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

FORM 6-K

**REPORT OF FOREIGN ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the month of August 2018

(Commission File No. 001-38215)

NUCANA PLC

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

3 Lochside Way
Edinburgh EH12 9DT
United Kingdom
(Address of registrant's principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101 (b) (1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101 (b) (7):

Other Events

On August 28, 2018, NuCana plc (the “Company”) issued a press release announcing its second quarter 2018 financial results. The press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 hereto and is incorporated by reference herein. The Company’s unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements as of June 30, 2018 are attached as Exhibit 99.2 and are incorporated by reference herein.

The information in the attached Exhibits 99.1 and 99.2 is being furnished and shall not be deemed “filed” for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing made by the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as otherwise set forth herein or as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

The information in the attached Exhibit 99.2 shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into the registration statement on Form S-8 (Registration Number 333-223476), and related Prospectuses, as such Registration Statement and Prospectuses may be amended from time to time, and to be a part thereof from the date on which this report is filed, to the extent not superseded by documents or reports subsequently filed or furnished.

Exhibits

- 99.1 [Press Release dated August 28, 2018](#)
- 99.2 [Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements as of June 30, 2018](#)

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

NuCana plc

By: /s/ Donald Munoz

Name: Donald Munoz

Title: Chief Financial Officer

Date: August 28, 2018

NuCana Reports Second Quarter 2018 Financial Results and Provides Business Update***Additional Acelarin and NUC-3373 Data to be Presented at ESMO in October***

Edinburgh, United Kingdom, August 28, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – NuCana plc (NASDAQ: NCNA) announced financial results for the second quarter ended June 30, 2018 and provided an update on its extensive clinical program with its transformative ProTide therapeutics.

As of June 30, 2018, NuCana had cash and cash equivalents of £81.5 million compared to £81.3 million as of March 31, 2018 and £86.7 million as of December 31, 2017. This increase in cash and cash equivalents during the second quarter of 2018 reflects the weakening of the UK pound sterling relative to the US dollar and the fact that NuCana holds a portion of its cash in US dollars. NuCana reported a loss of £1.3 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2018, compared to £2.7 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2017 as the Company continued to advance its various clinical programs. Basic and diluted loss per share was £0.04 for the quarter ended June 30, 2018, compared to £0.11 per share for the comparable quarter in 2017.

“We have made excellent progress with our development programs during the first half of 2018 and look forward to providing additional clinical updates later in the year,” said Hugh Griffith, NuCana’s Founder and Chief Executive Officer. “The high response rates achieved in the first cohort of eight patients with biliary tract cancers, which were reported earlier this year at ASCO GI, has led us to prioritize this indication for rapid development. We are also excited about opening our combination Phase 1b study with NUC-3373 for patients with colorectal cancers and taking our third ProTide, NUC-7738, into the clinic later this year.”

Mr. Griffith continued: “We are also pleased to announce that we have had three posters accepted for presentation at the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress being held in Munich, Germany on October 19 to 23, 2018. These posters include additional data from the ongoing Phase 1b study of Acelarin® plus cisplatin in front-line advanced biliary tract cancer (the ABC-08 study), additional data from the ongoing Phase 1 study of NUC-3373 in advanced solid tumors (the NuTide:301 study) and a study status update from the ongoing Phase 3 study of Acelarin® compared to gemcitabine in front-line pancreatic cancer patients (the Acelarate study).”

Anticipated Second Half 2018 Milestones

- Acelarin® is NuCana’s ProTide transformation of gemcitabine. Over the remainder of 2018, NuCana anticipates a number of data read-outs and milestones including:
 - Reporting additional Phase 1b data of Acelarin combined with cisplatin as a first-line treatment for patients with advanced biliary tract cancer at ESMO on October 21, 2018 (the ABC-08 study). This will include additional data on the eight patients reported at ASCO-GI in January 2018, data from the six patients in the 725mg/m² dose cohort, and interim data from the additional six patients in an expansion cohort at the selected 625mg/m² dose.
 - Initiating a Phase 3 study of Acelarin combined with cisplatin as a first-line treatment for patients with advanced biliary tract cancer.

- Continuing to enroll and follow-up with patients in the Phase 2 platinum-resistant ovarian study (the PRO-105 study).
- Reporting current study status of the ongoing Phase 3 study of Acelarin compared to gemcitabine as a first-line treatment of patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer at ESMO on October 21, 2018 (the Acelarate study).
- NUC-3373 is NuCana's second ProTide in clinical development, a transformation of 5-fluorouracil (5-FU). In 2018, NuCana expects to:
 - Report additional Phase 1 data in advanced solid tumors at ESMO on October 22, 2018 (the NuTide:301 study).
 - Initiate a Phase 1b study in patients with advanced colorectal cancer in combination with other approved agents with which 5-FU is typically combined, including leucovorin, oxaliplatin and irinotecan (the NuTide:302 study).
- NUC-7738 is NuCana's ProTide transformation of cordycepin, a novel nucleoside analog that has shown potent anti-cancer activity in preclinical studies across a range of different human cancer cell lines. NuCana expects to initiate a First-In-Human Phase 1 clinical study of NUC-7738 in patients with solid tumors later in 2018 (the NuTide:701 study).

About NuCana plc

NuCana® is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on significantly improving treatment outcomes for cancer patients by applying our ProTide™ technology to transform some of the most widely prescribed chemotherapy agents, nucleoside analogs, into more effective and safer medicines. While these conventional agents remain part of the standard of care for the treatment of many solid tumors, their efficacy is limited by cancer cell resistance mechanisms and they are often poorly tolerated. Utilizing our proprietary technology, we are developing new medicines, ProTides, designed to overcome key cancer resistance mechanisms and generate much higher concentrations of anti-cancer metabolites in cancer cells.

Our most advanced ProTide candidates, Acelarin® and NUC-3373, are new chemical entities derived from the nucleoside analogs gemcitabine and 5-fluorouracil, respectively, two widely used chemotherapy agents. Acelarin is currently being evaluated in three clinical studies, including a Phase 1b study for patients with biliary tract cancer, a Phase 2 study for patients with ovarian cancer and a Phase 3 study for patients with pancreatic cancer. NUC-3373 is currently in a Phase 1 study for the potential treatment of a wide range of advanced solid tumors.

For more information, please visit: www.nucana.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release may contain “forward-looking” statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that are based on the beliefs and assumptions and on information currently available to management of NuCana plc (the “Company”). All statements other than statements of historical fact contained in this press release are forward-looking statements,

including statements concerning our results of operations for the second quarter of 2018; our planned and ongoing clinical studies for the Company's product candidates, including Acelarin, NUC-3373 and NUC-7738; the initiation, enrollment, timing, progress, release of data from and results of those planned and ongoing clinical studies; and the utility of prior preclinical and clinical data in determining future clinical results. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as "may," "will," "should," "expects," "plans," "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "predicts," "potential" or "continue" or the negative of these terms or other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the Company's actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the risks and uncertainties set forth in the "Risk Factors" section of our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2017 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on March 22, 2018, and subsequent reports that we file with the SEC. Forward-looking statements represent the Company's beliefs and assumptions only as of the date of this press release. Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, it cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. Except as required by law, the Company assumes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements for any reason after the date of this press release to conform any of the forward-looking statements to actual results or to changes in its expectations.

Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations

	For the three months ended		For the six months ended	
	June 30, 2018	2017	June 30, 2018	2017
	(in thousands, except per share data)			
	£	£	£	£
Research and development expenses	(5,158)	(2,077)	(8,863)	(3,689)
Administrative expenses	(1,402)	(313)	(2,642)	(637)
Initial public offering related expenses	—	(1,034)	—	(1,066)
Net foreign exchange gains (losses)	3,607	(113)	1,059	(161)
Operating loss	(2,953)	(3,537)	(10,446)	(5,553)
Finance income	252	44	442	91
Loss before tax	(2,701)	(3,493)	(10,004)	(5,462)
Income tax credit	1,383	745	2,292	1,077
Loss for the period	(1,318)	(2,748)	(7,712)	(4,385)
Basic and diluted loss per share	(0.04)	(0.11)	(0.24)	(0.18)

Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

	June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
	(in thousands)	
	£	£
Assets		
Non-current assets		
Intangible assets	2,485	1,938
Property, plant and equipment	495	358
Deferred tax asset	32	81
	<u>3,012</u>	<u>2,377</u>
Current assets		
Prepayments, accrued income and other receivables	1,737	3,050
Current income tax receivable	4,660	4,225
Cash and cash equivalents	81,469	86,703
	<u>87,866</u>	<u>93,978</u>
Total assets	<u><u>90,878</u></u>	<u><u>96,355</u></u>
Equity and liabilities		
Capital and reserves		
Share capital and share premium	80,508	80,508
Other reserves	59,072	58,071
Accumulated deficit	(52,871)	(45,159)
Total equity attributable to equity holders of the Company	<u>86,709</u>	<u>93,420</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	26	18
Current liabilities		
Trade payables	2,123	1,120
Payroll taxes and social security	103	157
Accrued expenditure	1,917	1,640
	<u>4,143</u>	<u>2,917</u>
Total liabilities	<u>4,169</u>	<u>2,935</u>
Total equity and liabilities	<u><u>90,878</u></u>	<u><u>96,355</u></u>

Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

	For the six months ended June 30,	
	2018	2017
	(in thousands)	
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Loss for the period	(7,712)	(4,385)
Adjustments for:		
Income tax credit	(2,292)	(1,077)
Amortization and depreciation	164	84
Finance income	(442)	(91)
Share-based payments	997	532
Initial public offering (IPO) related expenses	—	1,066
Net foreign exchange (gains) losses	(1,112)	142
	<u>(10,397)</u>	<u>(3,729)</u>
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in prepayments, accrued income and other receivables	1,358	609
Increase (decrease) in trade payables	1,003	(477)
Increase (decrease) in payroll taxes, social security and accrued expenditure	231	(230)
Movements in working capital	<u>2,592</u>	<u>(98)</u>
Cash used in operations	<u>(7,805)</u>	<u>(3,827)</u>
Net income tax credit received	1,906	235
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(5,899)</u>	<u>(3,592)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	429	98
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(200)	(5)
Payments for intangible assets	(648)	(492)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(419)</u>	<u>(399)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
IPO related expenses included in statement of operations	—	(73)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>—</u>	<u>(73)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	<u>(6,318)</u>	<u>(4,064)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	<u>86,703</u>	<u>19,990</u>
Foreign currency translation differences	1,084	(8)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>81,469</u>	<u>15,918</u>

For more information, please contact:

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NUCANA PLC

UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

	Notes	For the three months ended June 30,		For the six months ended June 30,	
		2018	2017	2018	2017
		(in thousands, except per share data)			
		£	£	£	£
Research and development expenses		(5,158)	(2,077)	(8,863)	(3,689)
Administrative expenses		(1,402)	(313)	(2,642)	(637)
Initial public offering related expenses	3	—	(1,034)	—	(1,066)
Net foreign exchange gains (losses)		3,607	(113)	1,059	(161)
Operating loss		(2,953)	(3,537)	(10,446)	(5,553)
Finance income		252	44	442	91
Loss before tax		(2,701)	(3,493)	(10,004)	(5,462)
Income tax credit	4	1,383	745	2,292	1,077
Loss for the period		(1,318)	(2,748)	(7,712)	(4,385)
Basic and diluted loss per share	5	(0.04)	(0.11)	(0.24)	(0.18)

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

NUCANA PLC

UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE LOSS

	For the three months ended June 30,		For the six months ended June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(in thousands)			
	£	£	£	£
Loss for the period	(1,318)	(2,748)	(7,712)	(4,385)
Other comprehensive expense:				
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:				
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	9	—	4	(1)
Other comprehensive income (expense) for the period	9	—	4	(1)
Total comprehensive loss for the period	(1,309)	(2,748)	(7,708)	(4,386)
Attributable to:				
Equity holders of the Company	(1,309)	(2,748)	(7,708)	(4,386)

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

NUCANA PLC

UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT

	<i>Notes</i>	June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
		(in thousands)	
		£	£
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Intangible assets	6	2,485	1,938
Property, plant and equipment		495	358
Deferred tax asset	4	32	81
		<u>3,012</u>	<u>2,377</u>
Current assets			
Prepayments, accrued income and other receivables		1,737	3,050
Current income tax receivable	4	4,660	4,225
Cash and cash equivalents	7	81,469	86,703
		<u>87,866</u>	<u>93,978</u>
Total assets		<u>90,878</u>	<u>96,355</u>
Equity and liabilities			
Capital and reserves			
Share capital and share premium	9	80,508	80,508
Other reserves		59,072	58,071
Accumulated deficit		(52,871)	(45,159)
Total equity attributable to equity holders of the Company		<u>86,709</u>	<u>93,420</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions		26	18
Current liabilities			
Trade payables		2,123	1,120
Payroll taxes and social security		103	157
Accrued expenditure		1,917	1,640
		<u>4,143</u>	<u>2,917</u>
Total liabilities		<u>4,169</u>	<u>2,935</u>
Total equity and liabilities		<u>90,878</u>	<u>96,355</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

NUCANA PLC

UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	For the Six Months Ended June 30,							Total equity attributable to equity holders
	Share capital	Share premium	Own share reserve	Share option reserve	Foreign currency translation reserve	Capital reserve	Accumulated deficit	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	(in thousands)							
Balance at December 31, 2016	663	42,770	(339)	4,406	(3)	—	(22,256)	25,241
Loss for the period	—	—	—	—	—	—	(4,385)	(4,385)
Other comprehensive expense for the period	—	—	—	—	(1)	—	—	(1)
Total comprehensive loss for the period	—	—	—	—	(1)	—	(4,385)	(4,386)
Share-based payments	—	—	—	532	—	—	—	532
Reduction in share premium	—	(42,466)	—	—	—	42,466	—	—
Balance at June 30, 2017	663	304	(339)	4,938	(4)	42,466	(26,641)	21,387
Balance at December 31, 2017	1,272	79,236	(339)	15,955	(11)	42,466	(45,159)	93,420
Loss for the period	—	—	—	—	—	—	(7,712)	(7,712)
Other comprehensive income for the period	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
Total comprehensive loss for the period	—	—	—	—	4	—	(7,712)	(7,708)
Share-based payments	—	—	—	997	—	—	—	997
Balance at June 30, 2018	1,272	79,236	(339)	16,952	(7)	42,466	(52,871)	86,709

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	For the six months ended	
	June 30,	
	2018	2017
	(in thousands)	
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Loss for the period	(7,712)	(4,385)
Adjustments for:		
Income tax credit	(2,292)	(1,077)
Amortization and depreciation	164	84
Finance income	(442)	(91)
Share-based payments	997	532
Initial public offering (IPO) related expenses	—	1,066
Net foreign exchange (gains) losses	(1,112)	142
	<u>(10,397)</u>	<u>(3,729)</u>
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in prepayments, accrued income and other receivables	1,358	609
Increase (decrease) in trade payables	1,003	(477)
Increase (decrease) in payroll taxes, social security and accrued expenditure	231	(230)
Movements in working capital	<u>2,592</u>	<u>(98)</u>
Cash used in operations	<u>(7,805)</u>	<u>(3,827)</u>
Net income tax credit received	1,906	235
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(5,899)</u>	<u>(3,592)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	429	98
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(200)	(5)
Payments for intangible assets	(648)	(492)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(419)</u>	<u>(399)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
IPO related expenses included in statement of operations	—	(73)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>—</u>	<u>(73)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(6,318)	(4,064)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	<u>86,703</u>	<u>19,990</u>
Foreign currency translation differences	1,084	(8)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>81,469</u>	<u>15,918</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. General information

NuCana plc (“NuCana” or the “Company”) is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing a portfolio of new medicines to treat cancer. We are harnessing the power of phosphoramidate chemistry to generate new medicines called ProTides. These compounds have the potential to improve cancer treatment by enhancing the efficacy and safety of several current standards of care.

On August 29, 2017 the Company re-registered as a public limited company and changed its name from NuCana BioMed Limited to NuCana plc.

The Company has had American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”) registered with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and is listed on Nasdaq since October 2, 2017. The Company is incorporated in England and Wales and domiciled in the United Kingdom.

The Company has two wholly owned subsidiaries, NuCana, Inc. and NuCana BioMed Trustee Company Limited (together referred to as the “Group”).

The comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2017 are not the Group’s statutory accounts for that financial year within the meaning of section 434 of the Companies Act 2006. Those accounts have been reported on by the Company’s auditor and delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The report of the auditor was (i) unqualified, (ii) did not include a reference to any matters to which the auditors drew attention by way of emphasis without qualifying their report, and (iii) did not contain a statement under section 498 (2) or (3) of the Companies Act 2006.

2. Significant accounting policies***Basis of preparation***

The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements (the “financial statements”) for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018 have been prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standard 34 “Interim Financial Reporting” (IAS 34). The significant accounting policies and methods of computation applied in the preparation of the financial statements are consistent with those applied in the Company’s annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017. No new standards, amendments or interpretations have had an impact on the financial statements for the six months ended June 30, 2018.

The financial statements comprise the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries at June 30, 2018. The financial statements are presented in pounds sterling, which is also the Company’s functional currency. All values are rounded to the nearest thousand, except where otherwise indicated.

The financial statements do not include all the information and disclosures required in the annual financial statements, and should be read in conjunction with the Company’s annual financial statements as at December 31, 2017.

The unaudited condensed consolidated statement of cash flows for the six months ended June 30, 2017 has been restated to be consistent with the presentation of foreign exchange differences and IPO related expenses in the annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Going concern

In common with many companies in the biopharmaceutical sector, the Company incurs significant expenditure in its early years as it researches and develops its potential products for market.

The board of directors, having reviewed the operating budgets and development plans, considers that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. The board of directors is therefore satisfied that it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. The Company believes that its cash and cash equivalents of £81.5 million at June 30, 2018, will be sufficient to fund its current operating plan for at least the next 12 months. As the Company continues to incur losses, the transition to profitability is dependent upon the successful development, approval and commercialization of its product candidates and achieving a level of revenues adequate to support its cost structure. The Company may never achieve profitability, and unless and until it does, it will continue to need to raise additional capital. There can be no assurances, however, that additional funding will be available on acceptable terms.

Judgements and estimates

The accounting estimates and judgements made by management in applying the Group’s accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts included within these financial statements, were the same as those that applied to the annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. IPO related expenses

	For the three months ended		For the six months ended	
	June 30,		June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(in thousands)		(in thousands)	
	£	£	£	£
IPO related expenses	—	1,034	—	1,066

IPO related expenses primarily relate to legal, accounting and other advisors' fees in relation to the Company's listing on Nasdaq which completed on October 2, 2017.

4. Income tax

	For the three months ended		For the six months ended	
	June 30,		June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(in thousands)		(in thousands)	
	£	£	£	£
Current tax	1,393	745	2,341	1,077
Deferred tax	(10)	—	(49)	—
Income tax credit	1,383	745	2,292	1,077

The income tax credit recognized primarily represents the U.K. research and development tax credit. In the U.K. the Company is able to surrender some of its losses for a cash rebate of up to 33.35% of expenditure related to eligible research and development projects.

	June 30,	December 31,
	2018	2017
	(in thousands)	
	£	£
Current income tax receivable		
U.K. tax	4,641	4,207
U.S. tax	19	18
	4,660	4,225
Deferred tax asset		
U.S. deferred tax asset	32	81

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. Basic and diluted loss per share

	For the three months ended June 30,		For the six months ended June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	(in thousands, except per share data)			
	£	£	£	£
Loss for the period	(1,318)	(2,748)	(7,712)	(4,385)
Basic and diluted weighted average number of shares	31,811	24,185	31,811	24,185
	£	£	£	£
Basic and diluted loss per share	(0.04)	(0.11)	(0.24)	(0.18)

Basic loss per share is calculated by dividing the loss for the period attributable to the equity holders of the Company by the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the period.

The potential shares issued through equity settled transactions were considered to be anti-dilutive as they would have decreased the loss per share and were therefore excluded from the calculation of diluted loss per share.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. Intangible assets

Intangible assets comprise patents with a carrying value of £2.4 million as of June 30, 2018 (as of December 31, 2017: £1.8 million) and computer software with a carrying value of £0.1 million as of June 30, 2018 (as of December 31, 2017: £0.1 million).

During the six months ended June 30, 2018, the Company acquired intangible assets with a cost of £0.6 million in relation to patents (six months ended June 30, 2017: £0.4 million in relation to patents and £0.1 million in relation to computer software).

There were no disposals of intangible assets in the six months ended June 30, 2018 (six months ended June 30, 2017: £nil).

7. Cash and cash equivalents

	June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
	(in thousands)	
	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>81,469</u>	<u>86,703</u>

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank with maturities of three months or less and earn interest at fixed or variable rates based on the terms agreed for each account.

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8. Share-based payments

The Company has three share-based payment plans for employees, directors and consultants. The share options granted will be settled in equity. On April 11, 2018 and May 8, 2018, 79,000 and 62,000 share options respectively were granted under the U.K. share-based payment plans. Options granted under these plans will vest if the option holder remains under respective contract of employment or contract of service for the agreed vesting period. The share options granted under these plans will vest equally over a period of four years, with the exception of options granted to a consultant, which vested immediately.

The fair values of options granted were determined using the Black-Scholes model that takes into account factors specific to the share incentive plan. As NuCana plc listed on October 2, 2017, it is not possible to derive historical volatility from the Company's own share price. The underlying expected volatility was therefore determined by using the historical volatility of similar listed entities as a proxy. The volatility percentage applied to each tranche is the average of the historical volatility of comparable companies to NuCana plc.

The following weighted average principal assumptions were used in calculating the fair values of options granted:

	Options granted on		
	Apr 11, 2018	Apr 11, 2018	May 8, 2018
Vesting dates	Apr 11, 2019	Apr 11, 2018	May 8, 2019
	Apr 11, 2020		May 8, 2020
	Apr 11, 2021		May 8, 2021
	Apr 11, 2022		May 8, 2022
Volatility	64.48%	60.06%	65.80%
Dividend yield	0%	0%	0%
Risk-free investment rate	1.04%	0.83%	1.02%
Fair value of option at grant date	£ 8.97	£ 17.35	£ 8.63
Fair value of share at grant date	£ 17.51	£ 17.51	£ 16.57
Exercise price at date of grant	£ 17.51	£ 0.16	£ 16.57
Lapse date	Apr 11, 2028	Apr 11, 2028	May 8, 2028
Expected option life (years)	4.50	2.00	4.50
Number of options granted	71,500	7,500	62,000

For the six months ended June 30, 2018, the Company has recognized £1.0 million of share-based payment expense in the statement of operations (six months ended June 30, 2017: £0.5 million). For the three months ended June 30, 2018, the Company has recognized £0.6 million of share-based payment expense in the statement of operations (three months ended June 30, 2017: £0.3 million).

NOTES TO THE UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9. Share capital and share premium

	June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
	(in thousands)	
	£	£
Share capital	1,272	1,272
Share premium	79,236	79,236
	80,508	80,508

	June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
	Number (in thousands)	
<i>Issued share capital comprises:</i>		
Ordinary shares of £0.04 each	31,811	31,811

	Number of shares	Share capital	Share premium
	(in thousands)		
		£	£
Fully paid shares:			
Balance at December 31, 2017	31,811	1,272	79,236
Balance at June 30, 2018	31,811	1,272	79,236

10. Contingent liabilities

Under the U.K. share-based payment plan, the Company granted unapproved share options that have fully vested. If and when these share options are exercised, the Company will be liable for the Employer Class 1 National Insurance payable to HMRC in the U.K. This contingent liability will be determined based on the market value of the shares on exercise less the exercise price paid by the option holders, at the prevailing rate of Employer National Insurance (currently 13.8%). Based on the closing share price of ADSs on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on June 29, 2018, the last trading day of the period to which these financial statements relate, and assuming full exercise of all outstanding and vested unapproved share options on that date, the Employer National Insurance contingent liability would have been £4.1 million (December 31, 2017: £2.1 million).