## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

## SCHEDULE 13G

## Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. \_\_)\*

Verrica Pharmaceuticals Inc.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value (Title of Class of Securities)

92511W108

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2023

## (Date of Event Which Requires Filing of This Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

☑ Rule 13d-1(b)

 $\square$  Rule 13d-1(c)

 $\square$  Rule 13d-1(d)

## (Page 1 of 8 Pages)

\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("<u>Act</u>") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON Avoro Capital Advisors LLC			
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a) (b)			
3	SEC USE ONLY			
4	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION Delaware			
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:	5	SOLE VOTING POWER 6,583,332 (including 2,583,333 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of Warrants) (see Item 4)*		
	6	SHARED VOTING POWER 0		
	7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 6,583,332 (including 2,583,333 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of Warrants) (see Item 4)*		
	8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 0		
9	AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 6,583,332 (including 2,583,333 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of Warrants) (see Item 4)*			
10	CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES			
11	PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9) 9.99% (see Item 4)*			
12	TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON OO, IA			

\* As more fully described in Item 4, the Warrants (as defined below) are subject to the 9.99% Blocker (as defined below) and the percentage set forth in row (11) gives effect to such blocker. However, rows (5), (7) and (9) show the number of shares of Common Stock that would be issuable upon the exercise in full of the Warrants and do not give effect to such blocker. Therefore, the actual number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by such Reporting Person, after giving effect to such blocker, is less than the number of securities reported in rows (5), (7) and (9).

1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON Behzad Aghazadeh			
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a) (b)		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
3	SEC USE ONLY			
4	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION United States			
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:	5	SOLE VOTING POWER 6,583,332 (including 2,583,333 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of Warrants) (see Item 4)*		
	6	SHARED VOTING POWER 0		
	7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 6,583,332 (including 2,583,333 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of Warrants) (see Item 4)*		
	8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 0		
9	AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 6,583,332 (including 2,583,333 shares of Common Stock issuable upon exercise of Warrants) (see Item 4)*			
10	CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES			
11	PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9) 9.99% (see Item 4)*			
12	TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON IN			

\* As more fully described in Item 4, the Warrants are subject to the 9.99% Blocker and the percentage set forth in row (11) gives effect to such blocker. However, rows (5), (7) and (9) show the number of shares of Common Stock that would be issuable upon the exercise in full of the Warrants and do not give effect to such blocker. Therefore, the actual number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by such Reporting Person, after giving effect to such blocker, is less than the number of securities reported in rows (5), (7) and (9).

13G

# Item 1(a). NAME OF ISSUER

Verrica Pharmaceuticals Inc. (the "Issuer")

## Item 1(b). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES

44 West Gay Street, Suite 400, West Chester, PA 19380

## Item 2(a). NAME OF PERSON FILING

This statement is filed by: (i) Avoro Capital Advisors LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("<u>Avoro</u>"), which provides investment advisory and management services and has acquired the securities of the Issuer solely for investment purposes on behalf of Avoro Life Sciences Fund LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and (ii) Behzad Aghazadeh ("<u>Dr. Aghazadeh</u>," and together with Avoro, the "<u>Reporting Persons</u>"), who serves as the portfolio manager and controlling person of Avoro.

The filing of this statement should not be construed as an admission that any Reporting Person is, for purposes of Section 13 of the Act, the beneficial owner of the securities reported herein.

#### Item 2(b). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE

The address of the business office of each of the Reporting Persons is 110 Greene Street, Suite 800, New York, NY 10012.

## Item 2(c). CITIZENSHIP

Avoro is a Delaware limited liability company. Dr. Aghazadeh is a United States citizen.

# Item 2(d). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES

Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 (the "Common Stock")

## Item 2(e). CUSIP NUMBER

### 92511W108

# Item 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO Rules 13d-1(b), OR 13d-2(b) OR (c), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A:

- (a)  $\square$  Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act;
- (b)  $\Box$  Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act;
- (c)  $\Box$  Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Act;
- (d)  $\Box$  Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940;

- (e)  $\square$  An investment adviser in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
- (f)  $\Box$  An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g)  $\square$  A parent holding company or control person in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
- (h)  $\Box$  A savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;
- (i)  $\Box$  A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act;
- (j)  $\Box$  A non-U.S. institution in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J);
- (k)  $\Box$  Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(K).

If filing as a non-U.S. institution in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J), please specify the type of institution:

## Item 4. OWNERSHIP

The information required by Items 4(a) - (c) is set forth in Rows 5 - 11 of the cover page and is incorporated herein by reference.

The percentage set forth in Row 11 of this Schedule 13G is calculated based upon 42,064,553 shares of Common Stock outstanding as of November 3, 2023, as reported in the Issuer's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2023 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 9, 2023, and assumes the exercise of certain pre-funded warrants (the "<u>Warrants</u>") to purchase Common Stock of the Company held by Avoro Life Sciences Fund LLC subject to the 9.99% Blocker.

Pursuant to the terms of the Warrants, the Reporting Persons cannot exercise the Warrants to the extent the Reporting Persons would beneficially own, after any such exercise, more than 9.99% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock (the "9.99% Blocker") and the percentage set forth in Row (11) of the cover page for each Reporting Person gives effect to the 9.99% Blocker. Consequently, at this time, the Reporting Persons are not able to exercise all of such Warrants due to the 9.99% Blocker.

## Item 5. OWNERSHIP OF FIVE PERCENT OR LESS OF A CLASS

Not applicable.

Item 6.	OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON			
	See Item 2. Avoro Life Sciences Fund LLC has the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, more than 5% of the Common Stock.			
Item 7.	IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH ACQUIRED THE SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY OR CONTROL PERSON			
	Not applicable.			
Item 8.	IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP			
	Not applicable.			
Item 9.	NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP			
	Not applicable.			
Item 10.	CERTIFICATION			
	Each Reporting Person hereby makes the following certification:			
	By signing below the Reporting Person certifies that, to the best of his or its knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.			

## **SIGNATURES**

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of his or its knowledge and belief, each of the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

DATE: February 14, 2024

AVORO CAPITAL ADVISORS LLC

/s/ Scott Epstein Name: Scott E

Scott Epstein Chief Financial Officer & Chief Compliance Officer Title:

/s/ Behzad Aghazadeh BEHZAD AGHAZADEH

#### **EXHIBIT 1**

## JOINT FILING AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-1(k)

The undersigned acknowledge and agree that the foregoing statement on Schedule 13G is filed on behalf of each of the undersigned and that all subsequent amendments to this statement on Schedule 13G shall be filed on behalf of each of the undersigned without the necessity of filing additional joint filing agreements. The undersigned acknowledge that each shall be responsible for the timely filing of such amendments, and for the completeness and accuracy of the information concerning him or it contained herein and therein, but shall not be responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the information concerning the others, except to the extent that he or it knows or has reason to believe that such information is inaccurate.

DATE: February 14, 2024

AVORO CAPITAL ADVISORS LLC

/s/ Scott Epstein Name: Scott Epstein Title: Chief Financial Officer & Chief Compliance Officer

/s/ Behzad Aghazadeh

**BEHZAD AGHAZADEH**