

BENTLEY PHARMACEUTICALS INC  
 Form 4  
 March 27, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
**MURPHY JAMES R**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**BENTLEY PHARMACEUTICALS INC [BNT]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**03/23/2006**

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
**Chairman & CEO**

**BENTLEY PARK, 2 HOLLAND WAY**

(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

**EXETER, NH 03833**

(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 or Price		
Common Stock, \$.02 par value	03/23/2006		M		200,000 A \$ 4.73	532,425	D
Common Stock, \$.02 par value	03/23/2006		F		119,197 (1) D \$ 12.985	413,228	D
Common Stock, \$.02 par						100	I (2) By Son

value

Common  
Stock,  
\$.02 par  
value

9,563

I

Company-Sponsored  
401(k) Plan

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 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 Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount Number of Shares
Right to purchase	\$ 4.73	03/23/2006		M	200,000	01/06/2000 <sup>(3)</sup> 04/19/2006	Common Stock, \$.02 par value	200,	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
MURPHY JAMES R BENTLEY PARK 2 HOLLAND WAY EXETER, NH 03833	X		Chairman & CEO	

## Signatures

James R.  
Murphy

03/27/2006

\*\*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) Represents (i) mature shares tendered to the Company by the reporting person in connection with the exercise of vested stock options and (ii) shares withheld by the Company at the direction of the reporting person to satisfy minimum tax withholding requirements.
- (2) Represents 100 shares of Common Stock held by Mr. Murphy's son, as to which Mr. Murphy disclaims beneficial ownership.  
Options to purchase 600,000 shares of Common Stock were granted pursuant to terms approved by the Company's shareholders at the
- (3) Annual Meeting of Shareholders on June 14, 1996. These options became exercisable in three equal installments on 6/12/1996, 12/10/1999, and 1/6/2000 at exercise prices of \$2.89, \$3.68, and \$4.73, respectively.

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.