

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

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

INNOVATE BIOPHARMACEUTICALS, INC.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**27-3948465**  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**8480 Honeycutt Road, Suite 120**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**27615**  
(Zip Code)

**INNOVATE BIOPHARMACEUTICALS, INC. 2012 OMNIBUS INCENTIVE PLAN (AS AMENDED)**  
(Full title of the plan)

Jay P. Madan  
President  
Innovate Biopharmaceuticals, Inc.  
8480 Honeycutt Road, Suite 120  
Raleigh, NC 27615  
(919) 275-1933  
(Name, address and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copy to:  
Christopher B. Capel, Esq.  
Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P.  
150 Fayetteville Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

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

Large accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Emerging growth company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities To Be Registered	Amount To Be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, \$0.0001 per value per share	3,000,000 (1)	\$2.68 (2)	\$8,040,000 (2)	\$974.45 (2)
(1) This Registration Statement covers 3,000,000 shares of Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value per share, that are authorized for issuance under the Registrant's 2012 Omnibus Incentive Plan, as amended. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement also covers such additional shares of Common Stock as may be issued to prevent dilution of the shares of Common Stock covered hereby resulting from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.				
(2) Calculated solely for the purpose of this offering pursuant to Rule 457(h) on the basis of the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock as reported on the Nasdaq Capital Market on December 13, 2018.				

**PART I**  
**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE 10(a) PROSPECTUS**

This Registration Statement on Form S-8 is being filed by Innovate Biopharmaceuticals, Inc. (the “Registrant”) to register 3,000,000 shares of the Common Stock of the Registrant, \$0.0001 par value per share (“Common Stock”), issuable under the Innovate Biopharmaceuticals, Inc. 2012 Omnibus Incentive Plan, as amended (the “Plan”). As permitted by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”), this Registration Statement omits the information specified in Part I of Form S-8 and consists of only those items required by General Instruction E to Form S-8. The document containing the information specified in Part I will be delivered to the participants in the Plan as required by Rule 428(b) under the Securities Act. This document is not being filed with the Commission as part of this Registration Statement or as a prospectus or prospectus supplement pursuant to Rule 424.

**PART II**  
**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

Pursuant to General Instruction E of Form S-8, the prior Registration Statement relating to the Plan, Registration No. 333-215406 filed with the Commission on January 3, 2017, and the contents of such Registration Statement are incorporated in this Registration Statement by this reference.

**Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.**

The following documents filed with the Commission are hereby incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement:

- (a) The Registrant’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, filed with the Commission on March 14, 2018, as amended on June 29, 2018;
- (b) The Registrant’s Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2018, filed with the Commission on May 15, 2018, for the quarter ended June 30, 2018, filed with the Commission on August 14, 2018, and for the quarter ended September 30, 2018, filed with the Commission on November 13, 2018;
- (c) The Registrant’s Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 5, 2018, January 11, 2018, February 2, 2018, as amended March 29, 2018 and as further amended April 18, 2018, February 22, 2018, February 23, 2018, March 14, 2018, April 20, 2018, May 15, 2018, June 18, 2018, June 29, 2018, August 23, 2018, October 5, 2018, October 29, 2018, November 23, 2018, and December 10, 2018; and
- (d) The description of the Registrant’s Common Stock contained in the Registrant’s Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on June 7, 2016, and any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

In addition, all documents subsequently filed by the Registrant pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. However, any documents or portions thereof, whether specifically listed above or filed in the future, that are not deemed “filed” with the Commission, including without limitation any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or 7.01 of Form 8-K or certain exhibits furnished pursuant to Item 9.01 of Form 8-K, shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

Any statement in a document incorporated by reference or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for the purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

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**Item 8. Exhibits.**

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
5.1	<a href="#">Opinion of Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell &amp; Jernigan, L.L.P.</a>
23.1	<a href="#">Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C.</a>
23.2	<a href="#">Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, CohnReznick LLP</a>
23.3	Consent of Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P. (Contained in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Power of Attorney (Contained on signature page)
99.1	<a href="#">2012 Omnibus Incentive Plan, as amended (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, dated December 4, 2018, as filed with the Commission on December 10, 2018)</a>

**Item 9. Undertakings.**

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

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

(i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective Registration Statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;

*Provided, however,* that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

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

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

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the

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Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Raleigh, State of North Carolina, on this 14th day of December, 2018.

Innovate Biopharmaceuticals, Inc.

By: /s/ Christopher Prior, Ph.D.

Christopher Prior, Ph.D.

Chief Executive Officer and Director

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that each individual whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Christopher Prior, Sandeep Laumas and Jay Madan, and each of them, his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or their substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ Christopher Prior, Ph.D.</u> Christopher Prior, Ph.D.	Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	December 14, 2018
<u>/s/ Jay P. Madan</u> Jay P. Madan, M.S.	President, Chief Business Officer, Interim Principal Financial Officer, Interim Principal Accounting Officer and Director (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	December 14, 2018
<u>/s/ Sandeep Laumas, M.D.</u> Sandeep Laumas, M.D.	Director	December 14, 2018
<u>/s/ Lorin K. Johnson, Ph.D.</u> Lorin K. Johnson, Ph.D.	Director	December 14, 2018
<u>/s/ Anthony E. Maida III, Ph.D.</u> Anthony E. Maida III, Ph.D., M.A., M.B.A.	Director	December 14, 2018
<u>/s/ Roy Proujansky, M.D.</u> Roy Proujansky, M.D.	Director	December 14, 2018
<u>/s/ Saira Ramasastry</u> Saira Ramasastry, M.S., M.Phil.	Director	December 14, 2018

**OFFICES**  
Wells Fargo Capitol Center  
150 Fayetteville Street, Suite 2300  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

**Mailing Address**  
P.O. Box 2611  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
27602-2611

December 14, 2018

**TELEPHONE: (919) 821-1220**  
**FACSIMILE: (919) 821-6800**

Innovate Biopharmaceuticals, Inc.  
8480 Honeycutt Road, Suite 120  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27615

Re: Innovate Biopharmaceuticals, Inc. Registration Statement on Form S-8

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel for Innovate Biopharmaceuticals, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), in connection with the registration on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"), of 3,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share (the "Shares"), for issuance pursuant to the Innovate Biopharmaceuticals, Inc. 2012 Omnibus Incentive Plan, as amended (the "Plan").

This opinion letter is being furnished in accordance with the requirements of Item 8 of Form S-8 and Item 601(b)(5)(i) of Regulation S-K.

We have examined the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company, the Proxy Statement for the Company's 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the Plan, certified copies of resolutions of the board of directors of the Company and certain committees thereof, and such other documents and have considered such matters of law and fact as we, in our professional judgment, have deemed appropriate to render the opinion contained herein. In our examination, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conforming to originals of all documents submitted to us as certified copies or photocopies, and the authenticity of originals of such latter documents. With respect to certain facts, we have considered it appropriate to rely upon certificates or other comparable documents of public officials and officers or other appropriate representatives of the Company, without investigation or analysis of any underlying data contained therein.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing and the further assumptions, limitations and qualifications hereinafter expressed, it is our opinion that the Shares have been duly authorized, and when issued and delivered against payment therefor in accordance with the Plan as described in the Registration Statement and upon either (a) the countersigning of the certificates representing the Shares by a duly authorized signatory of the registrar for the Company's common stock, or (b) the book entry of the Shares by the transfer agent for the Company's common stock, will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

Our opinion is limited to matters governed by the laws of the State of Delaware, and no opinion is expressed herein as to the laws of any other jurisdiction. Our opinion does not extend to compliance with federal and state securities laws relating to the sale of the Shares. We express no opinion as to any matter other than as expressly set forth above, and no opinion, other than the opinion given herein, may be inferred or implied herefrom.

Our opinion expressed herein is as of the date hereof, and we undertake no obligation to advise you of any changes in applicable law or any other matters that may come to our attention after the date hereof that may affect our opinion expressed herein.

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We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion letter as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to all references to our firm in the Registration Statement and any amendments thereto. Such consent shall not be deemed to be an admission that our firm is within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Act or the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Act.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P.

SMITH, ANDERSON, BLOUNT, DORSETT,  
MITCHELL & JERNIGAN, L.L.P.

**Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of our report dated March 13, 2018, with respect to the financial statements of **Innovate Biopharmaceuticals Inc.**, for the year ended December 31, 2017 (which report includes an explanatory paragraph relating to the uncertainty of the Company's ability to continue as a going concern).

/s/ Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C.

Orange County, California  
December 14, 2018

**Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement on Form S-8 of Innovate Biopharmaceuticals, Inc. of our report, which includes an explanatory paragraph relating to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, dated March 12, 2018, on our audits of the consolidated financial statements of Monster Digital, Inc. and Subsidiaries as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 and for the years then ended, which report is included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Innovate Biopharmaceuticals, Inc. (formerly Monster Digital, Inc.) for the year ended December 31, 2017.

/s/ CohnReznick LLP

Roseland, New Jersey  
December 14, 2018