

DURECT CORP  
Form 4  
December 21, 2004

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 \*  
NELSON TIMOTHY S

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
10240 BUBB ROAD  
(Street)

CUPERTINO, CA 95014

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
DURECT CORP [DRRX]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/17/2004

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Sr. VP Business & Development

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock				(A) or (D) Price	389,325 <sup>(2)</sup>	D	
Common Stock				(A) or (D) Price	25,000	I	By Trust <sup>(3)</sup>

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)
Incentive Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 3.2	12/17/2004		A	33,723	12/17/2005 <sup>(1)</sup> 12/17/2014	Common Stock
Non-Qualified Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 3.2	12/17/2004		A	6,277	12/17/2005 <sup>(1)</sup> 12/17/2014	Common Stock

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
NELSON TIMOTHY S 10240 BUBB ROAD CUPERTINO, CA 95014			Sr. VP Business & Development	

## Signatures

Timothy S Nelson 12/21/2004

\*\*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) NQ/ISO Grants Dated December 17, 2004 combined will vest as follows: 1/4 of the underlying securities will vest on each 12-month anniversary of the Grant Date.
- (2) Includes 744 shares acquired on October 29, 2004 and 601 shares acquired on April 30, 2004 under the Durect Corporation Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (3) Held by Paine Webber Incorporated, not in its individual capacity but solely as Custodian of the IRA for Timothy Nelson.

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.