

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 \*  
 Erion Mark D

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)  
 11119 NORTH TORREY PINES ROAD  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 01/29/2009

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 Chief Executive Officer

LA JOLLA, CA 92037

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 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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Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 3 and 4)				
			Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount Number Shares
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 9.03	01/29/2009	D				(1)	03/19/2016	Common Stock	75,
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 7.55	01/29/2009	D				(3)	03/07/2017	Common Stock	75,
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 2.1	01/29/2009	D				(4)	04/02/2018	Common Stock	90,
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 1	01/29/2009	D		240,000		(5)	01/29/2019	Common Stock	240

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Erion Mark D 11119 NORTH TORREY PINES ROAD LA JOLLA, CA 92037			Chief Executive Officer	

## Signatures

Trisha Millican, by Power of Attorney  
 02/02/2009  
 \*\*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 cancelled option provided for 25% of the shares vesting on the first anniversary of the grant date (3/19/2006), and the remaining shares vesting in equal monthly installments over the following three years.
- (2) Pursuant to the Company's Offer to Exchange Stock Options, on January 29, 2009, the Company cancelled options granted to the reporting person in exchange for new options equal to the number of shares under the cancelled options.
- (3) The cancelled option provided for 25% of the shares vesting on the first anniversary of the grant date (3/7/2007), and the remaining shares vesting in equal monthly installments over the following three years.
- (4)

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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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