

METABASIS THERAPEUTICS INC

Form 4

March 21, 2006

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 03/19/2006

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
☒ Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)
 Chief Scientific Officer

(Street)
 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 Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			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	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities
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Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	Securities 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 or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 9.03	03/19/2006	A		75,000		<u>(1)</u>	03/18/2016	Common Stock	75,000

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 Scientific Officer	

Signatures

/s/ Mark Erion 03/20/2006
 __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) 25% of the shares subject to the stock option vest and become exercisable on March 19, 2007. The remaining shares vest in equal monthly installments over the following three years.

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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