

Stauffer Joseph William
 Form 4
 January 26, 2010

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 *
 Stauffer Joseph William

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 2 RESULTS WAY

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 01/22/2010

___ Director ___ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)
 CMO and Exec. VP Corp. Strategy

(Street)
 CUPERTINO, CA 95014

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

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Code V Amount (D) Price | | |

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 | 2. Conversion or Exercise | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|

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| (Instr. 3) | Price of Derivative Security | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|---|------|---|---------|-----|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Incentive Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 2.18 | 01/22/2010 | | | A | | 32,311 | | 01/22/2011 ⁽¹⁾ | 01/22/2020 | Common Stock |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 2.18 | 01/22/2010 | | | A | | 51,947 | | 01/22/2010 ⁽²⁾ | 01/22/2020 | Common Stock |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 2.18 | 01/22/2010 | | | A | | 117,689 | | 01/22/2011 ⁽¹⁾ | 01/22/2020 | Common Stock |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Stauffer Joseph William 2 RESULTS WAY CUPERTINO, CA 95014 | | | CMO and Exec.VP Corp. Strategy | |

Signatures

Joseph W.
Stauffer

01/25/2010

__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) ISO/NQ Grants Dated January 22, 2010 combined will vest as follows: 1/4 of the total underlying securities shall vest on the one year anniversary of the Grant Date and 1/16 of the total underlying securities shall vest quarterly following the one year anniversary.
- (2) 100% of the total shares of this Grant Dated January 22, 2010 shall vest on 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.