METABASIS THERAPEUTICS INC

Form 4

November 13, 2008

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

January 31, Expires: 2005

10% Owner

0.5

Estimated average burden hours per

response...

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 *

Gumbiner Barry

(Last)

Security

(Instr. 3)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

METABASIS THERAPEUTICS

INC [MBRX] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year)

11/12/2008

(Check all applicable)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below)

11119 NORTH TORREY PINES **ROAD**

(First)

(Street)

(Middle)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

VP Clinical Development & CMO

Applicable Line)

Director

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

Issuer

LA JOLLA, CA 92037

(City) (State) (Zip) 1. Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Securities Form: Direct Indirect Beneficially (D) or Indirect Beneficial Owned (I) Ownership (Instr. 4) Following (Instr. 4)

Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

or Code V Amount (D) Price

(A)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed 1. Title of (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Derivative Conversion

5. Number of TransactionDerivative

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date**

7. Title and Amount of 8 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	7 (A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 0.67	11/12/2008		A	15,000		<u>(1)</u>	11/12/2018	Common Stock	15,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Gumbiner Barry

11119 NORTH TORREY PINES ROAD LA JOLLA, CA 92037 VP Clinical Development & CMO

Signatures

Barry Gumbiner 11/13/2008

**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 shares vest at 25% on the first anniversary of the grant date, and 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. 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.

Reporting Owners 2