Fellow Shareholders

For Assertio Therapeutics, Inc. (Assertio), 2018 was a year of accomplishment, challenge and positive change. In a relatively short amount of time since I joined the company in 2017, we have addressed our challenges and leveraged our opportunities. We have a new name, renewed mission and our transformation is progressing toward a leaner, faster-moving, more-entrepreneurial Company. A strategic element to our transformation was relocating to our new Lake Forest, Illinois headquarters, just north of Chicago near several leading pharmaceutical companies. This allowed us to right size our headquarters staffing and attract the top talent needed to take Assertio to the next level.

I'm pleased to report that in 2018 we successfully executed against each of our three pillar strategies:

- **Maintain Pillar**. Last fall we amended and strengthened our partnership agreement with Collegium Pharmaceutical such that it no longer allows for termination prior to the end of 2021. In general, this agreement provides greater certainty of NUCYNTA® income and importantly by removing the early termination overhang, makes the arrangement more valuable for us in terms of underwriting our secured debt. Both companies are committed and confident that Collegium can advance the NUCYNTA franchise. Our amended agreement underscores that commitment, and better serves both companies.

- **Grow Pillar.** Our first objective was to stabilize our neurology franchise – and then return it to sustainable growth. In 2018, we were able to show stabilization quarter over quarter in our total neurology franchise revenues and prescriptions, and our goal for 2019 is to return the neurology franchise to low-to mid-single digit growth. To help grow the business, we have rolled-out comprehensive new commercial initiatives across all three of our neurology franchise assets.

- **Build Pillar.** We're extremely pleased to have achieved our goal in December of filing an NDA for our long-acting cosyntropin. The agency officially notified us that our 505(b)(2) application for a diagnostic indication was accepted for filing, with a PDUFA date of October 19th this year. If approved, we'll have the opportunity to launch a much-needed synthetic long-acting cosyntropin alternative into the U.S. market by early 2020.

Another important achievement in 2018 was our ability to secure $97 million of non-dilutive capital through several strategic transactions. This cash, along with our own free cash flow, means that by April 2019 we will have reduced our secured debt to $202 million, down from the $475 million that was present when I joined the company in early 2017.

As a result of this new financial strength, we were able to modify our secured loan agreement in late December, replacing the previous fixed adjusted EBITDA covenant with a trailing 12-month debt-to-adjusted EBITDA ratio that declines over time. This amendment means we have more flexibility to invest in our core business and business development transactions. We are targeting to add one or two new in-licensing assets in 2019.

As we continue to execute our strategic business plan, there are many reasons to be optimistic about the future. Our amended and strengthened agreement with Collegium means we can focus on our pillars, where we expect the most growth. Underlying sales trends in our neurology franchise are positive and give us confidence that we are moving in the right direction. We plan to launch cosyntropin in early 2020 as our first specialty product. We are building strong commercial platforms in both our neurology and orphan/specialty businesses, which we believe will enable us to attract new assets. We have the leadership, the resources and a strong foundation to build a business that makes our employees proud – and rewards our shareholders.

Arthur J. Higgins
President and Chief Executive Officer