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RIGEL PHARMACEUTICALS INC

Form 4

March 31, 2009

FORM 4

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

OMB Number:

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

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

2005 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Expires:

OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287

January 31,

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * PAYAN DONALD G

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

Symbol

RIGEL PHARMACEUTICALS INC

(Check all applicable)

[RIGL]

(Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

X Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify

(Month/Day/Year)

03/30/2009

below) EVP, Pres. Discovery&Research

RIGEL PHARMACEUTICALS. INC, "1180 VETERANS BLVD.

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080

> (City) (State) (Zip)

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D)

(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

Code V Amount (D) Price

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial (I)

Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

(A) or

(Instr. 8)

Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

Following

Reported

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

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1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date		4.			Date Exercisable and		7. Title and Amount	
Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	Code Securities (Month/D			r)	Underlying Securitic (Instr. 3 and 4)		
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amous Number Shares	
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 6.49	03/30/2009		A	145,000	04/30/2009(1)	03/30/2019	Common Stock	145,0	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
Reporting Owner Funct / Function	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
PAYAN DONALD G RIGEL PHARMACEUTICALS, INC, , 1180 VETERANS BLVD. SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080	X		EVP, Pres. Discovery&Research			

Signatures

/s/Dolly Vance (Attorney-in-Fact) 03/31/2009

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

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 shares vest monthly over one (1) year from the date of grant.

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.

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