#### METABASIS THERAPEUTICS INC

Form 4

November 19, 2008

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

**OMB** Washington, D.C. 20549 Number:

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burden hours per

Expires:

response...

3235-0287

January 31,

2005

0.5

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

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

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 \* 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Laikind Paul K Issuer Symbol **METABASIS THERAPEUTICS** (Check all applicable) INC [MBRX] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction Director 10% Owner \_X\_\_ Officer (give title Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) 11119 NORTH TORREY PINES 11/18/2008 Chief Executive Officer **ROAD** (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 LA JOLLA, CA 92037

(City)	(State) (	Zip) Tabl	e I - Non-D	erivative)	Secur	ities Acqı	uired, Disposed o	f, or Beneficial	ly 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 on(A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	
			Code V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)		
Common Stock	11/18/2008		P	400	A	\$ 0.49	701,620 (1)	D	
Common Stock	11/18/2008		P	100	A	\$ 0.51	701,720	D	
Common Stock	11/18/2008		P	500	A	\$ 0.56	702,220	D	
Common Stock	11/18/2008		P	300	A	\$ 0.59	702,520	D	
Common Stock	11/19/2008		P	100	A	\$ 0.555	702,620	D	

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Common Stock	11/19/2008	P	400	A	\$ 0.63	703,020	D
Common Stock	11/19/2008	P	100	A	\$ 0.67	703,120	D
Common Stock	11/19/2008	P	500	A	\$ 0.68	703,620	D
Common Stock	11/19/2008	P	500	A	\$ 0.69	704,120	D
Common Stock	11/19/2008	P	800	A	\$ 0.7	704,920	D
Common Stock	11/19/2008	P	200	A	\$ 0.74	705,120	D
Common Stock	11/19/2008	P	963	A	\$ 0.75	706,083	D
Common Stock	11/19/2008	P	100	A	\$ 0.55	706,183	D
Common Stock	11/19/2008	P	837	A	\$ 0.57	707,020	D
Common Stock	11/19/2008	P	100	A	\$ 0.49	707,120	D
Common Stock	11/19/2008	P	100	A	\$ 0.53	707,220	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)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transac Code (Instr. 8	5. tionNumber of ) Derivativ Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	8	ate	7. Titl Amou Under Secur (Instr.	int of rlying	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9 11 12 13 14 14 17 17
			Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		

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# **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Laikind Paul K

11119 NORTH TORREY PINES ROAD

Chief Executive Officer

LA JOLLA, CA 92037

# **Signatures**

Paul Laikind 11/19/2008

\*\*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) Shares reflect non-reportable transaction of common stock acquired pursuant to an Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

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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