

Christopher Nishan Garabedian  
 Form 4  
 April 25, 2012

**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 \*  
 Christopher Nishan Garabedian

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 AVI BIOPHARMA INC [AVII]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 3450 MONTE VILLA PARKWAY,  
 SUITE 101

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 04/24/2012

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
 President and CEO

(Street)  
 BOTHELL, WA 98021

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

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

(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) Amount (D) Price  |   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock <sup>(1)</sup>     | 04/24/2012                           |  | A                              | 81,666 A \$ 0   | 511,666   | D  |                                   |

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)**

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| 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) |                  |                 |              |                            |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | (A)  | (D)   | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title        | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Stock Option (right to buy)                | \$ 0.9   | 04/24/2012                           |  | A                              | 245,000   | (2)  |   | 04/24/2022       |                 | Common Stock | 245,000                    |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                      |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|----------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer              | Other |
| Christopher Nishan Garabedian<br>3450 MONTE VILLA PARKWAY, SUITE 101<br>BOTHHELL, WA 98021 | X             |           | President<br>and CEO |       |

## Signatures

By: Bryan King For: Christopher Nishan Garabedian 04/25/2012

\_\_\_\_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) Of the 511,666 shares beneficially owned following the reported transaction, 81,666 relate to restricted stock units granted on the Transaction Date and 430,000 reflect shares of common stock directly beneficially owned by reporting person.
- (2) This option is exercisable at the rate of 25% of the shares on April 24, 2013 and 1/48th of the total granted shares on each monthly anniversary thereafter, such that the option will be fully exercisable on April 24, 2016.

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.