

METABASIS THERAPEUTICS INC  
 Form 4  
 April 10, 2007

**FORM 4**

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 Beck John W

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 METABASIS THERAPEUTICS INC [MBRX]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 04/09/2007

\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 \_\_\_X\_\_\_ Officer (give title below) \_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 Chief Financial Officer

11119 NORTH TORREY PINES ROAD

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 \_\_\_X\_\_\_ Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 \_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

LA JOLLA, CA 92037

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |   |                  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |                                   |   |                  |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code  | V   | Amount   |                                   |   |                  |
| Common Stock                    | 04/09/2007                           |  | S(1)                           | 1,828   | D   | \$ 8   | 16,207                            | I | See Footnote (2) |
| Common Stock                    | 04/10/2007                           |  | S(1)                           | 6,172   | D   | \$ 8   | 10,035                            | I | See Footnote (3) |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  | 243,234                           | D |                  |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title                                      | Amount or Number of Shares                                       |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                     | Relationships |           |                         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                 | Other |
| Beck John W<br>11119 NORTH TORREY PINES ROAD<br>LA JOLLA, CA 92037 |               |           | Chief Financial Officer |       |

## Signatures

John W. Beck                      04/10/2007  
 \*\*Signature of                      Date  
 Reporting Person

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The sales reported in this Form 4 were effected pursuant to an existing sales plan established under Rule 10b5-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- (2) 16,207 shares are indirectly beneficially owned by the Rachael M. Beck 2002 Irrevocable Trust dtd 11/8/02, by the Joseph C. Beck 2002 Irrevocable Trust dtd 11/8/02 and by the Katerina F. Beck 2002 Irrevocable Trust dtd 11/8/02, on an equally proportionate basis.
- (3) 10,035 shares are indirectly beneficially owned by the Rachael M. Beck 2002 Irrevocable Trust dtd 11/8/02, by the Joseph C. Beck 2002 Irrevocable Trust dtd 11/8/02 and by the Katerina F. Beck 2002 Irrevocable Trust dtd 11/8/02, on an equally proportionate basis.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.