
**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): February 20, 2018

ATRICURE, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)

000-51470
(Commission File Number)

34-1940305
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

7555 Innovation Way
Mason, OH
(Address of principal executive offices)

45040
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (513) 755-4100

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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 (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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).

Emerging growth company

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 Executive Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On February 20, 2018, the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of AtriCure, Inc. (the “Company”) was notified by Richard Johnston, the current Chairman of the Board, and Elizabeth D. Krell, Ph.D. that they are planning to retire from the Board of Directors and are not standing for re-election. The Company acknowledges and is grateful to Mr. Johnston and Dr. Krell for their many contributions to its organization during their respective tenures on its Board. On February 20, 2018, the Company also announced that Scott Drake has been named Chairman of the Board effective as of the Company’s 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

The press release related to these matters is filed herewith as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press release dated February 20, 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 hereunto duly authorized.

ATRICURE, INC.

Dated: February 20, 2018

By: /s/ M. Andrew Wade

M. Andrew Wade

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer



For immediate release
February 20, 2018

AtriCure Names Scott Drake Board Chairman

Richard Johnston and Elizabeth D. Krell, Ph.D. are Retiring from the Board of Directors in May

MASON, Ohio—February 20, 2018 – AtriCure, Inc. (Nasdaq: ATRC), a leading innovator in surgical treatments for atrial fibrillation (Afib) and left atrial appendage management, today announced that Scott Drake has been named Board Chairman, effective at the annual meeting in May of this year. Concurrent with this appointment, Richard Johnston, the company's current chairman, and Elizabeth D. Krell, Ph.D. are planning to retire from the Board of Directors and are not standing for re-election.

"Scott's proven executive experience managing growing businesses, achieving sustainable revenue growth and driving operational improvements have been invaluable to our organization over the past four years. I am delighted that AtriCure can further benefit from his leadership in his new role as Board Chairman," stated Richard Johnson, Chairman of AtriCure.

Mr. Drake has served as one of the company's directors since September 2013. He was most recently the President and Chief Executive Officer of Spectranetics Corporation. Spectranetics, acquired by Philips in August of 2017, develops, manufactures and distributes single-use medical devices used in minimally invasive procedures within the cardiovascular system. Prior to joining Spectranetics, Mr. Drake served as Senior Vice President, Operations of DaVita, Inc., a leading U.S. provider of kidney care and dialysis, from 2009 to August 2011. Previously, Mr. Drake held several positions of increasing responsibility within various healthcare business units at Covidien, Plc over a period of 17 years, including: Global Business Unit President, Respiratory and Monitoring Solutions, President, Valleylab (re-named as the Surgical Solutions Group) and Vice President and General Manager, Critical Care. Mr. Drake is an EY 2014 Entrepreneur of The Year™. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Just Right Surgical and the Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA). Mr. Drake holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Miami University of Ohio.

"I would like to acknowledge Dick and Liz for their many contributions to our organization during their respective tenures on our Board," stated Mike Carrel, President and Chief Executive Officer of AtriCure. "Dick's direction as our longstanding Chairman has been critical in navigating the company to our leading position in the market today. From the early days of the company's inception, through a successful public offering, to bringing me on board as CEO, to managing the board composition, and to helping reshape the company over the past five plus years, Dick's impact will be felt for many years to come. Liz has been instrumental in our regulatory and clinical strategies over the past ten years, bringing expertise in risk assessment and healthcare compliance. On behalf of our entire board, I thank them both for their truly valuable service and guidance."

About AtriCure, Inc.

AtriCure, Inc. provides innovative technologies for the treatment of Afib and related conditions. Afib affects more than 33 million people worldwide. Electrophysiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons around the globe use AtriCure technologies for the treatment of Afib and reduction of Afib related complications. AtriCure's Isolator® Synergy™ Ablation System is the first and only medical device to receive FDA approval for the treatment of persistent Afib. AtriCure's AtriClip Left Atrial Appendage Exclusion System products are the most widely sold LAA management devices worldwide, with more than 125,000 implanted to date. For more information, visit AtriCure.com or follow us on Twitter @AtriCure.

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