

METABASIS THERAPEUTICS INC
 Form 4
 February 02, 2009

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 *
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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)
 01/29/2009

___ Director ___ 10% Owner
 ___X___ Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)

Chief Executive 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 Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Code V Amount (D) Price		

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

1. Title of Derivative	2. Conversion	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	4. Transaction	5. Number of Derivative Securities	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	7. Title and Amount Underlying Security
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The cancelled option provided for 25% of the shares vesting on the first anniversary of the grant date (4/2/2008), and the remaining shares vesting in equal monthly installments over the following three years.

- (5) The option provides for 25% of the shares to vest six months from the grant date (1/29/09) and the remaining 75% of the shares to vest in equal monthly installments over three years beginning on the grant date.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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