

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

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT  
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): **January 16, 2023**

**Journey Medical Corporation**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

**001-41063**  
(Commission File Number)

**47-1879539**  
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

**9237 E Via de Ventura Blvd., Suite 105  
Scottsdale, AZ 85258**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**(480) 434-6670**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act.
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act.
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2b under the Exchange Act.
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act.

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock	DERM	Nasdaq Capital Market

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

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.

**Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

On January 16, 2023, Ernest De Paolantonio, the Chief Financial Officer of Journey Medical Corporation (the "Company") provided notice to the Company of his resignation, effective January 27, 2023. Mr. De Paolantonio will consult with and advise the Company until March 31, 2023.

In connection with such resignation, Joseph Benesch, age 56, the Company's Corporate Controller, was appointed as the Company's interim Chief Financial Officer, effective January 27, 2023. Mr. Benesch's compensation has not changed as a result of this appointment. Any changes to Mr. Benesch's compensation package, if any, will be determined by the Company's Board of Directors upon recommendation of its Compensation Committee.

Mr. Benesch was hired as the Company's Corporate Controller in November 2021. He previously served as the Principal Accounting Officer, Vice President and Corporate Controller of Teligent Pharma Inc., a specialty generic pharmaceutical company, and Corporate Controller of Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd., a U.S. subsidiary of the Torrent Group, a multinational pharmaceutical company. Before joining Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd., he held senior financial management positions from corporate controller to Vice President of Finance at Savient Pharmaceuticals, Adare Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Edenbridge Pharmaceuticals. He began his career in the public accounting sector at Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, and Ernst and Young Global Limited, working with a diverse client base. He is a Certified Public Accountant with an active license. Mr. Benesch is a graduate of Wilkes University where he earned a BA in accounting.

No family relationships exist between Mr. Benesch and any of the Company's directors or executive officers. There are no arrangements or understandings between Mr. Benesch and any other person pursuant to which Mr. Benesch was selected as the Company's interim Chief Financial Officer, nor are there any transactions to which the Company is or was a participant and in which Mr. Benesch has a material interest subject to disclosure under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K.

A press release related to Mr. De Paolantonio's departure and Mr. Benesch's appointment is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this report and is incorporated by reference to this Item 5.02.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits.

The following exhibits are furnished herewith:

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
<a href="#">99.1</a>	<a href="#">Press Release, dated January 20, 2023.</a>
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File, formatted in Inline Extensible Business Reporting Language (iXBRL).

**SIGNATURES**

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

Date: January 20, 2023

**Journey Medical Corporation**  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Claude Maraoui  
Claude Maraoui  
Chief Executive Officer, President and Director



### Journey Medical Corporation Appoints Joseph Benesch as Interim Chief Financial Officer

**Scottsdale, AZ – January 20, 2023** – Journey Medical Corporation (Nasdaq: DERM) (“Journey Medical” or the “Company”), a commercial-stage biopharmaceutical company that focuses on the development and commercialization of pharmaceutical products for the treatment of dermatological conditions, today announced that Ernest (Ernie) De Paolantonio has notified the Company that, effective January 27, 2023, he will step down as Chief Financial Officer of Journey Medical to pursue another opportunity. The Company also today announced the appointment of Joseph M. Benesch as Interim Chief Financial Officer, effective January 27, 2023.

Claude Maraoui, Co-Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of Journey Medical, said, “Joe has been an instrumental member of our finance and accounting team overseeing all functions as Corporate Controller for over a year now. With more than 25 years of experience in the industry, Joe is well-prepared to take the helm of the finance and accounting team during this exciting time for the Company. We anticipate many upcoming milestones, including the announcement of topline data from our DFD-29 Phase 3 clinical trials in the first half of this year with a subsequent NDA filing later this year.”

The Company is conducting an internal and external search for a permanent Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. Maraoui continued, “We want to thank Ernie for his contributions to the Company as Chief Financial Officer. Journey Medical benefited from his extensive financial experience and leadership during a critical period as we became a publicly traded, fully integrated pharmaceutical company with eight marketed products and a clinical development pipeline. We have a solid financial foundation in place, and we wish Ernie continued success in the future.”

“I look forward to continuing to work with the Journey Medical management team while leading the finance and accounting functions,” commented Mr. Benesch.

Mr. Benesch has served as the Company’s Corporate Controller since November 2021. He has over 25 years of experience in all aspects of financial reporting, technical accounting, corporate controllership, regulatory compliance and pharmaceutical company operations. Mr. Benesch previously served as the Principal Accounting Officer, Vice President and Corporate Controller of Teligent Pharma Inc., a specialty generic pharmaceutical company, and Corporate Controller of Torrent Pharmaceuticals, a U.S. subsidiary of the Torrent Group, a multinational pharmaceutical company. Before joining Torrent, he held senior financial management positions of increasing responsibility from Corporate Controller to Vice President of Finance at Savient Pharmaceuticals, Adare Pharmaceuticals and Edenbridge Pharmaceuticals. Mr. Benesch’s expertise includes building and leading finance teams and preparing SEC and GAAP compliant financial statements, and Sarbanes Oxley implementation. Mr. Benesch began his career in the public accounting sector at Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, and Ernst and Young working with a diverse client base. Mr. Benesch is a graduate of Wilkes University where he earned a BA in accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant.

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To ensure a smooth transition, Mr. De Paolantonio will consult with and advise the Company through March 31, 2023.

Mr. De Paolantonio commented, “It has been a pleasure working with the Journey Medical team and leading the finance group as the company transitioned from being privately held to publicly traded. I believe that the company is well-positioned to achieve many milestones this year and I am committed to a seamless transition.”

#### About Journey Medical Corporation

Journey Medical Corporation (Nasdaq: DERM) (“Journey Medical”) is focused on identifying, acquiring, developing and strategically commercializing innovative, differentiated dermatology products through its efficient sales and marketing model. The company currently markets eight products that help treat and heal common skin conditions. The Journey Medical team comprises industry experts with extensive experience in developing and commercializing some of dermatology’s most successful prescription brands. Journey Medical is located in Scottsdale, Arizona and was founded by Fortress Biotech, Inc. (Nasdaq: FBIO). Journey Medical’s common stock is registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and it files periodic reports with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). For additional information about Journey Medical, visit [www.journeymedicalcorp.com](http://www.journeymedicalcorp.com).

#### Forward-Looking Statements

This press release may contain “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. As used below and throughout this press release, the words “we”, “us” and “our” may refer to Journey Medical. Such statements include, but are not limited to, any statements relating to our growth strategy and product development programs and any other statements that are not historical facts. The words “anticipate,” “believe,” “estimate,” “may,” “expect,” “will,” “could,” “project,” “intend” and similar expressions are generally intended to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are based on management’s current expectations and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could negatively affect our business, operating results, financial condition and stock price. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those currently anticipated include: risks relating to our growth strategy; our ability to obtain, perform under and maintain financing and strategic agreements and relationships; risks relating to the results of research and development activities; uncertainties relating to preclinical and clinical testing; risks relating to the timing of starting and completing clinical trials, including disruptions that may result from hostilities in Europe; our dependence on third-party suppliers; risks relating to the COVID-19 outbreak and its potential impact on our employees’ and consultants’ ability to complete work in a timely manner and on our ability to obtain additional financing on favorable terms or at all; our ability to attract, integrate and retain key personnel; the early stage of products under development; our need for substantial additional funds; government regulation; patent and intellectual property matters; competition; potential recovery of funds lost from previously disclosed cyber security breaches; as well as other risks described in Part I, Item 1A, “Risk Factors,” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 28, 2022, subsequent Reports on Form 10-Q, and our other filings we make with the SEC. We expressly disclaim any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect any change in our expectations or any changes in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based, except as may be required by law, and we claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

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