registered public accounting firm, and the independent registered public accounting firm's performance. Additionally, the Audit Committee also noted that our PwC engagement audit partner is subject to regular rotation and the most recent rotation occurred in fiscal year 2013. As a matter of good corporate governance, the Board, upon recommendation of the Audit Committee, has determined to submit to stockholders for ratification the appointment of PwC. In the event that a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote on Proposal Three does not ratify this appointment of PwC, the Audit Committee will review its future appointment of PwC.

We expect that a representative of PwC will be present at the Annual Meeting and that representative will have an opportunity to make a statement if he or she desires and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Policy on Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Permissible Non-Audit Services of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Audit Committee must pre-approve all audit and permissible non-audit services to be provided by the independent registered public accounting firm. These services may include audit services, audit-related services, tax services and other services. Pre-approval is generally requested annually and any pre-approval is detailed as to the particular service, which must be classified in one of the four categories of services. The Audit Committee may also, on a case-by-case basis, pre-approve particular services that are not contained in the annual pre-approval request. In connection with this pre-approval policy, the Audit Committee also considers whether the categories of pre-approved services are consistent with the rules on accountant independence of the SEC.

Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The following is a summary of the fees billed or to be billed to us by PwC for professional services rendered for the fiscal years ended October 2, 2015 and September 26, 2014:

Fee Category	Fiscal Year 2015	Fiscal Year 2014
Audit Fees	\$ 3,790,233	\$ 4,114,946
Audit-Related Fees	200,000	218,758

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

Tax Fees	1,335,129	879,878
All Other Fees	15,800	15,800
Total Fees	\$ 5,341,162	\$ 5,229,382

Table of Contents

Audit Fees. Consist of fees billed or to be billed for professional services rendered for the annual audit of our consolidated financial statements (as well as the related attestation report on the Company's internal control over financial reporting) and review of the interim consolidated financial statements included in our Form 10-Q Quarterly Reports and services that PwC normally provides in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.

Audit-Related Fees. Consist of fees billed or to be billed for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our consolidated financial statements and are not reported under Audit Fees. These services include consultations concerning financial accounting and reporting standards and accounting consultations in connection with acquisitions.

Tax Fees. Consist of fees billed or to be billed for professional services for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning. These services include assistance regarding federal, state and international tax compliance, assistance with tax reporting requirements and audit compliance, tax planning, consulting and assistance on business restructuring and tax advice on mergers and acquisitions. Tax compliance fees were approximately \$470,000 and \$373,500 in fiscal years 2015 and 2014, respectively. All other tax fees were approximately \$865,000 and \$506,000 in fiscal years 2015 and 2014, respectively.

All Other Fees. Consist of fees for products and services other than the services reported above. All Other Fees for fiscal years 2015 and 2014 were primarily related to (1) attestations to ensure regulatory compliance and (2) the application of financial accounting and reporting standards to specific operational matters.

The Audit Committee determined that PwC's provision of these services, and the fees that we paid for these services, are compatible with maintaining the independence of the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee pre-approved all services that PwC provided in fiscal years 2015 and 2014 in accordance with the pre-approval policy discussed above.

Table of Contents

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors (the "Audit Committee") consists of the four directors whose names appear below. Each member of the Audit Committee meets the definition of "independent director" and otherwise qualifies to be a member of the Audit Committee under the New York Stock Exchange listing requirements.

The Audit Committee's general role is to assist the Board in monitoring the Company's financial reporting process and related matters. Its specific responsibilities are set forth in its charter. The Audit Committee reviews its charter at least annually, and did so in the August 2015 Audit Committee meeting.

As required by the charter, the Audit Committee reviewed the Company's financial statements for fiscal year 2015 and met with management, as well as with representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, to discuss the financial statements. The Audit Committee also discussed with members of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP the matters required to be discussed by the Statement on Auditing Standards 61, *Communication with Audit Committees*, as amended (AICPA, *Professional Standards*, Vol. 1, AU Section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T.

In addition, the Audit Committee received the written disclosures and letters required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence and discussed with members of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP its independence from management and the Company.

Based on these discussions, the financial statement review and other matters it deemed relevant, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the Company's audited financial statements for fiscal year 2015 be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 2, 2015.

Furthermore, in connection with the standards for independence promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Audit Committee reviewed the services provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the fees the Company paid for these services, and whether the provision of the services is compatible with maintaining the independence of the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee deemed that the provision of the services is compatible with maintaining that independence.

The Audit Committee has selected PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to be the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2016. In doing so, the Audit Committee considered the results from its review of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's independence, including (a) all relationships between PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and the Company and any disclosed relationships or services that may impact their objectivity and independence, (b) PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's performance and qualification as an independent registered public accounting firm and (c) the fact that the PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP engagement audit partner is rotated on a regular basis as required by applicable laws and regulations. As a matter of good corporate governance, the Audit Committee has determined to submit its appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to the stockholders for ratification. In the event that a majority of the shares of common stock present or represented at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote on the matter does not ratify this appointment, the Audit Committee will review its future appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Ruediger Naumann-Etienne (Chair)

R. Andrew Eckert

David J. Illingworth

Venkatraman Thyagarajan

Table of Contents**STOCK OWNERSHIP****Beneficial Ownership of Certain Stockholders, Directors and Executive Officers**

This table shows as of December 1, 2015: (1) the beneficial owners of more than five percent of our common stock and the number of shares they beneficially owned based on information provided in their most recent filings with the SEC; and (2) the number of shares each director, each nominee for director and each named executive officer and all directors, nominees for director and executive officers as a group beneficially owned, as reported by each person. Except as otherwise indicated, the address of each is 3100 Hansen Way, Palo Alto, California 94304. Beneficial ownership is determined under the rules of the SEC and generally includes voting or investment power with respect to securities. Except as noted, each person has sole voting and investment power over the shares shown in this table. For each individual and group included in the table below, the percentage ownership is calculated by dividing the number of shares beneficially owned by the person or group, which includes the number of shares of common stock that the person or group had the right to acquire on or within 60 days after December 1, 2015 by the sum of the 96,728,929 shares of common stock outstanding on December 1, 2015, plus the number of shares of common stock that the person or group had the right to acquire on or within 60 days after December 1, 2015.

	Amount and Nature of Common Stock Beneficially Owned	
	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned	Percent of Class
Stockholders		
Blackrock, Inc. (1) 55 East 52nd Street New York, NY 10022	5,910,927	6.1%
The Vanguard Group, Inc. (2) 100 Vanguard Blvd. Malvern, PA 19355	7,553,610	7.8%
Directors, Nominees for Director and Executive Officers		
Susan L. Bostrom (3)	8,444	*
Regina E. Dugan (4)	3,207	*
R. Andrew Eckert (5)	29,651	*
Timothy E. Guertin (6)	116,007	*
David J. Illingworth (7)	16,180	*
Mark R. Laret (8)	21,180	*
Ruediger Naumann-Etienne (9)	4,635	*
Erich R. Reinhardt (10)	9,635	*
Venkatraman Thyagarajan (11)	10,624	*
Dow R. Wilson (12)	374,699	*
Elisha W. Finney (13)	90,839	*
Kolleen T. Kennedy (14)	42,360	*
John W. Kuo (15)	41,491	*
Sunny S. Sanyal (16)	36,091	*
All directors, nominees for director and executive officers as a group (15 persons) (17)	831,967	*%

* The percentage of shares of common stock beneficially owned does not exceed one percent of the shares of common stock outstanding at December 1, 2015.

(1) Based on a Schedule 13G/A filed February 9, 2015, Blackrock, Inc. has sole power to vote 5,071,156 of these shares and sole power to dispose of 5,910,927 of these shares.

Table of Contents

- (2) Based on a Schedule 13G/A filed February 11, 2015, The Vanguard Group, Inc. has sole power to vote 179,024 of these shares, sole power to dispose of 7,382,567 of these shares and shared power to dispose of 171,043 shares.
- (3) Amount shown includes 4,635 Deferred Stock Units that have vested but that are subject to deferred distribution.
- (4) Amount shown represents Deferred Stock Units that have vested but that are subject to deferred distribution.
- (5) Amount shown includes 18,000 shares that may be acquired under exercisable stock options. Also includes 4,635 Deferred Stock Units that have vested but that are subject to deferred distribution.
- (6) Amount shown includes 5,000 shares that may be acquired under exercisable stock options. Also includes 4,635 Deferred Stock Units that have vested but that are subject to deferred distribution and 47,332 shares held in a trust of which Mr. Guertin is the trustee.
- (7) Amount shown includes 10,000 shares that may be acquired under exercisable stock options. Also includes 4,635 Deferred Stock Units that have vested but that are subject to deferred distribution.
- (8) Amount shown includes 15,000 shares that may be acquired under exercisable stock options. Also includes 4,635 Deferred Stock Units that have vested but that are subject to deferred distribution.
- (9) Amount shown represents Deferred Stock Units that have vested but that are subject to deferred distribution.
- (10) Amount shown includes 5,000 shares that may be acquired under exercisable stock options. Also includes 4,635 Deferred Stock Units that have vested but that are subject to deferred distribution.
- (11) Amount shown includes 4,635 Deferred Stock Units that have vested but that are subject to deferred distribution.
- (12) Amount shown includes 329,756 shares that may be acquired under exercisable stock options.
- (13) Amount shown includes 63,702 shares that may be acquired under exercisable stock options. Also includes 22,126 shares held in a trust of which Ms. Finney is co-trustee with her husband, as to which voting and investment powers are shared with Ms. Finney's husband.
- (14) Amount shown includes 24,714 shares that may be acquired under exercisable stock options.
- (15) Amount shown includes 19,851 shares that may be acquired under exercisable stock options.
- (16) Amount shown includes 34,187 shares that may be acquired under exercisable stock options.

- (17) Amount shown includes 546,866 shares that may be acquired under exercisable stock options and 69,458 shares held in trusts, including those described in footnotes 6 and 13.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Under U.S. securities laws, directors, certain officers and persons holding more than 10% of our common stock must report their initial ownership of the common stock and any changes in that ownership to the SEC. The SEC has designated specific due dates for these reports and we must identify in this Proxy Statement those persons who did not file these reports when due. Based solely on our review of copies of the reports filed with the SEC and written representations of our directors and executive officers, we believe that each person who at any time during the 2015 fiscal year was a director or an executive officer or persons holding more than 10% of our common stock filed the required reports on time in fiscal year 2015.

Table of Contents

COMPENSATION OF THE NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Executive Summary

Named Executive Officers (NEOs) for Fiscal Year 2015

Dow R. Wilson

President and Chief Executive Officer

Elisha W. Finney

Executive Vice President, Finance

and Chief Financial Officer

Kolleen T. Kennedy

Executive Vice President

and President, Oncology Systems

John W. Kuo

Senior Vice President,

General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Sunny S. Sanyal

Senior Vice President

and President, Imaging Components

Fiscal Year 2015 Financial Performance

Results for fiscal year 2015 were mixed, primarily due to the significant impact of currency movement and declines in the Imaging Components business. Our revenues for fiscal year 2015 were \$3.1 billion, up 2% from fiscal year 2014, or 6% on a constant currency basis. Our net earnings per diluted share (EPS) for fiscal year 2015 were \$4.09, up 7% from the prior year, with the benefits from a lower tax rate and reduced shares outstanding being partially offset by a 4% decline in operating earnings.

Gross orders increased 3% during fiscal year 2015 as compared to fiscal year 2014. Gross orders for Oncology Systems were flat compared to the prior year, but up 6% on a constant currency basis, as we gained market share in all regions. Gross orders for Imaging Components declined 16% while gross orders for the Other category increased 163% to \$317 million in fiscal year 2015, primarily due to an increase in Proton Therapy system orders. Our backlog at the end of fiscal year 2015 was \$3.5 billion, 10% higher than at the end of fiscal year 2014. Below are select financial highlights from the year:

Revenues & Gross Orders

(dollars in millions)

Earnings

(dollars in millions)

Table of Contents

Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Compensation Relative to Company Performance

Our fiscal year 2015 financial performance, along with the individual performance of our executive officers, were key factors in determining executive compensation for fiscal year 2015. Their total direct compensation (TDC) contains three main components: base salary, annual cash incentives and long-term incentives. We design our compensation programs such that base salaries are a lesser proportion of TDC than targeted at-risk compensation (annual and long-term cash incentives), which are more closely aligned with our financial performance and our stockholders' interests.

Compensation of our NEOs

Stockholder Return

(dollars in millions)

Base Salaries: Base salary increases for fiscal year 2015 for our NEOs averaged 5.2% over fiscal year 2014. This increase was comprised of a 3.7% average increase that reflected each NEO's performance and experience, internal equity considerations and market competitive considerations, as well as a 1.5% one-time increase to offset the discontinuation of the benefits of the Executive Car Program.

Annual Cash Incentives: Achievement against our pre-established financial performance targets for the year, when combined with individual performance, resulted in the payment of annual cash incentive awards between 50% and 100% of target for our NEOs.

Long-term Incentives: We continued to grant our NEOs long-term incentives, which make up approximately 58% to 71% of their total compensation. Long-term incentives consist of approximately one-third each in value of stock options, full-value shares (*i.e.*, restricted stock units (RSUs)) and performance-based stock units (PSUs) that vest based on growth in EPS and performance of our common stock against the Dow Jones U.S. Medical Equipment Index. We believe our emphasis on long-term incentives results in a healthy alignment between our NEOs' pay and our stockholders' realized returns.

In aggregate, TDC for our NEOs in fiscal year 2015 increased modestly from fiscal year 2014, which is consistent with our pay philosophy and aligned with our financial performance.

Executive Compensation Program Design

The remaining sections of this CD&A provide details about our executive compensation as follows:

Compensation Philosophy and Practices

Role of the Compensation and Management Development Committee

Compensation Committee Advisor Independence

Table of Contents

Elements of Our Executive Compensation Program

Determining Executive Compensation, Competitive Benchmarks, and Internal Pay Equity

Fiscal Year 2015 Salary, Annual Cash Incentives and Long-Term Incentive Decisions

Other Elements of Our Executive Compensation Program

Compensation Philosophy

We design our executive compensation program to reward, retain and attract executives in order to drive our business strategy, achieve our short- and long-term goals, and provide continued success for our customers, stockholders, employees and communities. We strive to pay competitively and appropriately based on Company, business unit and individual performance.

We provide competitive base salaries to our executives in recognition of their job responsibilities and consider individual work experience, knowledge, and internal parity among peers when setting salary levels.

We position TDC (consisting of base salary, annual cash incentives and long-term incentive grant values) for executives taking into account past performance, our growth targets and the high cost of living in the geographic location of our headquarters, with resulting amounts that are generally between the median and 75th percentile of our peer group.

The Compensation Committee structures cash compensation for executives so that a significant portion is at-risk under the MIP, which is our annual cash incentive plan for executives. The 2015 MIP pool available for senior executives was based on fiscal year 2015 earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT), with 80% of the potential payout of the available pool based on Company and business unit financial performance measures and 20% based on other measures, including non-financial qualitative measures (including individual performance). For our NEOs in fiscal year 2015, target bonus opportunities ranged from 68% to 120% of annual base salary.

Compensation Best Practices

Our compensation programs for our Named Executive Officers incentivize superior individual and business performance and do not reward unnecessary or excessive risk taking. Our executive compensation program contains many features considered to be best practices, including:

Executive officers employed at-will

No contractual severance protection except for change in control agreements described below

Significant portion of executive compensation is at risk actual pay depends on achieving performance

Directors and officers prohibited from engaging in common stock margining, pledging or hedging

Officers required to hold significant amount of common stock

No repricing of stock options without stockholder approval

Officers required to enter into 10b5-1 trading plans to sell Company stock

Annual review of succession plans

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

Incentive compensation subject to clawback

Annual compensation risk assessment

Limited executive perquisites and no tax gross-ups, including in connection with our change in control arrangements

Annual review of Compensation Committee and compensation advisor independence

34

Table of Contents

Role of the Compensation and Management Development Committee

The Compensation Committee oversees the development and administration of our executive compensation program, including the underlying philosophy and related policies, and provides advice to the Board on matters related to executive development, including leading the Board's evaluation of CEO performance and approving succession plans for the CEO and other select executives.

The Compensation Committee determines all compensation for our executive group, which for fiscal year 2015 was comprised of our executive officers (as defined in the Exchange Act rules), all other corporate officers and other executive-level employees whose annual salaries exceed \$400,000. In fiscal year 2015, this group was comprised of 13 individuals. Additionally, the Compensation Committee may choose to review compensation for other executive-level employees as it deems appropriate. The Compensation Committee's responsibilities include reviewing and establishing base salaries and incentive opportunities, equity compensation, executive perquisites and any other form of compensation. The Compensation Committee also reviews our CEO's performance and compensation with the other independent directors.

Compensation Committee Advisor Independence

The Compensation Committee has retained Frederic W. Cook & Co., Inc. (FWC), an independent compensation consulting firm, to advise the Compensation Committee on all matters related to executive officer compensation. The aggregate fees paid to FWC in fiscal year 2015 were \$100,136.

The Compensation Committee adopted enhanced independence standards for outside advisors that mirror the NYSE listing standards. This policy established an assessment framework to confirm and report on an advisor's independence. It also requires advisors to confirm their independent status according to the Compensation Committee's standards. The Compensation Committee reviews and confirms the independence of its outside advisors on an annual basis.

In May 2015, the Compensation Committee evaluated the independence of FWC and concluded that the work performed by FWC did not raise any conflict of interest. In connection with this process, the Compensation Committee reviewed, among other items, a letter from FWC addressing its independence and the members of the consulting team serving the Compensation Committee, including the following six factors:

1. The other services provided by FWC,
2. The fees paid to FWC as a percent of FWC's total revenues,
3. FWC's policies and procedures to prevent conflicts of interest,
4. Any business or personal relationships between FWC and the members of the consulting team, on the one hand, and any member of the Compensation Committee, on the other hand,
5. Whether any of our stock is owned by FWC or the members of the consulting team, and
6. Any business or personal relationships between FWC and the members of the consulting team, on the one hand, and any of our executive officers, on the other hand.

Table of Contents

Elements of Our Executive Compensation Program

Base Salaries. Base salaries for our executives are determined by the Compensation Committee based upon qualitative and quantitative factors such as: job level, responsibilities and experience, individual performance, and competitive benchmarking and internal equity. Our intent is to objectively position TDC for our executives in an appropriate competitive range that is generally between the median and 75th percentile for fully experienced and fully competent performers.

Core Elements of Executive Compensation

Base salaries are designed to be a lesser proportion of TDC than our executives' targeted at-risk compensation (*i.e.*, annual cash incentive and equity or equity-based pay). The proportion of at-risk compensation rises as an employee's level of responsibility and influence on business-related outcomes increases. Annual base salary increases for all executives are based on the analysis provided by the Compensation Committee's independent consultant and, except in the case of the CEO, recommendations by the CEO to the Compensation Committee. Please refer to the discussion under "Fiscal Year 2015 Salary, Annual Incentive and Long-Term Incentive Decisions - Base Salaries" below for more information. The effective date of any increase in an executive's base salary is generally on or about January 1 of each year.

Annual Cash Incentives. The MIP provides an opportunity to earn annual performance-based cash incentives to reward the achievement of total-Company and, as applicable, specific business unit financial and non-financial goals. The Compensation Committee, working with management, establishes performance goals for the MIP in the first quarter of the fiscal year.

Long-term Incentives. Equity and equity-based awards to our executives are designed to reward stockholder value creation, align executives' interests with those of the stockholders and retain outstanding talent, all at a reasonable cost to stockholders. The fiscal year 2015 awards to NEOs consisted of approximately one-third each in value of stock options, RSUs and PSUs.

Other Compensation and Perquisites: Our executives are eligible to participate in our nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan ("DCP"). In addition to allowing our NEOs to defer portions of their compensation, the DCP allows us to make discretionary supplemental retirement contributions ("Company Supplemental Contributions") beyond what we can contribute to participants' 401(k) retirement accounts due to Internal Revenue Code limitations. Please refer to the narrative discussion following the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Table in this Proxy Statement for more information about the DCP. The DCP is intended to promote retention by providing both for Company Supplemental Contributions and a tax-efficient long-term savings opportunity.

Our use of perquisites is limited to reimbursement of expenses for financial and tax planning up to \$6,500 per year (except for the CEO, whose financial and tax planning expenses are not capped); and reimbursement for annual medical examinations up to \$4,000 per year. We believe that these limited benefits generally allow our executives to work more efficiently and, in the case of financial and tax planning services, help them optimize the value received from our compensation and benefit programs. The costs of these perquisites were less than one

Table of Contents

percent of TDC for the NEOs as a group in fiscal year 2015. The Board eliminated the Executive Car Program effective January 2015 and therefore is no longer a perquisite provided to our NEOs.

In addition, we allow and include in an executive's compensation, as applicable, aircraft use attributable to permitted spousal travel on our fractionally owned aircraft or on commercial airplanes when that travel is determined to be valuable and appropriate for business purposes. We do not permit our executives to use our fractionally owned aircraft for purely personal trips. There was minimal spousal travel in fiscal year 2015 valued at \$2,582.

The NEOs are eligible to participate in our health and welfare programs, Employee Stock Purchase Plan, 401(k) retirement program and other broad-based benefit and insurance programs on the same basis as other employees.

Determining Executive Compensation

In determining executive compensation for fiscal year 2015, the Compensation Committee assessed our overall performance against the following factors:

Pre-defined financial metrics

Peer and market performance during period

Stock price performance

Management business plans

Achievement of non-financial qualitative goals

Financial budgets and projects, and associated difficulty in achieving these goals

Our executive compensation philosophy has historically based a substantial portion of executive compensation on achieving financial performance and business goals to align executives' interests with those of stockholders as described in this chart below:

Table of Contents**Competitive Benchmarks**

FWC annually evaluates and makes recommendations regarding the peer companies that we use for competitive comparisons of our executive and non-employee director compensation. The following criteria were used by the Compensation Committee to select our peer group:

Companies in the same or related industry group as identified by Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) codes

Generally comparable revenues and market-capitalization values that were roughly no more than four times and no less than one-third of the Company's

Our peer group companies for fiscal year 2015 were unchanged and were as follows:

Agilent Technologies, Inc.	DENTSPLY International	ResMed Inc.
Alere, Inc.	Edwards Life Sciences LLC	St. Jude Medical, Inc.
Becton Dickinson and Company	Hologic Inc.	Stryker Corporation
Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.	Waters Corporation
Boston Scientific Corporation	Intuitive Surgical, Inc.	Zimmer, Inc.
C.R. Bard, Inc.	Mettler-Toledo International, Inc.	
CareFusion Corporation	PerkinElmer Inc.	

CareFusion Corporation was acquired by Becton Dickinson and Company in March 2015 and is no longer a part of the peer group.

Internal Pay Equity

The Compensation Committee considers internal pay equity when determining our CEO's compensation. The following chart illustrates the relative difference in internal pay between, the CEO and the second highest paid employee and the CEO and the NEO average for years 2015 and 2014.

Fiscal Year	Using Target Non-Equity Incentive Compensation Data		Total Direct Compensation Data	
	Total Cash Compensation (1) CEO vs. Second Highest Paid Executive (2)	CEO vs. NEO Average (3)	Total Direct Compensation (4) CEO vs. Second Highest Paid Executive (2)	CEO vs. NEO Average (3)
2015	1.98	2.21	2.78	3.16
2014	1.95	2.27	2.33	2.59

(1) TCC = Salary (reported in the Summary Compensation Table) plus MIP based on target participation levels for the stated fiscal year

(2) The Second Highest Paid Executive in fiscal year 2014 was Ms. Finney and in 2015 it was Ms. Kennedy.

(3) NEO Average represents the average compensation of NEOs, excluding the CEO.

(4)

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

TDC = TCC (as described in footnote 1) plus the grant date fair value of equity and equity-based awards (reported in the Stock Awards and Option Awards columns of the Summary Compensation Table).

Focus on At-Risk Performance-Based Rewards. We believe that there should be a strong relationship between pay and performance (both financial results and stock price), and our executive compensation program reflects this relationship. In particular, MIP and equity-based awards represent a significant portion of our executive compensation program and this variable compensation is at-risk because it directly depends upon the achievement of pre-established financial and qualitative goals and stockholder value creation:

Annual cash incentives are intended to link executive rewards to total-Company and business unit performance upon achieving pre-determined short-term financial targets and individual goals.

The exercise price of stock options is equal to the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant, so the options will yield value to the executive only if the stock price appreciates.

Table of Contents

Performance Stock Units (PSUs) awards are tied to a one-year growth goal in EPS and adjusted for the performance of our common stock against the TSR of companies in the Dow Jones U.S. Medical Equipment Index over a three-year period, so our rewards are tied to both absolute performance and performance relative to our peer group. (Please refer to Long-Term Incentives section for details on 2015 PSU Program.)

Restricted Stock Units (RSUs) remain a component of the executive's equity awards, equating to approximately one-third of the value of each NEO's equity awards. The Compensation Committee believes that this element provides a strong retention component to our overall compensation program.

The following chart shows each NEO's allocation of fiscal year 2015 target TDC between base salary, cash incentives and equity compensation elements. Additionally, the chart shows each NEO's allocation between long-term incentives (stock options, RSUs and PSUs) and short-term components (base salary and MIP). All elements, except base salary, are considered at risk:

(1) At-risk compensation.

(2) Data from the Summary Compensation Table.

(3) MIP is based on target participation levels for fiscal year 2015.

Fiscal Year 2015 Salary, Annual Incentive and Long-Term Incentive Decisions

Base Salaries

In determining base salary increases for the NEOs, the Compensation Committee considered individual performance and experience as well as internal equity considerations. The resulting target TCC for each NEO was between the median and the 75th percentile of the competitive data.

Name	FY2014 Base Salary (effective December 21, 2013 to December 19, 2014)	FY2015 Base Salary (effective December 20, 2014 to December 18, 2015)	% Increase (1)
Dow R. Wilson	\$ 945,000	\$ 1,000,000	5.8%
Elisha W. Finney	\$ 590,947	\$ 616,650	4.3%
Kolleen T. Kennedy	\$ 572,069	\$ 603,020	5.4%
John W. Kuo	\$ 433,708	\$ 462,961	6.7%
Sunny S. Sanyal	\$ 480,000	\$ 496,800	3.5%

Table of Contents

(1) The Compensation Committee approved base salary increases for our NEOs for fiscal year 2015 that averaged 5.2% over fiscal year 2014. This increase was comprised of a 3.7% average increase that reflected each NEO's performance and experience, internal equity considerations and market competitive considerations, as well as a 1.5% one-time increase to offset the discontinuation of the Executive Car Program. Sanyal did not participate in the Executive Car Program.

Annual Cash Incentives. On November 14, 2014, the Compensation Committee set the fiscal year 2015 performance goals under the MIP for the NEOs and certain other executives. For fiscal year 2015, the Compensation Committee established a pool of funds equal to 1.25% of our fiscal year 2015 EBIT results (the MIP Bonus Pool) to be available for annual cash incentives under the MIP to the executive officers. The Compensation Committee retained negative discretion to pay each of these executives less than their corresponding maximum share of the MIP Bonus Pool based on the 2015 MIP Award Elements summarized below. The maximum amount for each executive officer was the lesser of two times the target participation level of each executive under the MIP or a specified percentage of the MIP Bonus Pool (as listed later). The following chart details the various elements of the MIP award for fiscal year 2015.

2015 MIP Award Elements

Total-Company & Business Unit Financial Achievement	Non-Financial & Qualitative Measures Unique to NEOs
(Weighted 80%)	(Weighted 20%)
<p>EBIT Growth (50%) This metric is a traditional measure of bottom line growth that the Compensation Committee believes is of significant importance to investors.</p> <p>Gross Orders Growth (30%) The Compensation committee believes the Company should emphasize obtaining orders in our global marketplace. Proton Therapy orders were not included in this measure.</p>	<p>Payment determinations are left to the discretion of compensation committee</p> <p>CEO assessments and recommendations are critical to the Compensation Committee's determination</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proton Therapy Incentive Additional Incentive</p> <p>For each proton therapy system order booked, a 3% incentive would be added to the overall bonus score</p>

Implemented to focus Company-wide efforts on commercializing our proton therapy business.

In connection with establishing performance goals for fiscal year 2015, the Compensation Committee first reviewed and discussed with both management and the full Board our business plan and its key underlying assumptions, expectations and uncertainties under existing and anticipated market conditions, and the opportunity to generate stockholder value. The Compensation Committee set goals for fiscal year 2015 that, in the opinion of the Compensation Committee, were challenging and required a performance level that was better than the prior year to attain payout at the target level.

EBIT and gross orders growth were calculated for purposes of the MIP in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP) and subject to exclusions pre-approved by the Compensation Committee. Gross orders growth was adjusted for currency exchange impact and excluded orders from the Proton Therapy business. Items excluded from the calculation of EBIT for purposes of establishing the fiscal year 2015 MIP Bonus Pool included results from acquisitions made during the performance period and one-time non-recurring charges which for fiscal year 2015 included restructuring charges and currency exchange impact.

Table of Contents

In addition, our financial performance for the purpose of MIP was calculated using the budgeted exchange rate for the Euro and the Japanese Yen established for fiscal year 2015 in accordance with GAAP to eliminate any unintended effects of currency fluctuations.

There was no payout for achievement below or at threshold performance. Payout would begin at 1% above threshold performance. At target performance the payout percentage was 100% of target payout and at maximum the payout percentage was double the target payout. The payout percentage for the financial performance goals was not linear from threshold-to-target levels and from target-to-maximum levels. The slopes of each curve and the placements of the inflection points were uniquely designed to take into account the varying degrees of difficulty to achieve the results. Payouts at the 85% achievement level were designed to broadly align to the range of our fiscal year 2015 financial outlook that we provided in our October 22, 2014 earnings press release. Payouts with respect to the 0% to 85% achievement range and above the 115% level generally carried a steeper slope than payouts with respect to the 85% to 115% achievement range. The steeper slope in the 0% to 85% achievement range was intended to drive performance above the 85% level and to meet or exceed our financial outlook. The steeper slope in the 115% to 200% achievement range was intended to reward for performance that was considered difficult to very difficult to achieve.

The remaining 20% of each potential MIP award related to each NEO's achievement of qualitative goals, which varied by individual. The determination of any payment for performance versus such goal achievement was left to the discretion of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee considered the CEO's assessments of and recommendations relative to the other NEOs' achievement of the qualitative goals. The maximum individual actual awards for the NEOs were capped at the lower of 200% of the target award or a specified percentage of the MIP Bonus Pool (as described later).

As described above, the Proton Therapy Incentive (PT Incentive) provided additional bonus incentive opportunity for proton therapy orders booked in fiscal year 2015.

The weighting of total-Company and individual business units' financial performance and individual non-financial qualitative performance under the MIP for fiscal year 2015 was as follows:

Name	Total-Company Financial Goals	Oncology Systems Financial Goals (business unit)	Imaging Components Financial Goals (business unit)	Individual Non-Financial (Qualitative) Performance
Dow R. Wilson	80%			20%
Elisha W. Finney	80%			20%
Kolleen T. Kennedy	40%	40%		20%
John W. Kuo	80%			20%
Sunny S. Sanyal	40%		40%	20%

Table of Contents

The Compensation Committee assigned each of our executives a target and maximum payout at the beginning of the fiscal year, expressed as a percentage of his or her base salary as of fiscal year end, as well as a maximum expressed as a percentage of the MIP Bonus Pool. The target incentives for NEOs are established after evaluating job responsibilities, pay equity among the executive group and competitive market data. No adjustments were made to their targets as they were appropriately set and aligned with their respective competitive benchmarks. Based on these considerations, the Compensation Committee set the target percentage participation levels under the MIP for the NEOs as follows:

Name	Target	Maximum (the lesser of the following)	
	As a % of base salary	As a % of base salary	As a % of MIP Bonus Pool
Dow R. Wilson	120%	240%	41%
Elisha W. Finney	83%	166%	18%
Kolleen T. Kennedy	83%	166%	17%
John W. Kuo	68%	136%	11%
Sunny S. Sanyal	75%	150%	13%

The fiscal year 2015 financial performance goals for the MIP and the actual results are shown below:

Metric	Threshold Performance (1)	Target (100% Achievement) (2)	Maximum Performance	Fiscal Year 2015 Results
<u>Total Company</u>				
EBIT Growth/(Decline) (3)	(2.0%)	5.3%	11.7%	1.8%
Orders Growth/(Decline) (4)	0.8%	4.6%	8.0%	(0.1%)
<u>Oncology Systems</u>				
EBIT Growth (5)(6)	2.0%	6.5%	10.0%	8.6%
Orders Growth (4)	1.0%	4.0%	7.0%	3.0%
<u>Imaging Components Business</u>				
EBIT Growth/(Decline) (5)	(2.0%)	3.8%	9.0%	(21.6%)
Orders Growth/(Decline) (4)	0.0%	6.7%	12.0%	(12.5%)

- (1) Any achievement at or below threshold performance would result in zero MIP payout for that element.
- (2) Target growth rate for EBIT was set at 7% above the mid-point of the growth range of the fiscal year 2015 financial outlook.
- (3) The impact from using the budgeted exchange rate for the Euro and the Japanese Yen established for fiscal year 2015 added \$62 million to Total Company EBIT, for the purpose of MIP calculation. The impact of the approved exclusions increased EBIT by \$11 million.
- (4) Total-Company Orders Growth is comprised of gross orders from our Oncology Systems and Imaging Components businesses.
- (5) Performance targets excluded allocation of corporate expenses to better reflect true business results. Allocation of corporate expense for each business unit is generally determined based on a fixed percent of the business unit sales revenue.

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

- (6) The impact from using the budgeted exchange rate for the Euro and the Japanese Yen established for fiscal year 2015 added \$66 million to EBIT, for the purpose of MIP calculation. The impact of the approved exclusions decreased EBIT by \$2 million. There was no impact from using the budgeted exchange rate for the Euro and the Japanese Yen established for fiscal year 2015 for Imaging Components EBIT, for the purpose of MIP calculation. The impact of the approved exclusions decreased EBIT by \$3 million. The PT Incentive added 18% to the bonus score as a result of six proton therapy system orders booked in fiscal year 2015.

Table of Contents

The remaining 20% of the fiscal year 2015 MIP award was determined based on individual, non-financial qualitative performance. Mr. Wilson submitted recommendations with respect to each of the other NEOs and the final determination of the amount of this component of the MIP was left to the discretion of the Compensation Committee. The achievement of qualitative performance goals by each NEO included the following:

Mr. Wilson, President and CEO

Provided strategic leadership through a challenging year as the Company faced a significant impact from currency exchange fluctuations and competitive pricing pressures. In spite of these challenges, grew revenue 6% on a constant currency basis;

Grew market share in Oncology Systems and became the leader in Proton Therapy, each as measured by gross orders in fiscal year 2015, and substantially grew X-ray tubes sales in China;

Continued the Company's focus on software, services and innovation with healthy increases in software and oncology service orders; and new products launched in each of the Company's three businesses;

Booked six proton therapy system orders during the year and introduced cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) functionality integrated into our ProBeam hardware and software at the 2015 Particle Therapy Co-Operative Group (PTCOG) trade show;

Grew operating expenses slower than revenue growth on a constant currency basis; and

Met all ethics and compliance targets.

Ms. Finney, Executive Vice President, Finance and CFO

Provided accurate and timely financial reporting and established a framework for providing financial results on a non-GAAP basis;

Executed our capital structure plan, including increased cash flow from operations and management of our debt facilities and share repurchase program;

Expanded customer financing in global markets and facilitated support for the University of Maryland Proton Treatment Center and the New York Proton Center;

Reduced the corporate tax rate to 25.7%;

Provided the financial community with frequent, timely, and transparent communication, and increased international stockholder base to over 30%; and

Delivered IT projects to enhance automation, productivity and product development.

Ms. Kennedy, Executive Vice President and President, Oncology Systems

Achieved year-over-year Oncology Systems gross orders growth of 6% on a constant currency basis;

Achieved good execution of cost containment in light of significant currency challenges;

Gained market share as measured by gross orders, and met or exceeded all KPI metrics;

Launched VitalBeam linear accelerator to address mid-tier market segment and executed RapidPlan and Insightive Analytics software releases;

Installed 36 RapidPlan sites;

Achieved 5% global supply chain productivity; and

Reorganized to a geographic structure to enable greater flexibility, localized operational leadership and more expedited customer responsiveness.

Table of Contents

Mr. Kuo, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Supported global footprint and channel expansion in key emerging market geographies for all businesses;

Contributed to the booking of six proton therapy system orders and the formation of a key strategic alliance in the Oncology Systems software product line;

Provided leadership on continued improvements to our ethical compliance program, including renewing the Company's Code of Conduct and provided training to employees globally;

Supported growth in key emerging markets through enhancing the Company's export licensing and compliance program;

Successfully managed and resolved several legal matters to the satisfaction of the Board; and

Maintained strong corporate governance and legal risk management to the high confidence of the Board.

Mr. Sanval, Senior Vice President and President, Imaging Components

Provided strategic focus to a business as it was negatively impacted by currency fluctuations, order delays in our security and inspection products and insourcing of component manufacturing by some of our customers;

Acquired Claymount Investments B.V. and a majority interest in MeVis Medical Solutions AG, to expand Imaging Components offerings;

Launched low cost flat panel detector;

Built a service center in Wuxi, China;

Substantially grew orders and revenues year over year for products previously acquired from InfiMed Inc.; and

Achieved productivity goals.

In fiscal year 2015, target, maximum and actual payouts, based on the total-Company financial performance, business unit financial performance (if applicable), PT Incentive and individual performance including the Compensation Committee's discretionary adjustment under the MIP for our NEOs were as follows:

Name	Target Participation	Target Payment (if 100% target)	Maximum Payout 2 times	Fiscal Year 2015 Payment as a %
------	----------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------------

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

	Level (% of Base Salary)	performance achieved)	target	of target (based on actual performance)
Dow R. Wilson	120%	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 2,400,000	66%
Elisha W. Finney	83%	\$ 511,820	\$ 1,023,639	65%
Kolleen T. Kennedy	83%	\$ 500,507	\$ 1,001,013	100%
John W. Kuo	68%	\$ 314,813	\$ 629,627	69%
Sunny S. Sanyal	75%	\$ 372,600	\$ 745,200	50%

Table of Contents

Long-Term Incentives. Annually, the Compensation Committee reviews the prevalence of the different grant types and equity award mixes among our peers, and the number of shares that remain available for grant under the Varian Medical Systems, Inc. Third Amended and Restated 2005 Omnibus Stock Plan (Third Amended Stock Plan). The following chart illustrates the Compensation Committee's process for determining the value of equity grants it made in fiscal year 2015.

The Compensation Committee's practice is to make periodic grants of equity awards to eligible employees (including executive officers), which over the past five years have been in approximately 12- to 18-month intervals.

In fiscal year 2015 the Compensation Committee granted long-term equity compensation to our NEOs and other senior officers of the Company in the form of PSUs, stock options and RSUs. The PSUs were granted on November 14, 2014 and the stock options and RSUs were granted on February 13, 2015.

Set forth below are the number of stock options, RSUs and PSUs (at threshold, target and maximum levels) stock options and RSUs awarded to the NEOs on the respective grant dates:

Name	Option Awards	RSUs	PSUs		
	(#)	(#)	Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)
Dow R. Wilson	98,939	19,788	0	18,891	37,782
Elisha W. Finney	26,983	5,397	0	5,152	10,304
Kolleen Kennedy	29,682	5,936	0	5,667	11,334
John W. Kuo	23,385	4,677	0	4,465	8,930
Sunny S. Sanyal	23,385	4,677	0	4,465	8,930

The first 33 1/3% of the stock options granted in February 2015 vest 12 months from the grant date, and the remainder vest in equal monthly installments during the following 24-month period. The RSUs vest and are settled in equal amounts of shares of our common stock on approximately the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of grant. In both cases, a recipient must be employed by us throughout the vesting period for full vesting to occur, except in cases involving retirement, death or a change in control, where full or partial vesting are made depending on various circumstances.

The PSUs awarded on November 14, 2014 to the NEOs and certain other executives consist of the right to receive shares of common stock, based upon performance against pre-established performance metrics during a three-year performance period that ends at the end of fiscal year 2017. The maximum is limited to 200% of the

Table of Contents

target PSUs. The PSUs will cliff-vest (*i.e.*, 100% vests at one time) at the end of the three-year performance period provided the recipient is employed by us throughout the vesting period, except in cases involving retirement, death or change in control, where full or partial payouts are made depending on various circumstances.

The primary performance metric used to determine if and how many shares of our common stock are received pursuant to the PSUs is one-year growth in EPS, which is measured after year one of the performance period and can account for a payout of up to 150% of the target number of shares covered by the award. The secondary performance metric, which is applied as a modifier, is our relative TSR versus the Dow Jones U.S. Medical Equipment Index. The index currently consists of approximately 50 companies including the Company. TSR is measured using a 30 calendar day stock price average at the beginning and end of the three-year performance period. This modifier is limited to adjusting upward and downward the shares earned based on achievement against the primary performance metric by up to 50% of the target number of shares covered by the award, and is determined based on our percentile placement in the index. Based on market survey information, EPS and TSR were the most common performance metrics used in performance-based equity-based awards in the past few years. The Compensation Committee believed the advantages of selecting EPS growth included that it was a highly visible indicator of performance and it was already tracked by investment analysts as a measure of our performance. The Compensation Committee also believed pairing EPS with TSR supplied an external focus that complemented the internally focused EPS metric, directly aligning the executive's interests with those of our stockholders (*e.g.*, stock price return). The Compensation Committee will exclude certain pre-established items in calculating EPS applicable to the fiscal year 2015 PSU award.

Our target EPS growth for fiscal year 2015 was 8% over fiscal year 2014. We achieved 4.2% EPS growth, resulting in a preliminary payout of 3.4% of the target shares granted. However, these awards remain subject to the three-year TSR modifier concluding at the end of the fiscal year 2017 such that the final payout can potentially range from 0% to 53.4% of the target shares granted depending on our three-year TSR results.

In determining appropriate level of equity awards, the Compensation Committee compares the relative positioning of the NEOs against competitive benchmarking data. The equity awards granted on November 14, 2014 and February 13, 2015 for Mr. Wilson, Ms. Finney, Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Kuo and Mr. Sanyal positioned them between the median and the 75th percentile of the competitive data for long-term incentive award value.

Performance Stock Units Awarded Prior to 2015 and Earned in 2015

The three-year performance cycle for annual PSUs that were granted in our fiscal year 2013 ended on October 2, 2015. These PSUs vested based upon two performance criteria: (1) average EPS growth over the three-year period, and (2) our total shareholder return (TSR) relative to a Dow Jones U.S. Medical Equipment Index, including the Company. The average EPS growth over the three-year period was achieved at 3.9% versus the target of 10.0%, resulting in an initial payout at 39% of target shares. EPS was calculated from the Company's GAAP EPS excluding certain extraordinary non-recurring items and the impact of certain acquisitions in accordance with adjustments approved by the Compensation Committee in fiscal year 2013. This initial payout was then modified by a multiplier based on the Company's TSR performance. The Company's TSR for the three-year period was at the 27th percentile (+41% as compared to the comparator group median of +83%), which resulted in a modifier of 77%. Multiplying the 39% initial payout by the 77% modifier resulted in the PSUs being earned at approximately 30% of target.

Other Elements of Executive Compensation Program

Supplemental Retirement Contributions. In order to make retirement contributions that we could not contribute to eligible participants' qualified 401(k) retirement accounts due to Internal Revenue Code limitations, we make contributions to the Deferred Compensation Plan (DCP) for our executives, including the NEOs, and other highly compensated U.S. employees. Contributions are calculated based on a pre-established formula.

Table of Contents

Please refer to the narrative discussion following the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Table in this Proxy Statement for more information about these contributions. We believe this to be a competitive benefit and necessary to attract and retain high-quality executives. Because an element of these DCP contributions reflects cash incentive compensation (*i.e.*, actual awards under the MIP), these contributions partially reflect the individuals' achievement of performance goals.

Stock Ownership Guidelines. In May 2000, the Compensation Committee adopted the Varian Medical Systems Executive Stock Ownership Program (the "Stock Ownership Program") to further align the interests of our officers with those of our other stockholders. The stock ownership guideline levels are based on the value of our common stock as multiples of base pay (*i.e.*, number of shares multiplied by price per share divided by base salary) and have been revised upward since initial adoption. The multiples are set based upon each officer's position, as follows:

Position	Stock Ownership as a Multiple of Current Base Salary
CEO	6x
Next four most highly compensated executive officers	3x
Other corporate officers	2x

Under this program, stock ownership includes stock owned by the officers, unvested restricted stock and RSUs, as well as stock they individually hold in their 401(k) retirement accounts. Unexercised stock options and unvested PSUs are not included for purposes of determining stock ownership under this program.

Ownership levels are expected to be achieved within the later of: (i) five years of first becoming an officer, (ii) three years of an amendment increasing ownership levels with respect to any increase (our last amendment occurred in August 2010 for the CEO), or (iii) three years of the date that the new ownership levels apply to such individual due to a change in position or becoming an NEO. One-third of the ownership level is expected to be achieved within two-and-one-half years after an individual becomes subject to the ownership guidelines. As of the date of this Proxy Statement, all of the NEOs met the guidelines or are within the prescribed timeframe to meet these guidelines as set forth in the Stock Ownership Program.

Insider Trading Policy. In February 2013, the Board approved revising the corporate insider trading policy to prohibit officers and directors from purchasing Company securities on margin and borrowing against Company securities, and prohibit officers, directors and other employees subject to the quarterly blackout period from engaging in transactions in puts, calls, other derivatives and hedging transactions.

Tax Deductibility. Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code does not let us deduct from our federal taxable income certain compensation paid to the CEO and the next three most highly compensated executive officers (other than our CFO) that is not performance-based to the extent it exceeds \$1 million. Awards under the MIP and certain awards under the Third Amended Stock Plan and predecessor plans are intended to be fully deductible performance-based compensation under Section 162(m). However, because of the fact-based nature of the performance-based compensation exception and the limited binding guidance thereunder we cannot guarantee that any compensation intended to qualify as deductible performance-based compensation under Code Section 162(m) so qualifies. The Compensation Committee believes that our interests are best served in certain circumstances by providing compensation that is not performance-based (such as salary, RSUs, perquisites and special cash incentives), which may be subject to this \$1 million annual deductibility limitation under U.S. tax law.

Equity Grant Practices. The Compensation Committee typically approves grants of equity awards to selected newly hired individuals on the date of the first regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Compensation Committee following their date of hire. Special grants to continuing employees, such as for promotions or retention purposes, are typically approved on the date of the first regularly scheduled quarterly

Table of Contents

meeting of the Compensation Committee following the date on which the related event occurred. Regularly scheduled quarterly Compensation Committee meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of November and May, and on the third Thursday of February and August, and are generally scheduled at least a year in advance. Scheduling decisions are made without regard to anticipated earnings or the release of other material non-public information by us. The date of grant of an equity award is the date of approval by the Compensation Committee. However, if on any date of grant our trading blackout is in effect or if our management knows of material, non-public information about us, any equity awards to be made will be granted effective as of the close of the business day after the blackout expires, or the close of the second business day after the public release of the material, non-public information, as applicable. Our blackout period lasts approximately nine weeks for each quarter and typically begins on the first business day of the third month of each fiscal quarter and ends two full business days after our quarterly earnings press release.

The exercise price of our stock options is the closing price of our common stock on the NYSE on the date of grant. If the date of grant falls on a day upon which the NYSE is closed, then the exercise price is the closing price of our common stock on the next trading date. Our Third Amended Stock Plan explicitly prohibits the repricing of stock options without prior stockholder approval.

Recoupment or Clawback of Certain Payments. In November 2008, the Board adopted a formal policy to recover certain incentive payments if we are required to restate our financial statements as a result of an executive officer engaging in misconduct or other violations of our Code of Conduct that caused or partially caused the restatement. In the event of a restatement, the Board will review the conduct of the executive officer in relation to the restatement. If the Board determines that an executive officer has engaged in misconduct or other violations of our Code of Conduct, the Board can, in its discretion, take appropriate action, to the extent not prohibited by applicable law, to remedy the misconduct, including, without limitation, seeking reimbursement of any portion of performance-based or incentive compensation paid or awarded to the executive that is greater than would have been paid or awarded if calculated based on the restated financial results. Such action by the Board would be in addition to any other actions the Board or we may take under our other policies, as modified from time to time, or any actions imposed by law enforcement, regulators or other authorities. This recoupment policy is incorporated into the provisions of our MIP and Third Amended Stock Plan.

Under our current stock option agreements, in the event an employee commences employment with a company that competes with us in any of our businesses, we may, in our sole discretion, terminate the stock option agreement, including the vesting of any options or other grants which remain unvested as of the date the employee commences employment with the competitor.

Change-in-Control Agreements

As explained in greater detail under Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control, we currently have change-in-control agreements with 11 executives, including our NEOs. We entered into these agreements in order to attract and retain high-quality executives and to ensure that executives who might be involved in acquisition or merger discussions with another entity make the best decisions for us and our stockholders and are not unduly biased by the impact of such a transaction on their personal situations. These agreements do not factor into our decisions surrounding the executive's cash and equity compensation.

The change-in-control agreements are intended to provide an appropriate level of compensation for a specified time interval for executives who would likely be involved in activities regarding a change in control and are personally at risk for job loss in the event of a change in control. Our change-in-control agreements are double-trigger meaning that to receive benefits under the agreements there must be a change-in-control event and the executive must either:

- (1) Be terminated by us or the successor company without cause within a specified time interval in connection with a change in control, or

Table of Contents

- (2) Terminate employment for good reason, as defined in the agreements, within a specified time interval in connection with a change in control. For more information about the agreements as well as a tabular summary of the potential payments that may be made to our NEOs, please refer to Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control.

In fiscal year 2010, the Compensation Committee approved for future use new forms of change-in-control agreements that eliminate tax gross-up payments for excise taxes imposed by Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code. The agreements incorporate a best results provision whereby the executive's actual change-in-control payment will be reduced to \$1 below the threshold imposed under Section 280G (*i.e.*, thereby not triggering excise tax) if the change-in-control payment after the imposition of the excise tax would otherwise result in a lesser amount. The new forms of change-in-control agreement are provided to the appropriate newly hired, appointed, promoted or demoted executives. When Mr. Wilson was promoted to President and CEO at the beginning of fiscal year 2013 and Ms. Kennedy to the President of Oncology Systems position at the beginning of fiscal year 2012, they entered into the new form of change-in-control agreement applicable to their respective position.

In fiscal year 2015, the Compensation Committee approved an amendment and restatement of all of the change-in-control agreements that among other things, incorporated the best results provision described above for all executives with a change-in-control agreement.

Stockholder Voting on Executive Compensation Practices

At our 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, we conducted our first advisory vote on the compensation of our NEOs. Since stockholders owning more than 75% of the shares voting on the frequency of holding such votes indicated their preference that we hold such a vote annually, we have implemented an annual vote.

Stockholders owning approximately 89% of the shares voting at our 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders voted to approve the compensation of our NEOs, which we have interpreted as encouraging us to maintain our current compensation philosophy and practices. The Compensation Committee will consider the result of future votes in making compensation decisions for the NEOs.

Table of Contents

Compensation and Management Development Committee Report

The Compensation and Management Development Committee (the Compensation Committee) of the Board of Directors (the Board) of Varian Medical Systems, Inc. (the Company) has reviewed and discussed with management the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of the Proxy Statement for the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Based on its review and discussions with management, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in our Proxy Statement for the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Susan L. Bostrom (Chair)

R. Andrew Eckert

Mark R. Laret

Venkatraman Thyagarajan

Relationship between Compensation Plans and Risk

In fiscal year 2015, the Compensation Committee and management conducted its annual review of our compensation programs, including executive compensation and major broad-based compensation programs in which employees at various levels of the organization participate. The goal of this review was to assess whether any of our compensation programs, either individually or in the aggregate, would encourage executives or employees to undertake unnecessary or excessive risks that were reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

The Compensation Committee and management reviewed an inventory of all of our variable pay and sales commission plans and considered the number of participants in each plan, the participant's level within the organization, the target and maximum payment potential, the performance metrics under each plan and associated targets, and the type and mechanics of the plan and its purpose. The Compensation Committee concluded that none of the broad-based programs (base salary, spot bonuses, traditional sales commission or variable incentive arrangements) that extend to regular employees would likely encourage unnecessary or excessive risks.

Table of Contents

The Compensation Committee and management also assessed the risks in those plans that were identified as having the potential to deliver a material amount of compensation to the executives, which were the annual and long-term incentive plans the MIP and the Third Amended Stock Plan that are described earlier in Compensation Discussion and Analysis. The Compensation Committee considered the following items, made a determination and identified several mitigating factors that help to explain its decision about executive compensation risks, as follows:

Risk Assessment Items	Determination	Mitigating Factors
Is there an effective balance in the plans? (e.g., cash and equity mix, short and long term performance focus, etc.)	Executive Compensation Profile	Compensation Committee's sole power to set short term performance objectives;
Are performance goals balanced between total-Company and business unit goals, financial and qualitative?	Reasonable	Compensation Committee discretion to adjust downward payouts under MIP to reflect core operating performance of our business;
Are potential payments reasonable based on potential achievement of those goals at threshold, target and maximum?	No plans encourage unnecessary or excessive risks	Majority of MIP objectives (80%) weight included EBIT and other financial goals correlated with stockholder value;
Is the relationship between performance objectives and performance-based stock awards consistent with stockholders' interests and long term incentive objectives?	Strategy and programs do not pose material risk due to mitigating factors	Use of equity awards to foster employee retention and align executive interests with stockholders' interests;
Do plans contain appropriate caps on individual awards and aggregate payments?		Recoupment policy to recover cash and equity compensation of senior executives in the event of individual misconduct causing or partially causing a material restatement;
Have we adopted meaningful risk mitigation, including stock ownership guidelines, clawbacks, and independent Compensation Committee oversight?		Practice of having greater portion of incentive awards as long-term rather than short term creates a greater focus on sustained Company performance over time;
		Stock ownership guidelines designed to align officer and stockholder interests over the long-term;
		RSUs, stock options and PSUs vest over a number of years, providing incentives for

sustained performance; and

Capping potential payouts under annual incentive plans to eliminate potential for windfalls.

As a result of this review, both the Compensation Committee and management concluded that our compensation policies and practices for our employees are structured so as not to encourage excessive risk-taking and do not create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us.

Table of Contents**Summary Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth, together with certain other information, the compensation earned during fiscal years 2015, 2014 and 2013 by our NEOs and the principal position held by each during fiscal year 2015.

Name and Principal Position	Fiscal Year	Salary (\$) (1)	Bonus (\$) (2)	Stock Awards (\$) (3)	Option Awards (\$) (4)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) (5)	Change in Pensions Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation (\$) (6)	All Other Compensation (\$) (6)	Total (\$)
Dow R. Wilson President and Chief Executive Officer	2015	\$ 1,062,823		\$ 3,666,730	\$ 1,833,340	\$ 796,800		\$ 147,326	\$ 7,507,019
	2014	\$ 934,616		\$ 3,000,000	\$ 1,230,250	\$ 1,117,965		\$ 161,167	\$ 6,443,998
	2013	\$ 892,048		\$ 3,000,035	\$ 1,499,999	\$ 792,446		\$ 133,976	\$ 6,318,505
Elisha W. Finney Executive Vice President, Finance and	2015	\$ 658,154		\$ 1,000,034	\$ 499,995	\$ 334,730		\$ 78,488	\$ 2,571,401
	2014	\$ 586,975		\$ 1,066,691	\$ 577,537	\$ 483,550		\$ 101,658	\$ 2,816,413
	2013	\$ 569,235		\$ 1,133,341	\$ 566,659	\$ 337,721		\$ 89,562	\$ 2,696,517
Chief Financial Officer									
Kolleen T. Kennedy Executive Vice President and President,	2015	\$ 640,668		\$ 1,099,952	\$ 550,007	\$ 499,105		\$ 79,145	\$ 2,868,877
	2014	\$ 566,991		\$ 1,100,010	\$ 451,085	\$ 466,840		\$ 87,710	\$ 2,672,636
	2013	\$ 536,586		\$ 1,066,630	\$ 533,329	\$ 383,552		\$ 83,706	\$ 2,603,803
Oncology Systems									
John W. Kuo Senior Vice President, General Counsel and	2015	\$ 481,823		\$ 866,652	\$ 433,324	\$ 218,480		\$ 57,213	\$ 2,057,492
	2014	\$ 429,858		\$ 849,949	\$ 487,289	\$ 308,446		\$ 73,422	\$ 2,148,964
	2013	\$ 412,708		\$ 800,064	\$ 399,992	\$ 215,293		\$ 78,238	\$ 1,906,296
Corporate Secretary									
Sunny S. Sanyal Senior Vice President and President, Imaging Components Business	2015	\$ 483,625		\$ 866,652	\$ 433,324	\$ 185,182		\$ 110,803	\$ 2,079,586
	2014	\$ 313,846	\$ 200,000	\$ 485,042	\$ 1,055,809	\$ 365,127		\$ 78,205	\$ 2,498,029

- (1) Salary includes a one-time lump sum payment of accrued personal paid leave as a result of a transition to a non-accrued personal paid leave policy.
- (2) Mr. Sanyal received a bonus of \$200,000 in connection with his joining the Company in fiscal year 2014.
- (3) This column represents the aggregate grant date fair value of RSU and PSU awards made to the NEO during fiscal years 2015, 2014 and 2013, computed in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 718, *Compensation Stock Compensation* (ASC 718). The fair value for RSU awards was determined using the closing price of our common stock on the grant date multiplied by the number of shares subject to the award. The fair value for PSU awards was based on the probable outcome of the performance conditions using the Monte Carlo simulation model on the date of grant with assumptions as set forth in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal years ended October 2, 2015, September 26, 2014 and September 27, 2013,

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

excluding the effect of forfeitures.

The table below sets forth components of the fair value of the stock awards made in fiscal year 2015. The value of the PSU awards at grant date, assuming that the highest level of performance conditions will be achieved is also included. These amounts reflect our calculation of the value of these awards, and do not necessarily correspond to the actual value that may ultimately be realized by the NEOs.

Name	Components of Stock Awards		PSU Fair Value at Highest Level
	RSU Fair Value	PSU Fair Value	
Dow R. Wilson	\$ 1,833,358	\$ 1,833,372	\$ 3,666,743
Elisha W. Finney	\$ 500,032	\$ 500,002	\$ 1,000,003
Kolleen T. Kennedy	\$ 549,970	\$ 549,982	\$ 1,099,965
John W. Kuo	\$ 433,324	\$ 433,328	\$ 866,657
Sunny S. Sanyal	\$ 433,324	\$ 433,328	\$ 866,657

Table of Contents

- (4) This column represents the aggregate grant date fair value of stock option awards granted to the NEO during fiscal year 2015, computed in accordance with ASC 718, using the assumptions listed below.

	2015
Expected term (in years)	4.13
Risk-free interest rate	1.29%
Expected volatility	22.07%
Expected dividend yield	
Weighted average fair value at grant date	\$ 18.53

For more information on the determination of valuation assumptions we used with respect to stock option awards, please refer to the note on Employee Stock Plans in the notes to consolidated financial statements contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year in which the stock option was awarded. These amounts reflect our calculation of the value of these awards, and do not necessarily correspond to the actual value that may ultimately be realized by the NEOs.

- (5) This column represents annual cash incentives paid under the MIP. Amounts include the incentive payments deferred under the DCP. Please refer to the Grant of Plan-Based Awards Table for more information.
- (6) Set forth in the table below are the material components of the All Other Compensation column for fiscal year 2015.

Name	Company Contributions to 401(k)	Company Supplemental Contributions Under the Deferred Compensation Plan		Car Usage and Related Expenses	Company Match of Charitable Contributions	Other (B)
		(A)	(A)			
Dow R. Wilson	\$ 15,900	\$ 91,908	\$ 8,640	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,878	
Elisha W. Finney	\$ 14,230	\$ 41,183	\$ 6,687	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,388	
Kolleen T. Kennedy	\$ 17,292	\$ 50,228	\$ 5,834	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,791	
John W. Kuo	\$ 15,900	\$ 24,986	\$ 8,260		\$ 8,067	
Sunny S. Sanyal	\$ 11,121	\$ 24,033		\$ 3,500	\$ 71,196	

- (A) Amounts represent an estimate of the Company Supplemental Contributions under the DCP for 2015, which will be made in January 2016. The estimate is calculated based on the portion of the executive's eligible cash compensation (determined by the sum of his or her calendar year 2015 base salary through December 31, 2015 and the actual fiscal year 2015 cash incentive payout under the MIP) that exceeded the compensation limit imposed by Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code (\$265,000 for 2015).
- (B) For Mr. Wilson the amount represents incremental cost for a flight on the fractionally-owned corporate aircraft for his spouse and reimbursement of financial counseling, medical and life insurance. For Ms. Finney, Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Kuo, the amount represents reimbursement of financial counseling, medical and life insurance. For Mr. Sanyal, the amount consists of reimbursement of financial counseling, medical and life insurance and relocation benefits of \$63,044.

Table of Contents**Grants of Plan-Based Awards for 2015**

The following table provides information on plan-based awards made in fiscal year 2015 to each of our NEOs:

Name	Grant Date/Plan	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards (1)			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards (2)			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Restricted Stock Units (#) (3)	All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#) (4)	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (5)
		Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)	Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)				
Dow R. Wilson	MIP	\$ 0	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 2,400,000							
	11/14/2014				0	18,891	37,782				\$ 1,833,372
	2/13/2015							19,788			\$ 1,833,358
Elisha W. Finney	MIP	\$ 0	\$ 511,820	\$ 1,023,639							
	11/14/2014				0	5,152	10,304				\$ 500,002
	2/13/2015							5,397			\$ 500,032
Kolleen T. Kennedy	MIP	\$ 0	\$ 500,507	\$ 1,001,013							
	11/14/2014				0	5,667	11,334				\$ 549,982
	2/13/2015							5,936			\$ 549,970
John W. Kuo	MIP	\$ 0	\$ 314,813	\$ 629,627							
	11/14/2014				0	4,465	8,930				\$ 433,328
	2/13/2015							4,677			\$ 433,324
Sunny S. Sanyal	MIP	\$ 0	\$ 372,600	\$ 745,200							
	11/14/2014				0	4,465	8,930	4,677			\$ 433,328
	2/13/2015								23,385	\$ 92.65	\$ 433,324
	2/13/2015								23,385	\$ 92.65	\$ 433,324

- (1) These columns show the potential value of the payout for each NEO under the MIP if the threshold, target or maximum goals were satisfied for all performance measures. The potential payouts are performance-driven and therefore completely at-risk. The performance goals and target percentages (as a percentage of base salary) for determining the payout under the MIP for each NEO are described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis. Actual payouts are set forth in the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table and in footnote 3 to that table.
- (2) Consists of a single PSU grant to each NEO under the Third Amended Stock Plan. The PSU award cliff-vests (*i.e.*, 100% vests at one time) at the end of a three-year performance period, provided the NEO is employed by us throughout the vesting period, except in cases involving retirement, death or change in control, where full or partial payments are made depending on various circumstances. The primary performance metric under these PSUs is our fiscal year 2015 growth in EPS, which can account for a payout of up to 150% of the target number of shares covered by the award. The secondary performance metric, which is applied as a modifier, is our relative TSR versus the Dow Jones U.S. Medical Equipment Index which can adjust up or down the shares earned based on EPS goal by up to 50% of the target number of shares covered by the award. Our target EPS for fiscal year 2015 was 8% EPS growth. We achieved 4.2% growth, resulting in a preliminary payout of 3.4% of the target shares granted. After application of the modifier, final payout will range from 0% to 53.4% of the target shares granted depending on our three-year TSR results.
- (3) Consists of a single RSU grant to each NEO under the Third Amended Stock Plan. Each RSU represents a right to one share of our common stock. The RSUs vest and are settled over a three-year period in equal increments on February 15th of each year thereafter,

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

provided the NEO is employed by us throughout the vesting period, except in cases involving retirement, death or change in control, where full or partial payments are made depending on various circumstances.

- (4) Consists of a single stock option grant to each NEO under the Third Amended Stock Plan at an exercise price equal to the fair market value (*i.e.*, closing price) of the underlying shares on the grant date and expiring seven years from the grant date. One-third of the award vests one year after the grant date and the remainder

Table of Contents

then vests monthly during the following 24-month period, provided the NEO is employed by us throughout the vesting period, except in cases involving retirement, death or change in control, where full or partial payments are made depending on various circumstances.

(5) Grant date fair value is computed in accordance with ASC 718.

Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table

Salary: During fiscal year 2015, none of the NEOs had a written employment agreement with us, but were and remain at-will employees. The salaries for the NEOs in effect as of the beginning of calendar year 2015 were as follows: Mr. Wilson, \$1,000,000; Ms. Finney, \$616,650; Ms. Kennedy, \$603,020; and Mr. Kuo, \$462,961; and Mr. Sanyal, \$496,800.

Bonus: None of the NEOs received a bonus (other than as set forth below under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation).

Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation: The amounts in the Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan columns of the Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table represent the potential awards under the MIP, while the amounts in the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table and in footnote 3 to that table represent the actual awards earned by the NEOs under the MIP. As further discussed in Compensation Discussion and Analysis Fiscal year 2015 Salary, Annual Cash Incentive and Long-term Incentive Discussions Annual Cash Incentives, for fiscal year 2015, the Compensation Committee established a MIP Bonus Pool equal to 1.25% of the Company's fiscal year 2015 EBIT and fixed the following financial performance goals: growth in EBIT (50% weight) and growth in gross orders (30% weight) on which 80% of the potential MIP amount was based. For each of the above performance measures, specific targets were set at the total-Company level and at our two largest business units, Oncology Systems and Imaging Components. In addition, 20% of the potential MIP amount was based on achievement of individual non-financial qualitative performance, with the achievement and payout determined at the discretion of the Compensation Committee. Based on achievement of the applicable performance measures and the Compensation Committee's determination of each NEO's achievement of his or her qualitative goals, the actual payouts as a percentage of the target payout (or 100%) under the MIP were as follows:

Name	MIP Payout as a % of Target (Fiscal Year 2015)
Dow R. Wilson	66%
Elisha W. Finney	65%
Kolleen T. Kennedy	100%
John W. Kuo	69%
Sunny S. Sanyal	50%

See Compensation Discussion and Analysis Fiscal year 2015 Salary, Annual Cash Incentive and Long-term Incentive Discussions Annual Cash Incentives for more information regarding the calculation.

Stock and Option Awards: The awards of RSUs, PSUs and stock options are intended to motivate our executives relative to long-term performance as further described in Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

All Other Compensation, Including Perquisites: The NEOs have also been extended certain perquisites, as follows:

Company Supplemental Contributions representing retirement contributions which could not be contributed by the Company to the executives' qualified 401(k) retirement accounts due to Internal Revenue Code limitations, as further discussed under Nonqualified Deferred Compensation.

Table of Contents

Reimbursement for financial planning, estate planning, tax planning, tax return preparation and financial counseling services (to a maximum of \$6,500 per year and unlimited for the Chief Executive Officer). We also reimburse certain individuals, including all executive officers and non-executive officers, for annual medical examinations (up to a maximum of \$4,000 per year).

Until January 1, 2015, use of a leased automobile under our Executive Car Program. Under the Executive Car Program, we provided a leased vehicle costing up to \$82,000 for the Chief Executive Officer and leased vehicles costing up to \$68,000 for the other executives. Insurance, maintenance expenses and fuel costs were also included in the Executive Car Program. Participants had an option to purchase the vehicle at the end of its three-year lease period or upon retirement at the lower of its depreciated book value or its fair market value (based on the Kelley Blue Book Auto Market Report wholesale value).

We do not permit our executives to use our fractionally owned aircraft for purely personal trips. However, we allow and include in the executive's compensation, as applicable, aircraft use attributable to accompanying spousal aircraft travel when it is deemed valuable and appropriate for business purposes. In fiscal year 2015, there was minimal spousal travel.

Table of Contents**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End**

The following table sets forth the outstanding equity awards of the NEOs as of the end of fiscal year 2015:

Name	Option Grant Date	Option Awards (1) (2)			Option Expiration Date	Stock Award (2)			
		Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)		Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other rights That Have Not Vested (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$)
Dow R. Wilson	11/21/2006	80,000		\$ 50.66	11/21/2016				
	05/14/2010	83,334		\$ 52.83	05/14/2017				
	11/11/2011	53,293		\$ 57.90	11/11/2018				
	11/09/2012	74,170	4,364	\$ 68.84	11/09/2019				
	02/21/2014	43,448	38,876	\$ 83.70	02/21/2021				
	02/13/2015		98,939	\$ 92.65	02/13/2022				
						14,790(9)	\$ 1,112,060		
						7,264(3)	\$ 546,180	18,816(6)	\$ 1,414,775
						11,948(4)	\$ 898,370	19,355(7)	\$ 1,455,302
						19,788(5)	\$ 1,487,860	18,891(8)	\$ 1,420,414
Total		334,245	142,179			53,790	\$ 4,044,470	57,062	\$ 4,290,491
Elisha W. Finney	11/11/2011	15,334		\$ 57.90	11/11/2018				
	11/09/2012	28,019	1,649	\$ 68.84	11/09/2019				
	02/21/2014	15,448	13,823	\$ 83.70	02/21/2021				
	02/13/2015		26,983	\$ 92.65	02/13/2022				
							2,744(3)	\$ 206,321	7,108(6)
						4,248(4)	\$ 319,407	6,882(7)	\$ 517,458
						5,397(5)	\$ 405,800	5,152(8)	\$ 387,379
Total		58,801	42,455			12,389	\$ 931,528	19,142	\$ 1,439,288
Kolleen T. Kennedy	11/09/2012	3,878	1,552	\$ 68.84	11/09/2019				
	02/21/2014	15,930	14,255	\$ 83.70	02/21/2021				
	02/13/2015		29,682	\$ 92.65	02/13/2022				
							2,583(3)	\$ 194,216	6,690(6)
						4,381(4)	\$ 329,407	7,097(7)	\$ 533,623
						5,936(5)	\$ 446,328	5,667(8)	\$ 426,102
Total		19,808	45,489			12,900	\$ 969,951	19,454	\$ 1,462,746
John W. Kuo	11/09/2012	2,909	1,164	\$ 68.84	11/09/2019				
	02/21/2014	13,034	11,663	\$ 83.70	02/21/2021				
	02/13/2015		23,385	\$ 92.65	02/13/2022				
							1,937(3)	\$ 145,643	5,018(6)
						3,584(4)	\$ 269,481	5,161(7)	\$ 388,056
						4,677(5)	\$ 351,664	4,465(8)	\$ 335,723
Total		15,943	36,212			10,198	\$ 766,788	14,644	\$ 1,101,082

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

Sunny S. Sanyal	02/21/2014	28,241	25,270	\$ 83.70	02/21/2021				
	02/13/2015		23,385	\$ 92.65	02/13/2022				
						3,864(4)	\$ 290,534		
						4,677(5)	\$ 351,664	4,465(8)	\$ 335,723
Total		28,241	48,655			8,541	\$ 642,198	4,465	\$ 335,723

- (1) All options are granted at an exercise price equal to the fair market value (*i.e.*, the closing price) of the underlying shares of our common stock on the date of grant. The following table sets forth the vesting dates for the outstanding unvested option awards:

<u>Grant Date</u>	<u>General Vesting Schedule (based on outstanding option awards)</u>
11/11/2011	33-1/3% vested on 11/11/2012; pro-rata monthly thereafter until fully vested on 11/11/2014.
11/9/2012	33-1/3% vested on 11/9/2013; pro-rata monthly thereafter until fully vested on 11/11/2015.
2/21/2014	33-1/3% vested on 2/21/2015; pro-rata monthly thereafter until fully vested on 2/21/2017.

Table of Contents

- (2) Vesting will occur only if the NEO is employed by us throughout the vesting period, except in cases involving retirement, death or change in control, where full or partial payments are made depending on various circumstances. In particular, because Mr. Wilson and Ms. Kennedy are eligible for retirement, certain unvested options, and unvested stock awards would continue to vest according to the original vesting schedule even if the services of either were terminated for any reason. See Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control.

- (3) Grant Date Vesting Schedule (based on total RSU awards granted)

11/9/2012 33 1/3% on 11/21/2013; 33 1/3% on 11/21/2014 and 33 1/3% on 11/21/2015

- (4) Grant Date Vesting Schedule (based on total RSU awards granted)

2/21/2014 33 1/3% on 2/15/2015; 33 1/3% on 2/15/2016 and 33 1/3% on 2/15/2017

- (5) Grant Date Vesting Schedule (based on outstanding RSU awards)

2/13/2015 33 1/3% on 2/15/2016; 33 1/3% on 2/15/2017 and 33 1/3% on 2/15/2018

- (6) Grant Date Vesting Schedule (based on outstanding PSU awards)

11/9/2012 100% on 11/9/2015, subject to actual performance and continued service or retirement. The aggregate market value in the table is based on target performance since actual performance in fiscal years 2014 and 2013 exceeded threshold performance.

- (7) Grant Date Vesting Schedule (based on outstanding PSU awards)

11/20/2013 100% on 11/20/2016, subject to actual performance and continued service or retirement. The aggregate market value in the table is based on target performance since actual performance in fiscal year 2014 exceeded threshold performance.

- (8) Grant Date Vesting Schedule (based on outstanding PSU awards)

11/14/2014 100% on 11/14/2017, subject to actual performance and continued service or retirement. The aggregate market value in the table is based on target performance since actual performance in fiscal year 2015 exceeded threshold performance.

- (9) Grant Date Vesting Schedule (based on outstanding Restricted Stock awards)

1/10/2005 33 1/3% on 1/10/2010; 33 1/3% on 1/10/2015; and 33 1/3% on 1/10/2020

(10) Based on the closing price of our common stock as of October 2, 2015 (\$75.19).

Table of Contents**Option Exercises and Stock Vested**

The following table sets forth the number of shares acquired on stock option exercises and vesting of RSUs by each of the NEOs during fiscal year 2015. The table also presents the value realized upon such exercises and vesting, as calculated, in the case of stock options, based on the difference between the market price of our common stock at exercise and the option exercise price and, in the case of restricted stock and RSUs, based on the closing price per share of common stock on the NYSE on the vesting date. Amounts presented in the Valued Realized on Vesting column under Stock Awards do not necessarily mean that the NEO has actually sold the vested shares for cash.

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized Upon Exercise (\$)	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting (\$)
Dow R. Wilson	273,519	\$ 8,235,568	24,777	\$ 2,203,660
Elisha W. Finney	110,667	\$ 3,690,163	12,088	\$ 1,070,923
Kolleen T. Kennedy	6,710	\$ 151,555	9,766	\$ 867,706
John W. Kuo	6,447	\$ 154,539	8,451	\$ 750,306
Sunny S. Sanyal			1,931	\$ 179,313

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

The following table sets forth contributions, earnings and distributions during fiscal year 2015, and account balances as of October 2, 2015, for each of the NEOs, under our nonqualified DCP:

Name	Executive Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (1)	Registrant Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (2)	Aggregate Earnings in Last Fiscal Year (3)	Aggregate Withdrawals/Distributions	Aggregate Balance at Last Fiscal Year End (4)
Dow R. Wilson		\$ 91,908	\$ 6,035		\$ 686,707
Elisha W. Finney	\$ 308,325	\$ 41,183	\$ 15,932		\$ 4,085,090
Kolleen T. Kennedy	\$ 471,497	\$ 50,228	\$ (50,916)		\$ 4,751,513
John W. Kuo	\$ 210,553	\$ 24,986	\$ (23,740)		\$ 1,941,072
Sunny S. Sanyal		\$ 24,033	\$ 27		\$ 55,845

- (1) These amounts represent the respective executive contributions attributable to 2015. For Ms. Finney, the amount shown represents calendar year 2015 base salary deferrals; for Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Kuo the amounts shown represent their fiscal year 2015 MIP deferrals. These amounts do not include the following executive contributions made during fiscal year 2015 which were attributable to fiscal year 2014 compensation: \$48,355 for Ms. Finney and \$154,223 for Mr. Kuo.
- (2) These amounts represent the estimated Company Supplemental Contributions (as described below) based on expected calendar year 2015 base salary and actual fiscal year 2015 MIP bonus amounts. These amounts do not include the following Company Supplemental Contributions made during fiscal year 2015 which were attributable to calendar year 2014 base salary and fiscal year 2014 MIP bonus amounts: \$108,178 for Mr. Wilson; \$48,870 for Ms. Finney; \$46,734 for Ms. Kennedy; \$28,929 for Mr. Kuo; and \$31,785 for Mr. Sanyal.
- (3) None of the earnings in this column are included in the Summary Compensation Table because they were not preferential or above market.

- (4) Balance at last fiscal year end reflects actual fiscal year-end balance plus any subsequent contributions attributable to calendar year 2015 base salary and fiscal year 2015 MIP bonus amounts. Balance at last fiscal year end includes the following amounts reported as compensation to the NEOs in the Summary Compensation Table for previous years: Mr. Wilson, \$564,695; Ms. Finney, \$1,765,676; Ms. Kennedy, \$746,975; Mr. Kuo, \$1,114,818; and Mr. Sanyal, \$34,800.

Table of Contents

Our DCP is an unfunded and unsecured deferred compensation arrangement that is designed to allow directors, executive officers and certain other management and highly compensated employees to forego current compensation and defer a specified percentage of their base salaries (up to 50%), cash incentive payments (up to 100%) and director fees (applicable only to our non-employee directors) in a manner similar to the way in which our 401(k) plan operates, but without regard to the maximum deferral limitations imposed on 401(k) plans by the Internal Revenue Code. Deferred amounts are our general unsecured obligations and are subject to claims by our creditors. Our general assets or assets in an existing rabbi trust may be used to fund our payment obligations and pay DCP benefits. The Compensation Committee administers the DCP. Additionally, in order to make retirement contributions that we could not contribute to eligible participants' qualified 401(k) retirement accounts due to Internal Revenue Code limitations, in fiscal year 2015, we made Company Supplemental Contributions equal to the product of (a) the excess of the participant's base annual salary and any applicable incentive payments for fiscal year 2015 over the compensation limit imposed by Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code (\$260,000); and (b) our matching contribution rate under the 401(k) (6%). Further, we may, on a discretionary basis, credit additional amounts on behalf of the DCP's participants (these discretionary contributions, together with the Company Supplemental Contributions, are referred to as Company Contributions).

Amounts deferred by a participant and Company Contributions are credited to a bookkeeping account maintained on behalf of each participant. These bookkeeping accounts are utilized solely as a device for measuring and determining amounts to be paid to a participant, or his or her designated beneficiary, pursuant to the terms of the DCP. Amounts credited to each participant under the DCP are periodically adjusted for earnings and/or losses at a rate that is equal to the various investment funds (also referred to as measurement funds) selected by the Compensation Committee, as elected by the participant. The Compensation Committee may, in its sole discretion, discontinue, substitute or add a measurement fund. Participants may reallocate previously invested money among each of the available measurement funds on a daily basis. Under the DCP, a participant may make separate distribution elections with respect to each year's deferrals. These distribution elections include the ability to elect a single lump-sum payment or installment payments for up to 15 years for employees who retire from the Company. Deferrals also may be paid out prior to separation from service in the event of a financial hardship or if the participant makes a short-term distribution election. A short-term distribution election must be made at the time the participant makes his or her initial deferral elections. Under the DCP, amounts credited as Company Supplemental Contributions are generally paid in the form of a lump sum following a participant's separation from service (except for those Company Supplemental Contributions made prior to December 31, 2004, which may still be paid in installments upon an employee's retirement). Non-retirement separations from service generally will result in payments being made in the form of single lump sums.

We may terminate the DCP by action of the Board, in which event benefits will be distributed as soon as the plan and Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code permit.

Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control

The tables below show certain potential payments that would have been made to an NEO had the termination hypothetically occurred on the last business day of fiscal year 2015 (*i.e.*, October 2, 2015) under various scenarios, including a change in control. The potential payments were determined under the terms of our plans and arrangements in effect on October 2, 2015. The tables do not include the nonqualified deferred compensation that would be paid to an NEO, which is set forth in the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Table above, which each such NEO would receive in the event of any termination. In addition, the tables do not include the value of vested but unexercised stock options as of October 2, 2015 which could generally be exercised in the event of any termination.

The footnotes to the tables describe the assumptions used in estimating the amounts set forth in the tables, which in all cases do not give effect to the exercise of our recoupment policy. Because the payments to be made to an NEO depend on several factors, the actual amounts to be paid out upon an NEO's termination of employment can only be determined at the time of the NEO's separation from us. An outline of the various termination

Table of Contents

scenarios and the potential payments that are made to the NEOs in each scenario (under the terms of our plans and arrangements in effect on October 2, 2015) appears after the tables and footnotes.

Potential Payments Upon Termination of Employment/CIC as of 10/2/15 Dow R. Wilson
Intrinsic Value of Accelerated Equity Awards (3)

Termination Scenario	Cash		Benefit Continuation (2)	Options	Restricted Stock and RSUs		PSUs (4)	280G Excise Tax Gross	Total
	Severance (1)				Up				
Death	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 655,974	\$ 4,044,320	\$ 2,875,717		\$ 7,576,011	
Change in Control Termination (4)	\$ 6,600,000	\$ 77,094	\$ 655,974	\$ 4,044,320	\$ 2,875,717			\$ 14,253,105	
Termination with Cause	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0					\$ 0	
All Other	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0					\$ 0	

Potential Payments Upon Termination of Employment/CIC as of 10/2/15 Elisha W. Finney
Intrinsic Value of Accelerated Equity Awards (3)

Termination Scenario	Cash		Benefit Continuation (2)	Options	Restricted Stock and RSUs		PSUs (4)	280G Excise Tax Gross	Total
	Severance (1)				Up				
Death	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 269,583	\$ 931,529	\$ 904,836		\$ 2,105,948	
Change in Control Termination (4)	\$ 2,821,174	\$ 144,194	\$ 269,583	\$ 931,529	\$ 904,836			\$ 5,071,316	
Termination with Cause	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0					\$ 0	
All Other	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0					\$ 0	

Potential Payments Upon Termination of Employment/CIC as of 10/2/15 Kolleen T. Kennedy
Intrinsic Value of Accelerated Equity Awards (3)

Termination Scenario	Cash		Benefit Continuation (2)	Options	Restricted Stock and RSUs		PSUs (4)	280G Excise Tax Gross	Total
	Severance (1)				Up				
Death	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 198,336	\$ 969,801	\$ 959,725		\$ 2,127,862	
Change in Control Termination (4)	\$ 2,758,817	\$ 44,071	\$ 198,336	\$ 969,801	\$ 959,725			\$ 4,930,749	
Termination with Cause	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0					\$ 0	
All Other	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0					\$ 0	

Potential Payments Upon Termination of Employment/CIC as of 10/2/15 John W. Kuo
Intrinsic Value of Accelerated Equity Awards (3)

Termination Scenario	Cash		Benefit Continuation (2)	Options	Restricted Stock and RSUs		PSUs (4)	280G Excise Tax Gross	Total
	Severance (1)				Up				
Death	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 155,886	\$ 766,788	\$ 723,779		\$ 1,646,453	
Change in Control Termination (4)	\$ 1,944,436	\$ 68,971	\$ 155,886	\$ 766,788	\$ 723,779			\$ 3,659,860	
Termination with Cause	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0					\$ 0	
All Other	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0					\$ 0	

Potential Payments Upon Termination of Employment/CIC as of 10/2/15 Sunny S. Sanyal
Intrinsic Value of Accelerated Equity Awards (3)

Termination Scenario	Cash		Benefit Continuation (2)	Options	Restricted Stock and RSUs		PSUs (4)	280G Excise Tax Gross	Total
	Severance (1)				Up				
Death	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 148,495	\$ 642,198	\$ 335,723		\$ 1,126,416	

Edgar Filing: VARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC - Form DEF 14A

Change in Control Termination (4)	\$ 2,173,500	\$ 62,475	\$ 642,198	\$ 335,723	\$ 3,362,391
Termination with Cause	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 148,495		\$ 0
All Other	\$ 0	\$ 0			\$ 0

Table of Contents

- (1) Cash severance equal to 2.5 times (3.0 times for Mr. Wilson) the sum of (i) annual base salary rate plus (ii) the greater of (a) the most recently established target bonus or (b) average annual bonus paid over prior three fiscal years. Does not include bonus for year of termination which would be payable in connection with termination in all events as described under Other Potential Post-Employment Payments.

- (2) Value of payment assumes the costs to the Company from the following:
 - a. Medical, dental and vision insurance (assuming that the executive pays employee contribution rates for continuing coverage for 24 months).

 - b. Life insurance cost is calculated based on the cost of converting basic life insurance coverage into an individual policy and porting the supplemental life insurance coverage.

 - c. Basic Accidental Death & Dismemberment cost is calculated based on the cost of converting to an individual policy.

 - d. Financial/tax counseling of \$6,500 per year.

- (3) Based on the closing stock price as of October 2, 2015 (\$75.19).

- (4) Excludes value of PSUs earned for fiscal year 2015 performance.

Table of Contents

Change in Control Scenarios

The following chart details the circumstances that would be considered a change in control and the compensation packages that would be granted to senior executives under current employment agreements. Importantly, the officers agree not to voluntarily leave us when we are faced with a transaction that might result in a change in control.

The agreements also provide for certain death and long-term disability benefits in the event of an individual's death or disability within 18 months after a change in control. Payments and benefits may be delayed six months following separation from service in order to comply with Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code.

In fiscal year 2010, the Compensation Committee approved for future use new forms of change-in-control agreements that eliminated the additional associated with excise tax imposed by Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code. The new forms of agreement contain a better of provision whereby the executive's actual change-in-control payment will be reduced to \$1 below the threshold imposed under Section 280G (*i.e.*, thereby not triggering excise tax) if the change-in-control payment after the imposition of the excise tax would otherwise result in a lesser amount. The Compensation Committee did not amend the existing change-in-control agreements with executives at that time, but provided that if any of them get promoted or demoted into a position

Table of Contents

eligible for a change-in-control agreement, the new form of change-in-control agreement would replace the existing one. When Mr. Wilson and Ms. Kennedy were promoted to President and CEO and President of Oncology Systems, respectively, they both entered into this new form of change-in-control agreement.

In fiscal year 2015, the Compensation Committee approved an amendment and restatement of all of the change-in-control agreements that, among other things, incorporated the best results provision described above for all executives with a change-in-control agreement.

Compensation of Directors

The compensation of directors is determined by the full Board. Directors who are employees (*i.e.*, Mr. Wilson) receive no compensation for their services as directors. The Compensation Committee periodically initiates a review of the non-employee director compensation (including cash retainer and meeting fees and equity awards) and recommends to the full Board for adoption any changes to their compensation. Changes to non-employee director compensation are generally made to ensure that their compensation levels are market-competitive and that the compensation structure supports our business objectives, aligns with the directors' interests with the interests of stockholders, reflects competitive best practice and is cost-and-tax-effective. A description of the current program follows:

Annual Cash Compensation: The annual retainer for Board service is \$100,000. Additional annual retainers for special roles are as follows: \$100,000 for the Non-Executive Board Chair; \$20,000 for the Audit Committee Chair; \$15,000 for the Compensation and Management Development Committee Chair; \$12,000 for the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Chair; and \$12,000 for the Ethics Committee Chair.

There are no fees for attending Board meetings. Meeting fees for attending Committee meetings are \$1,500 for each in person or telephonic scheduled committee meeting, and \$750 if the committee meeting was an in-person meeting and the director attended by telephone or video conference. The Board believes that this provides flexibility in making Committee assignments that might require more or fewer meetings and preparation time.

Non-employee directors may elect to receive their cash compensation as full-value shares of our common stock, at a value equal to the fair market value on the date that the foregone cash compensation otherwise would have been paid. They may alternatively elect to defer their retainers and/or meeting fees under our DCP, subject to the restrictions of applicable tax law. Please refer to the discussion under Nonqualified Deferred Compensation for more information.

Equity Compensation: The Third Amended Stock Plan provides for discretionary grants of non-qualified stock options and Deferred Stock Units (DSUs) to non-employee directors. Beginning on February 21, 2014, we began making annual grants to non-employee directors of DSUs with a grant-date fair value of \$160,000. The DSUs generally vest quarterly over a period of one year from the date of grant. Unless otherwise provided in the grant agreement as determined by the Board, payment of DSUs will be made in shares of our common stock, with one share of our common stock issued for each DSU, upon the earlier of three years after the date of the DSU grant or upon departure from the Board (*e.g.*, upon retirement or resignation). Previously, equity compensation for our non-employee directors was in the form of annual grants of a combination of non-qualified stock options and DSUs.

We also have stock ownership guidelines for our non-executive directors. Under these guidelines, each non-employee director is expected to own shares valued at five times the annual Board service retainer fees. Ownership levels are to be achieved within five years from the date upon which an individual becomes a non-employee Director, within three years of the amendment to the ownership levels described above, or within three years of an amendment to non-employee Director compensation that increases the annual retainer fees payable to non-employee Directors by 25% or greater, whichever is later. One third of the guideline must be achieved within the first two and a half years after an individual becomes subject to the Program.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth the compensation received by each non-employee director during fiscal year 2015 (note that all directors are reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses associated with attending Board and committee meetings, and for expenses related to attending continuing directors' education programs):

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Stock Awards (1)	Option Awards (2)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings	All Other Compensation (3)	Total (\$)
Susan L. Bostrom	\$ 133,000	\$ 160,007					\$ 290,007
Regina Dugan	\$ 115,000	\$ 160,007					\$ 265,007
R. Andrew Eckert	\$ 228,500	\$ 160,007				\$ 7,500	\$ 395,007
Timothy E. Guertin	\$ 100,000	\$ 160,007					\$ 266,007
David J. Illingworth	\$ 139,000	\$ 160,007					\$ 301,507
Mark R. Laret	\$ 127,000	\$ 160,007				\$ 2,500	\$ 297,007
Ruediger Naumann-Etienne	\$ 145,500	\$ 160,007				\$ 5,000	\$ 318,007
Erich R. Reinhardt	\$ 115,000	\$ 160,007					\$ 284,007
Venkatraman Thyagarajan	\$ 130,000	\$ 160,007					\$ 290,007

- (1) This column represents the aggregate grant date fair value of DSUs granted in fiscal year 2015, computed in accordance with ASC 718. The fair value is determined using the closing price on the grant date multiplied by the number of shares subject to the award. These amounts reflect our calculation of the value of these awards, and do not necessarily correspond to the actual value that may ultimately be realized by the directors.
- (2) Beginning fiscal year 2014, stock options are no longer a part of Director Compensation.
- (3) Amounts represent charitable contributions made by the Company on behalf of Mr. Laret, Mr. Eckert and Mr Naumann-Etienne under our charitable gift matching programs.

The following table sets forth the aggregate number of outstanding DSUs and stock options held by each non-employee director listed as of the end of fiscal year 2015:

Name	DSUs Outstanding	Options Outstanding
Susan L. Bostrom	5,067	
Regina Dugan	3,639	
R. Andrew Eckert	5,067	18,000
Timothy E. Guertin	5,067	5,000
David J. Illingworth	5,067	10,000
Mark R. Laret	5,067	15,000
Ruediger Naumann-Etienne	5,067	
Erich R. Reinhardt	5,067	5,000
Venkatraman Thyagarajan	5,067	

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

None of our executive officers currently serves, or in the past has served, as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving on the Board or the Compensation Committee.

Table of Contents

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Review, Approval or Ratification of Related Person Transactions

The Nominating Committee is responsible for the review, approval or ratification of related person transactions between the Company or its subsidiaries and related persons. Under SEC rules, a related person is a director, nominee for director or executive officer since the beginning of the last fiscal year, or a more than five percent stockholder, and their immediate family members. Such transactions may include employment or consulting relationships with a related person or contracts under which we receive goods or services from (or provide goods and services to) a related person or a company for which the related person is an employee or otherwise affiliated. The Board has adopted written policies and procedures that apply to any transaction or series of transactions in which the Company or one of its subsidiaries is a participant and a related person has a direct or indirect material interest. Generally for a transaction to be approved, the Nominating Committee must be informed or have knowledge of (i) the related person's relationship to the Company and interest in the transaction; (ii) the material facts of the proposed transaction, including a description of the nature and potential aggregate value of the proposed transaction; (iii) the benefits, if any, to the Company of the proposed transaction; (iv) if applicable, the availability of other sources of comparable products or services; and (v) an assessment of whether the proposed transaction or situation is on terms that are comparable to the terms available to an unrelated third party or to employees generally.

The Nominating Committee has, however, determined that a related person does not have a direct or indirect material interest in the following categories of transactions:

any transaction with another company for which a related person's only relationship is as an employee (other than an executive officer), director, or beneficial owner of less than 10% of that company's shares, if the amount involved does not exceed the greater of \$1 million, or 2% of that company's total annual revenue, and the related person is not involved in the decision-making process for such transaction;

any charitable contribution, grant or endowment by the Company to a charitable organization, foundation or university for which a related person's only relationship is as an employee (other than an executive officer) or a director, if the amount involved does not exceed the lesser of \$1 million, or 2% of the charitable organization's total annual receipts, and the related person is not involved in the decision-making process for such transaction;

compensation to executive officers determined by the Compensation Committee;

compensation to directors determined by the Board; and

transactions in which all security holders receive proportional benefits.

Transactions involving related persons that are not included in one of the above categories are forwarded to our legal department to determine whether the related person could have a direct or indirect material interest in the transaction, and any such transaction is forwarded to the Nominating Committee for review. The Nominating Committee determines whether the related person has a material interest in a transaction and may approve, ratify, terminate or take other action with respect to the transaction in its discretion.

Transactions with Related Persons

All potential related party transactions during fiscal year 2015 were included in one of the above categories.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents