

ATHERSYS, INC / NEW  
Form SC 13G/A  
February 17, 2009

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

SCHEDULE 13G  
(Rule 13d-102)

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT  
TO RULES 13d-1(b), (c), AND (d) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FILED  
PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-2(b)  
(Amendment No. 2)1

Athersys, Inc.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, Par Value \$0.001 Per Share

(Title of Class of Securities)

04744L106

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2008

(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)
- Rule 13d-1(c)
- Rule 13d-1(d)

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1 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 ("Act") 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).

CUSIP NO. 04744L106

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

ACCIPITER LIFE SCIENCES FUND, LP

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A (a)   
GROUP (b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

DELAWARE

|   |   |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| NUMBER OF<br>SHARES<br>BENEFICIALLY<br>OWNED BY<br>EACH<br>REPORTING<br>PERSON WITH | 5 | SOLE VOTING POWER           |
|   |   | 365,132 shares <sup>2</sup> |
|   | 6 | SHARED VOTING POWER         |
|   |   | 0 shares                    |
|   | 7 | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER      |
|   |   | 365,132 shares <sup>2</sup> |
|   | 8 | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER    |
|   |   | 0 shares                    |

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

365,132 shares<sup>2</sup>

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

1.9%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

PN

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<sup>2</sup> Includes 79,625 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants that are exercisable currently or within 60 days of the date hereof.

CUSIP NO. 04744L106

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

ACCIPITER LIFE SCIENCES FUND (OFFSHORE), LTD.

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a)  (b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

CAYMAN ISLANDS

|   |   |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| NUMBER OF<br>SHARES<br>BENEFICIALLY<br>OWNED BY<br>EACH<br>REPORTING<br>PERSON WITH | 5 | SOLE VOTING POWER           |
|   |   | 393,596 shares <sup>3</sup> |
|   | 6 | SHARED VOTING POWER         |
|   |   | 0 shares                    |
|   | 7 | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER      |
|   |   | 393,596 shares <sup>3</sup> |
|   | 8 | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER    |
|   |   | 0 shares                    |

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

393,596 shares<sup>3</sup>

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

2.1%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

OO

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<sup>3</sup> Includes 79,988 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants that are exercisable currently or within 60 days of the date hereof.

CUSIP NO. 04744L106

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

ACCIPITER LIFE SCIENCES FUND II, LP

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A (a) o  
GROUP (b) o

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

DELAWARE

|              |   |                            |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|
| NUMBER OF    | 5 | SOLE VOTING POWER          |
| SHARES       |   |                            |
| BENEFICIALLY |   | 33,087 shares <sup>4</sup> |
| OWNED BY     | 6 | SHARED VOTING POWER        |
| EACH         |   |                            |
| REPORTING    |   | 0 shares                   |
| PERSON WITH  | 7 | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER     |
|              |   |                            |
|              | 8 | 33,087 shares <sup>4</sup> |
|              |   | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER   |
|              |   | 0 shares                   |

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

33,087 shares<sup>4</sup>

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

0.2%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

PN

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<sup>4</sup> Represents 33,087 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants that are exercisable currently or within 60 days of the date hereof.

CUSIP NO. 04744L106

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

ACCIPITER LIFE SCIENCES FUND II (OFFSHORE), LTD.

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A (a) o  
GROUP (b) o

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

CAYMAN ISLANDS

|              |   |                            |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|
| NUMBER OF    | 5 | SOLE VOTING POWER          |
| SHARES       |   |                            |
| BENEFICIALLY |   | 67,863 shares <sup>5</sup> |
| OWNED BY     | 6 | SHARED VOTING POWER        |
| EACH         |   |                            |
| REPORTING    |   | 0 shares                   |
| PERSON WITH  | 7 | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER     |
|              |   |                            |
|              | 8 | 67,863 shares <sup>5</sup> |
|              |   | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER   |
|              |   | 0 shares                   |

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

67,863 shares<sup>5</sup>

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

0.4%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

OO

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<sup>5</sup> Represents 67,863 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants that are exercisable currently or within 60 days of the date hereof.

CUSIP NO. 04744L106

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

ACCIPITER LIFE SCIENCES FUND II (QP), LP

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A (a) o  
GROUP (b) o

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

DELAWARE

|              |   |                            |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|
| NUMBER OF    | 5 | SOLE VOTING POWER          |
| SHARES       |   |                            |
| BENEFICIALLY |   | 39,437 shares <sup>6</sup> |
| OWNED BY     | 6 | SHARED VOTING POWER        |
| EACH         |   |                            |
| REPORTING    |   | 0 shares                   |
| PERSON WITH  | 7 | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER     |
|              |   |                            |
|              | 8 | 39,437 shares <sup>6</sup> |
|              |   | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER   |
|              |   | 0 shares                   |

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

39,437 shares<sup>6</sup>

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

0.2%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

PN

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<sup>6</sup> Represents 39,437 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants that are exercisable currently or within 60 days of the date hereof.

CUSIP NO. 04744L106

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

CANDENS CAPITAL, LLC

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A (a)   
 GROUP (b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

DELAWARE

|              |   |                             |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------|
| NUMBER OF    | 5 | SOLE VOTING POWER           |
| SHARES       |   |                             |
| BENEFICIALLY |   | 0 shares                    |
| OWNED BY     | 6 | SHARED VOTING POWER         |
| EACH         |   |                             |
| REPORTING    |   | 437,656 shares <sup>7</sup> |
| PERSON WITH  | 7 | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER      |
|              |   |                             |
|              | 8 | 0 shares                    |
|              |   | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER    |

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

437,656 shares<sup>7</sup>

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

2.3%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

OO

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<sup>7</sup> Includes 152,149 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants that are exercisable currently or within 60 days of the date hereof.

CUSIP NO. 04744L106

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

ACCIPITER CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A (a)   
 GROUP (b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

DELAWARE

|              |   |                             |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------|
| NUMBER OF    | 5 | SOLE VOTING POWER           |
| SHARES       |   |                             |
| BENEFICIALLY |   | 0 shares                    |
| OWNED BY     | 6 | SHARED VOTING POWER         |
| EACH         |   |                             |
| REPORTING    |   | 393,596 shares <sup>8</sup> |
| PERSON WITH  | 7 | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER      |
|              |   |                             |
|              | 8 | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER    |
|              |   |                             |
|              |   | 393,596 shares <sup>8</sup> |

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

393,596 shares<sup>8</sup>

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

2.1%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

OO

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<sup>8</sup> Includes 79,988 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants that are exercisable currently or within 60 days of the date hereof.



CUSIP NO. 04744L106

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

GABE HOFFMAN

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A (a)  GROUP (b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

USA

|   |   |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| NUMBER OF<br>SHARES<br>BENEFICIALLY<br>OWNED BY<br>EACH<br>REPORTING<br>PERSON WITH | 5 | SOLE VOTING POWER           |
|   |   | 0 shares                    |
|   | 6 | SHARED VOTING POWER         |
|   |   | 831,252 shares <sup>9</sup> |
|   | 7 | SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER      |
|   |   | 0 shares                    |
|   | 8 | SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER    |

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

831,252 shares<sup>9</sup>

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

4.3%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

IN

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<sup>9</sup> Includes 232,137 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of warrants that are exercisable currently or within 60 days of the date hereof.

CUSIP NO. 04744L106

Item 1(a). Name of Issuer:

Athersys, Inc.

Item 1(b). Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

3201 Carnegie Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44115

Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing:

This statement is jointly filed by Accipiter Life Sciences Fund, LP, a Delaware limited partnership ("ALSF"), Accipiter Life Sciences Fund (Offshore), Ltd., a Cayman Islands company ("Offshore"), Accipiter Life Sciences Fund II, LP, a Delaware limited partnership ("ALSF II"), Accipiter Life Sciences Fund II (Offshore), Ltd., a Cayman Islands Company, which is in voluntary liquidation ("Offshore II"), Accipiter Life Sciences Fund II (QP), LP, a Delaware limited partnership ("QP II"), Accipiter Capital Management, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Management"), Candens Capital, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Candens") and Gabe Hoffman (each of ALSF, ALSF II, Offshore, Offshore II, QP II, Management, Candens and Mr. Hoffman is referred to herein as a "Reporting Person"). Because Gabe Hoffman is the managing member of Candens (Gabe Hoffman and Candens are hereinafter referred to as the "Domestic Controlling Persons"), which in turn is the general partner of ALSF, ALSF II and QP II, and because Gabe Hoffman is the managing member of Management (Gabe Hoffman and Management are hereinafter referred to as the "Foreign Controlling Persons"), which in turn is the investment manager of Offshore, the Domestic Controlling Persons and Foreign Controlling Persons may be deemed, pursuant to Rule 13d-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), to be the beneficial owners of all shares of Common Stock held by ALSF, ALSF II, Offshore and QP II. The Reporting Persons are filing this joint statement, as they may be considered a "group" under Section 13(d)(3) of the Act. However, neither the fact of this filing nor anything contained herein shall be deemed to be an admission by the Reporting Persons that such a group exists.

Item 2(b). Address of Principal Business Office or, if None, Residence:

The address of each Reporting Person filing this statement, other than Offshore II, is:

666 5th Avenue, 35th Floor  
New York, New York 10103

The address of Offshore II is:

c/o Simon Whicker, Liquidator  
KPMG  
P.O. Box 493  
Century Yard, Cricket Square  
Grand Cayman KY1-106  
Cayman Islands

CUSIP NO. 04744L106

Item 2(c). Citizenship:

ALSF, ALSF II, QP II, Candens and Management are organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Offshore and Offshore II are organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands. Gabe Hoffman is a citizen of the United States of America.

Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock

Item 2(e). CUSIP Number:

04744L106

Item 3. If This Statement is Filed Pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b) or (c), Check Whether the Person Filing is a:

- |     | <i>/X/</i> | Not Applicable  |
|-----|------------|---|
| (a) | <i>//</i>  | Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Exchange Act;   |
| (b) | <i>//</i>  | Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Exchange Act;   |
| (c) | <i>//</i>  | Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Exchange Act;   |
| (d) | <i>//</i>  | Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act;  |
| (e) | <i>//</i>  | An investment adviser in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);   |
| (f) | <i>//</i>  | An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);  |
| (g) | <i>//</i>  | A parent holding company or control person in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);  |
| (h) | <i>//</i>  | A savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;  |
| (i) | <i>//</i>  | A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act; |
| (j) | <i>//</i>  | A non-U.S. institution, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J);   |
| (k) | <i>//</i>  | Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(K).  |

Item 4. Ownership

The percentages reported herein are calculated based on 18,927,988 shares of Common Stock outstanding as of November 1, 2008, as reported in the Issuer's Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 10, 2008.

CUSIP NO. 04744L106

See Cover Pages Items 5–11.

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following [X].

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

Not Applicable

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.

See Exhibit A to Schedule 13G dated June 18, 2007.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not Applicable

Item 10. Certifications.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above 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.

CUSIP NO. 04744L106

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 17, 2009

ACCIPITER LIFE SCIENCES FUND, LP

By: Candens Capital, LLC  
its general partner

By: /s/ Gabe Hoffman  
Gabe Hoffman, Managing Member

ACCIPITER LIFE SCIENCES FUND II, LP

By: Candens Capital, LLC  
its general partner

By: /s/ Gabe Hoffman  
Gabe Hoffman, Managing Member

ACCIPITER LIFE SCIENCES FUND (OFFSHORE), LTD.

By: Accipiter Capital Management,  
LLC  
its investment manager

By: /s/ Gabe Hoffman  
Gabe Hoffman, Managing Member

ACCIPITER LIFE SCIENCES FUND II (OFFSHORE), LTD.

By: /s/ Simon Whicker  
Simon Whicker, Liquidator

ACCIPITER LIFE SCIENCES FUND II (QP), LP

By: Candens Capital, LLC  
its general partner

By: /s/ Gabe Hoffman  
Gabe Hoffman, Managing Member



ACCIPITER CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC

By: /s/ Gabe Hoffman  
Gabe Hoffman, Managing Member

CANDENS CAPITAL, LLC

By: /s/ Gabe Hoffman  
Gabe Hoffman, Managing Member

/s/ Gabe Hoffman  
GABE HOFFMAN