Celsion CORP Form PRE 14A March 20, 2017 **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

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box: Preliminary Proxy Statement **Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))** Definitive Proxy Statement Definitive Additional Materials Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

Celsion Corporation

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

N/A

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

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

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

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

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

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2)Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

CELSION CORPORATION

997 LENOX DRIVE, SUITE 100

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ 08648

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD TUESDAY MAY 16, 2017

To Our Stockholders:

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting (the "Annual Meeting") of the stockholders of Celsion Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), will be held at 10:00 a.m., local time, on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at The Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village, 201 Village Blvd., Princeton, NJ 08540 for the following purposes, all as more fully described in the accompanying Proxy Statement:

¹⁾To elect two Class I Directors, each to serve until the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2020 and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified;

²⁾To ratify the selection of Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP ("DHG") as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017;

To grant discretionary authority to the Board of Directors to amend the Certificate of Incorporation of the 3)Company, as amended, to effect, at any time on or prior to the date of the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, a reverse stock split at an exchange ratio within the specified range;

4) To consider and act upon an Amendment to the Celsion Corporation 2007 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended;

⁵⁾To authorize the issuance of securities in a certain offering in accordance with NASDAQ Marketplace Rule 5635 as more fully described in Proposal 5; and

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To consider and act upon any other matters that may properly come before the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The close of business on March 20, 2017 has been fixed as the record date for the determination of stockholders of the Company entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 20, 2017 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof.

All stockholders are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting. However, whether or not you expect to attend in person, please complete, sign, date and return the enclosed Proxy Card as promptly as possible in the envelope provided for that purpose. Returning your Proxy Card will ensure your representation and help to ensure the presence of a quorum at the Annual Meeting. Your proxy is revocable, as set forth in the accompanying Proxy Statement. Therefore, you may attend the Annual Meeting and vote your shares in person even if you send in your Proxy Card.

By Order of the Board of Directors

<u>/s/ Jeffrey W. Church</u> Jeffrey W. Church

Corporate Secretary

March __, 2017

Lawrenceville, NJ

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

THIS PROXY STATEMENT IS FURNISHED IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOLICITATION OF PROXIES BY THE COMPANY, ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS. THE PROXY STATEMENT AND THE RELATED PROXY FORM ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED ON OR ABOUT APRIL 4, 2017. YOU CAN VOTE YOUR SHARES USING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

COMPLETE AND RETURN A WRITTEN PROXY CARD

ATTEND THE COMPANY'S 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS AND VOTE IN PERSON

WOTE VIA THE INTERNET AT <u>WWW.PROXYVOTE.COM</u>

VOTE BY PHONE BY CALLING THE NUMBER PRINTED ON THE ACCOMPANYING VOTING DOCUMENT

ALL STOCKHOLDERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE MEETING. HOWEVER, TO ENSURE YOUR REPRESENTATION AT THE MEETING, YOU ARE URGED TO COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE ACCOMPANYING PROXY CARD AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE POSTAGE-PREPAID ENVELOPE ENCLOSED FOR THAT PURPOSE, OR SUBMIT YOUR VOTE VIA THE INTERNET AT <u>WWW.PROXYVOTE.COM</u> OR VOTE BY PHONE BY CALLING THE NUMBER PRINTED ON THE ACCOMPANYING VOTING DOCUMENT. ANY STOCKHOLDER ATTENDING THE MEETING MAY VOTE IN PERSON EVEN IF HE OR SHE HAS RETURNED A PROXY CARD.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE STOCKHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017. THE PROXY STATEMENT AND OUR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT TO SECURITY HOLDERS ON SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FORM 10-K ARE AVAILABLE AT *WWW.PROXYVOTE.COM*.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU INTEND TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE ACCOMPANYING PROXY CARD IN THE ENCLOSED PRE-ADDRESSED AND POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE OR SUBMIT YOUR VOTE VIA THE INTERNET AT WWW.PROXYVOTE.COM OR BY CALLING THE NUMBER PRINTED ON THE ACCOMPANYING VOTING DOCUMENT.

CELSION CORPORATION

PROXY STATEMENT

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CELSION CORPORATION

PROXY STATEMENT

INFORMATION CONCERNING SOLICITATION AND VOTING

This Proxy Statement is being furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Celsion Corporation, a Delaware corporation (sometimes referred to in this Proxy Statement as the "Company", "Celsion", "we" or "us"), for exercise in voting at the Company's 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 (the "Annual Meeting") for the purposes set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders. We are first sending this Proxy Statement, accompanying Proxy Card, Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Annual Report on Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 (our "2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K") to our stockholders on or about April 4, 2017.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting To Be Held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. The Proxy Statement and our 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K are available at *www.proxyvote.com* or you may request a printed or electronic set of the proxy materials at no charge. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet and how to request a printed copy may be found on the Notice. In addition, any stockholder may request to receive proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically by email on an ongoing basis. Choosing to receive future proxy materials by email will save us the cost of printing and mailing documents to stockholders and will reduce the impact on our environment. A stockholder who chooses to receive future proxy materials by email will receive an email prior to next year's Annual Meeting with instructions containing a link to those materials and a link to the proxy voting website. A stockholder's election to receive proxy materials by email will remain in effect until such election is terminated by the stockholder.

Celsion Corporation is a fully-integrated oncology drug development company focused on developing a portfolio of innovative cancer treatments, including directed chemotherapies, DNA-mediated immunotherapy and RNA- based therapies. Our lead product candidate is ThermoDox®, a dosage form of doxorubicin based on a heat activated liposomal platform technology, currently in a Phase III clinical trial for the treatment of non-resectable hepatocellular carcinoma (the OPTIMA Study) and a Phase II clinical trial for the treatment of recurrent chest wall breast cancer (the EURO-DIGNITY Study). Our pipeline also includes GEN-1, a DNA based immunotherapy, currently in a Phase I clinical trial for the treatment of rowarian cancer (the OVATION Study). GEN-1 is also in preclinical development for brain cancer. Our principal executive offices are located at 997 Lenox Drive, Suite 100, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, and our telephone number is (609) 896-9100.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Date, Time and Place of the Annual Meeting

Our 2017 Annual Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m., local time, on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at The Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village, 201 Village Blvd., Princeton, NJ 08540.

Who May Attend the Annual Meeting

Only stockholders who own our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, as of the close of business on March 20, 2017, 2017, the record date for the Annual Meeting (the "Record Date"), will be entitled to attend the Annual Meeting. At the discretion of management, we may permit certain other individuals to attend the Annual Meeting, including the media, professional service providers and our employees.

Who May Vote

Each share of our common stock outstanding on the Record Date entitles the holder thereof to one vote on each matter submitted to the stockholders at the Annual Meeting. Only stockholders who own common stock as of the close of business on the Record Date are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting. As of the Record Date, there were 55,057,526 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding.

How to Vote

If you were a holder of our common stock as of the Record Date, you are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, and we encourage you to attend and vote in person. HOWEVER, WHETHER OR NOT YOU INTEND TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REQUESTS THAT YOU COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE ACCOMPANYING PROXY CARD IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM.

A pre-addressed and postage-paid return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Alternatively, you may cast your vote via the internet at **www.proxyvote.com** or by phone by calling the number printed on the accompanying voting document.

If your shares are held in the name of a bank, broker, or other holder of record, you will receive instructions from the holder of record that you must follow in order for your shares to be voted. If your shares are not registered in your own name and you plan to vote your shares in person at the Annual Meeting, you should contact your broker or agent to obtain a proxy and bring it to the Annual Meeting in order to vote.

Voting by Proxy

If you vote by proxy, the individuals named on the proxy, or their substitutes, will vote your shares in the manner you indicate. If a beneficial owner who holds shares in street name does not provide specific voting instructions to their brokerage firm, bank, broker dealer or other nominee, under the rules of certain securities exchanges, including NASDAQ Marketplace Rules, the brokerage firm, bank, broker dealer or other nominee holding those shares may generally vote as the nominee determines in its discretion on behalf of the beneficial owner on routine matters but cannot vote on non-routine matters, the latter of which results in "broker non-votes." Proposals 2 and 3 involve matters we believe to be routine. Accordingly, if you do not give instructions to your broker, the broker may vote your shares in its discretion on Proposals 2 and 3 and therefore no broker non-votes are expected in connection with Proposals 2 and 3. Proposals 1, 4 and 5 involve matters we consider non-routine under the applicable rules. If you do not give your broker specific instructions, the broker will not vote your shares on Proposals 1, 4 and 5 and your shares will constitute broker non-votes. If you date, sign, and return the proxy card without indicating your instructions, your shares will be voted as follows:

Proposal No. 1. "FOR" (if authority to do so is not withheld) the election of the two nominees for the Class I Directors, each to serve until the earlier of the Company's Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2020 and his successor is duly elected and qualified;

Proposal No. 2. "FOR" the ratification of the appointment of Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP ("DHG") as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2017;

Proposal No. 3. "FOR" for the grant of discretionary authority to the Board of Directors to amend the Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, as amended, to effect, at any time on or prior to the date of the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, a reverse stock split at an exchange ratio within the specified range;

Proposal No. 4. "FOR" the approval of an Amendment to the Celsion Corporation 2007 Stock Incentive Plan;

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Proposal No. 5. "FOR" the approval of the issuance of securities in a certain offering incordance with NASDAQ Marketplace Rule 5635 as more particularly described in Proposal 5; and

Other Business. In the discretion of your proxy holder (one of the individuals named on your proxy card), on any other matter properly presented at the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

You may revoke or change your proxy at any time before it is exercised by delivering to us a signed proxy with a date later than your previously delivered proxy, by voting in person at the Annual Meeting, or by sending a written revocation of your proxy addressed to our Corporate Secretary at our principal executive office. Your latest dated proxy card is the one that will be counted.

Quorum Requirement

A quorum is necessary to hold a valid meeting. The presence, in person or by proxy, of holders of our common stock entitled to cast a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at the Annual Meeting constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum. A "broker non-vote" occurs when a broker, bank or other holder of record holding shares for a beneficial owner properly executes and returns a proxy without voting on a particular proposal because such holder of record does not have discretionary voting power for that particular item and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner.

Voting Requirements

Proposal No. 1. The election of the Class I Directors at the Annual Meeting will be by a plurality of the votes cast. This means that the two director nominees receiving the greatest number of votes cast, in person or by proxy, by the holders of our common stock in the election of the Class I Directors, will be elected. Stockholders may not cumulate their votes in electing directors. Stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting may either vote "FOR" the nominees for election as a director or may "WITHHOLD" authority for the nominees. Shares represented by executed proxies will be voted, if authority to do so is not withheld, for the election of the nominees named below in Proposal No. 1. If a stockholder withholds authority to vote with respect to the nominees for director, the shares held by that stockholder will be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum, but will have no effect on the election of the nominees.

Proposal No. 2. Stockholders may vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" or may "ABSTAIN" on Proposal No. 2 regarding the ratification of the selection of Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP ("DHG") as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2017. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the proposal will be required to ratify the selection of DHG. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against Proposal No. 2.

Proposal No. 3. Stockholders may vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" or may "ABSTAIN" on Proposal No. 3 regarding the grant of discretionary authority to the Board of Directors to amend the Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, as amended, to effect, at any time on or prior to the date of the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, a reverse stock split at an exchange ratio within the specified range. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock on the record date entitled to vote on the proposal will be required to grant such discretionary authority to the Board of Directors. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have the same effect as a vote against Proposal No. 3.

Proposal No. 4. Stockholders may also vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" or may "ABSTAIN" on Proposal No. 4, to approve an Amendment to the Celsion Corporation 2007 Stock Incentive Plan. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the proposal will be required to approve the Amendment. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against Proposal No. 4. Broker non-votes will have no effect on Proposal No. 4.

Proposal No. 5. Stockholders may also vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" or may "ABSTAIN" on Proposal No. 5, to authorize the issuance of securities in a certain offering in accordance with NASDAQ Marketplace Rule 5635 as more particularly described in Proposal 5. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of our common stock present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the proposal will be required to approve the issuance of securities in accordance with NASDAQ Marketplace Rule 5635 as more particularly described in Proposal 5. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against Proposal 5. Broker non-votes will have no effect on

Proposal No. 5.

Other Matters

Our Board of Directors knows of no other matters that may be presented for stockholder action at the Annual Meeting. It is not anticipated that other matters will be brought before the Annual Meeting. If other matters do properly come before the Annual Meeting, or any adjournments or postponements thereof, however, persons named as proxies will vote upon them in their discretion.

Information about the Proxy Statement and the Solicitation of Proxies

The enclosed proxy is solicited by our Board of Directors and we will bear the costs of preparing, assembling, printing and mailing this Proxy Statement, accompanying Proxy Card, Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and the Company's 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K, as well as any additional materials that we may furnish to stockholders in connection with the Annual Meeting. Copies of our solicitation materials will be furnished to brokerage houses, fiduciaries and custodians to forward to beneficial owners of stock held in the names of such nominees. We will, upon request, reimburse those parties for their reasonable expenses in forwarding proxy materials to the beneficial owners.

We have engaged Morrow & Co., LLC, 470 West Ave. Stamford Connecticut 06902, to assist with the solicitation of proxies for an estimated fee of \$7,500 plus reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

The solicitation of proxies may be by mail and direct communication with certain stockholders or their representatives by our officers, directors and employees, who will receive no additional compensation therefor.

Annual Report