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METABASIS THERAPEUTICS INC

Form 3

November 13, 2008

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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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

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement METABASIS THERAPEUTICS INC [MBRX] A Gumbiner Barry (Month/Day/Year) 11/12/2008 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) 11119 NORTH TORREY PINES (Check all applicable) **ROAD** (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group 10% Owner Director _X__ Officer Other Filing(Check Applicable Line) (give title below) (specify below) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting VP Clinical Development & CMO Person LA JOLLA, CAÂ 92037 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned 1. Title of Security 2. Amount of Securities 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Beneficially Owned Ownership Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) Â Common Stock 6,891 (1) D Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially SEC 1473 (7-02) owned directly or indirectly. Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

1. Title of Derivative Security 3. Title and Amount of 5. 6. Nature of Indirect 2. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Instr. 4) Securities Underlying Conversion Ownership Beneficial Ownership (Month/Day/Year) **Derivative Security** or Exercise Form of (Instr. 5) (Instr. 4) Price of Derivative Derivative Security: Title Direct (D) Security

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	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date		Amount or Number of Shares		or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
Stock Option (right to buy)	(2)	09/29/2016	Common Stock	50,000	\$ 5.85	D	Â
Stock Option (right to buy)	(2)	03/21/2017	Common Stock	27,875	\$ 7.24	D	Â
Stock Option (right to buy)	(2)	02/01/2018	Common Stock	27,875	\$ 2.46	D	Â
Stock Option (right to buy)	(3)	02/01/2018	Common Stock	11,708	\$ 2.46	D	Â
Stock Option (right to buy_	(2)	04/01/2018	Common Stock	5,575	\$ 2.12	D	Â
Stock Option (right to buy)	(4)	08/01/2018	Common Stock	17,290	\$ 1.35	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
Gumbiner Barry 11119 NORTH TORREY PINES ROAD LA JOLLA, CA 92037	Â	Â	VP Clinical Development & CMO	Â		

Signatures

Barry Gumbiner 11/13/2008

**Signature of Pate Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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 acquired pursuant to the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan
- Options are immediately exercisable. 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.
- (3) Options are immediately exerciseable. The shares vest on the second anniverary of the grant date.
- (4) The shares vest in 24 equal monthly installments from 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. 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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