BRUCE ERIC J Form 4 January 20, 2011

FORM 4

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

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 * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading **BRUCE ERIC J** Issuer Symbol KING PHARMACEUTICALS INC (Check all applicable) [KG] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) 501 FIFTH STREET 12/31/2010 President, Animal Health (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting BRISTOL, TN 37620 Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. 4. Securities Acquired 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction(A) or Disposed of Securities Form: Direct Indirect (Instr. 3) any Code (D) Beneficially (D) or Beneficial Indirect (I) Ownership (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Owned Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Reported (A) Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) Code Amount (D) Price Common 12/31/2010 M 39,000 Α \$0 $209,579 \frac{(1)}{2}$ D Stock

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)

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3235-0287

January 31,

2005

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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. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of orDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Am Underlying Sec (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	A or N
Long-Term Performance Unit	<u>(2)</u>	12/31/2010		M		39,000	(2)	12/31/2010	Common Stock	3
Long-Term Performance Unit	<u>(3)</u>	01/18/2011(4)		A	17,758		<u>(5)</u>	12/31/2012	Common Stock	1

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

BRUCE ERIC J 501 FIFTH STREET BRISTOL, TN 37620

President, Animal Health

Signatures

/s/ Eric J. Bruce 01/20/2011

**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) The amount of securities beneficially owned by the reporting person following this reported transaction includes securities owned as of January 20, 2011.
- The Long-Term Performance Units (One Year Performance Cycle) were awarded under the King Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Incentive Plan (the "Incentive Plan"). Each Long-Term Performance Unit represented a contingent right to receive one share of King Pharmaceuticals, Inc. common stock if the reporting person remained employed by King Pharmaceuticals, Inc. during the two-year vesting period that ended on December 31, 2010.
- (3) The Long-Term Performance Units (One Year Performance Cycle) were awarded under the Incentive Plan. Each Long-Term Performance Unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of King Pharmaceuticals, Inc. common stock.
- (4) The number of Long-Term Performance Units awarded was based on the achievement of certain 2010 annual earnings per share targets established by the Compensation and Human Resources Committee under the Incentive Plan in early 2010.
- (5) The Long-Term Performance Units vest in full on December 31, 2012, or sooner under certain limited circumstances, contingent upon the reporting person's continued employment by King Pharmaceuticals, Inc. as of that 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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