

METABASIS THERAPEUTICS INC  
 Form 4  
 April 18, 2008

**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 \*  
 ORONSKY ARNOLD L

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)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 04/16/2008

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

C/O INTERWEST PARTNERS, 2710 SAND HILL ROAD, 2ND FLOOR

(Street)

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

MENLO PARK, CA 94025

(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  | (A) or (D)   | Price   |           |       |                               |
| Common Stock                    | 04/16/2008                           |  | P                              |   | 945,577   | A  | \$ 2.34   | 3,456,030 | I (1) | By InterWest Partners VII, LP |
| Common Stock                    | 04/16/2008                           |  | X                              |   | 118,759   | A  | \$ 2.34   | 3,574,789 | I (1) | By InterWest Partners VII, LP |
| Common Stock                    | 04/16/2008                           |  | X                              |   | 142,493   | A  | \$ 2.34   | 3,717,282 | I (1) | By InterWest                  |

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|              |            |   |        |   |         |         |                  |  |
|--------------|------------|---|--------|---|---------|---------|------------------|--|
| Common Stock | 04/16/2008 | P | 45,239 | A | \$ 2.34 | 165,459 | I <sup>(2)</sup> | Partners VII, LP<br>By InterWest Investors VII, LP |
| Common Stock | 04/16/2008 | X | 5,687  | A | \$ 2.34 | 171,146 | I <sup>(2)</sup> | By InterWest Investors VII, LP                     |
| Common Stock | 04/16/2008 | X | 6,824  | A | \$ 2.34 | 177,970 | I <sup>(2)</sup> | By InterWest Investors VII, LP                     |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially 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.**

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) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) |         | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) |                 | 7. Title and Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---------|--|-----------------|---|
|  |  |                                      |  |                                | (A)   | (D)     | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date |   |
| Common Stock Warrant (Right to Buy)        | \$ 8.694   | 04/16/2008                           |  | H <sup>(3)</sup>               |   | 118,759 | 06/16/2004   | 04/16/2008      | Common Stock                                      |
| Common Stock Warrant (Right to Buy)        | \$ 6.74  | 04/16/2008                           |  | H <sup>(3)</sup>               |   | 142,493 | 03/29/2006   | 04/16/2008      | Common Stock                                      |
| Common Stock Warrant (Right to Buy)        | \$ 8.694   | 04/16/2008                           |  | H <sup>(3)</sup>               |   | 5,687   | 06/16/2004   | 04/16/2008      | Common Stock                                      |

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|                                     |         |            |                         |         |            |            |              |
|-------------------------------------|---------|------------|-------------------------|---------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Common Stock Warrant (Right to Buy) | \$ 6.74 | 04/16/2008 | <u>H</u> <sup>(3)</sup> | 6,824   | 03/29/2006 | 04/16/2008 | Common Stock |
| Common Stock Warrant (Right to Buy) | \$ 2.34 | 04/16/2008 | <u>P</u> <sup>(3)</sup> | 118,759 | 04/16/2008 | 04/16/2008 | Common Stock |
| Common Stock Warrant (Right to Buy) | \$ 2.34 | 04/16/2008 | <u>P</u> <sup>(3)</sup> | 142,493 | 04/16/2008 | 04/16/2008 | Common Stock |
| Common Stock Warrant (Right to Buy) | \$ 2.34 | 04/16/2008 | <u>P</u> <sup>(3)</sup> | 5,687   | 04/16/2008 | 04/16/2008 | Common Stock |
| Common Stock Warrant (Right to Buy) | \$ 2.34 | 04/16/2008 | <u>P</u> <sup>(3)</sup> | 6,824   | 04/16/2008 | 04/16/2008 | Common Stock |
| Common Stock Warrant (Right to Buy) | \$ 2.34 | 04/16/2008 | <u>X</u> <sup>(3)</sup> | 118,759 | 04/16/2008 | 04/16/2008 | Common Stock |
| Common Stock Warrant (Right to Buy) | \$ 2.34 | 04/16/2008 | <u>X</u> <sup>(3)</sup> | 142,493 | 04/16/2008 | 04/16/2008 | Common Stock |
| Common Stock Warrant (Right to Buy) | \$ 2.34 | 04/16/2008 | <u>X</u> <sup>(3)</sup> | 5,687   | 04/16/2008 | 04/16/2008 | Common Stock |
| Common Stock Warrant (Right to Buy) | \$ 2.34 | 04/16/2008 | <u>X</u> <sup>(3)</sup> | 6,824   | 04/16/2008 | 04/16/2008 | Common Stock |
|                                     | \$ 2.69 | 04/16/2008 | P                       | 312,173 | 10/16/2008 | 04/16/2013 |              |

|   |         |            |   |        |            |            |  |                 |
|---|---------|------------|---|--------|------------|------------|--|-----------------|
| Common<br>Stock<br>Warrant<br>(Right to<br>Buy) |         |            |   |        |            |            |  | Common<br>Stock |
| Common<br>Stock<br>Warrant<br>(Right to<br>Buy) | \$ 2.69 | 04/16/2008 | P | 14,937 | 10/16/2008 | 04/16/2013 |  | Common<br>Stock |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| ORONSKY ARNOLD L<br>C/O INTERWEST PARTNERS<br>2710 SAND HILL ROAD, 2ND FLOOR<br>MENLO PARK, CA 94025 | X             | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Arnold L.  
Oronsky

04/18/2008

\*\*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 are owned by InterWest Partners VII, L.P. ("IW7"). InterWest Management Partners VII, LLC ("IMP7") is the general partner of IW7. The Reporting Person is a Managing Directors of IMP7 and disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares reported, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
  - (2) The shares are owned by InterWest Investors VII, L.P. ("II7"). InterWest Management Partners VII, LLC ("IMP7") is the general partner of II7. The Reporting Person is a Managing Directors of IMP7 and disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares reported, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
  - (3) In connection with a private placement of shares of the Company's common stock, the Company agreed to lower the exercise price of certain outstanding warrants in exchange for the immediate exercise of those warrants.

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.