

NUVASIVE INC  
Form DEFA14A  
May 14, 2013

**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**

Filed by the Registrant

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**NuVasive, Inc.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

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(The following e-mail communication was sent by NuVasive, Inc to certain institutional holders

of its Common Stock on May 13, 2013)

Dear [Contact Name],

By now, you have likely received NuVasive's voting card and have accessed our proxy statement which was mailed in connection with our May 23, 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. I want to call to your attention to our second proposal on the ballot, our Say-on-Pay proposal and request your vote of **FOR** on this matter.

### Proposal #2 - Say-on-Pay

NuVasive's record of industry-leading growth spans our entire history as a public company dating back to 2004. To encourage continued growth of both revenue and earnings, our Compensation Committee has taken significant steps to ensure that the compensation of our named executive officers (NEOs) is strongly aligned with the performance of NuVasive. ISS Proxy Advisory Services (ISS) identified these positive changes to our compensation practices when it recently issued a voting recommendation **FOR** the Company's Say-on-Pay proposal.

In addition to having ISS's support and recommendation **FOR** our Say-on-Pay proposal, I would like to share some of our key performance accomplishments with you:

For our fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, we saw a total stockholder return (TSR) of 23%. As of May 10, we have seen a TSR of 46% in 2013. We continue to believe our proven industry-leading performance will be reflected in the stock price over the long term.

Our 2013 first quarter revenue was \$159.5 million, a 5.2% increase over the 2012 first quarter.

Over the past three years, our revenue has increased 38% and our market share has increased 9%.

Also, in order to further strengthen the alignment between executive compensation and our performance, in 2012, we:

*Delivered a High Portion of our NEOs' Total Direct Compensation in Performance-Based Incentive and Variable Compensation*  
Annual and long-term performance-based variable compensation comprises a majority of our NEOs' total direct compensation opportunity. 50% of our CEO's and 48% of our remaining NEOs' total compensation was subject to NuVasive-specific performance criteria of revenues, operating margin and earnings per share.

*Set Aggressive Performance-Based Compensation Goals*  
Our 2012 Executive Performance Bonus Plan had a revenue target of \$623 million while our initial 2012 publicly-announced target revenue guidance was \$615 million.

*Tied the Vast Majority of Realizable Pay to Company Performance* 85% of our CEO and 75% of our remaining NEOs' annual and long-term compensation opportunities are variable, the realizable value of which moves in step with NuVasive's performance and stockholder returns.

*Long-Term Performance-Based Equity Awards Strongly Tied to Company Goals and Stockholder Returns* 50% of our NEOs' equity grant was in the form of Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units ( PRSUs ) while the remaining 50% of the equity grant was in Time-Based Restricted Stock Units ( RSUs ).

Our Compensation Committee continues to review ways to strengthen the alignment between executive compensation and company performance. As a result, for 2013, we:

*Introduced Total Stockholder Return (TSR) as the sole performance metric of our PRSUs* The Compensation Committee determined that utilizing TSR as a measure in 2013 was in our stockholders' best interest. Not only does this metric closely align NEO compensation with stockholders, the Compensation Committee believes that NuVasive is taking a lead among our peer group to better align pay and performance. Only four of our peer companies grant performance-based equity and only one peer-company uses TSR.

*Eliminated Benchmarking* Previously, the Compensation Committee targeted the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the Company's peer group in establishing executive pay levels for the upcoming fiscal year. The Compensation Committee now reviews several varied sources of data, each element of pay, total compensation and other factors to make individual pay decisions. This revised practice ensures our pay is aligned with our compensation policies, company performance and competitive practices.

These proactive steps, when coupled with our strong operating performance, demonstrate that we are committed to aligning executive compensation with the long term interests of our stockholders. Further details of our changes can be found in our proxy statement. ISS recognized these improved payment practices and have recommended a vote **FOR** our Proposal #2, Say-On-Pay Proposal.

Please let me know if you have any questions or have concerns voting **FOR** Proposal #2, our Say-On-Pay proposal. I can answer questions or I can help set up a call or meeting with management as desired. We are strongly committed to maintaining and improving the alignment between our executives' compensation and our Company performance, and your voting **FOR** this proposal will help us achieve our goal of maximizing long-term stockholder value.