## FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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| Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 |
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| as Caption 20(h) of the Investment Company, Act of 1040                |

or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person' (Check all applicable) ZIOPHARM ONCOLOGY INC [ ZIOP ] **BAGLEY RICHARD E** Director Х 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify Х 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) (Last) (Middle) below) below) (First) 04/26/2006 President, COO & Treasurer 197 EIGHTH STREET, SUITE 300 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable (Street) Line) 02129 CHARLESTOWN MA X 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 3. 5. Amount of 2. Transaction 2A. Deemed 4. Securities Acquired (A) or 6. Ownershin 7. Nature of 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)

|                                | Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | Code (Instr. |   |        |               |       |                                    | (D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------|---|--------|---------------|-------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
|                                |                          |   | Code         | v | Amount | (A) or<br>(D) | Price | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |                                   | (1150. 4)   |
| Common Stock, \$.001 par value |                          |   |              |   |        |               |       | 0                                  | D                                 |   |

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code (<br>8) |   | 5. Numl<br>of<br>Derivati<br>Securiti<br>Acquire<br>(A) or<br>Dispose<br>of (D) (II<br>3, 4 and | ve<br>es<br>ed<br>ed<br>nstr. | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                    | 7. Title and Amount<br>of Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Security<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |                                     | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 4) | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|---|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
|   |   |  |   | Code                         | v | (A)   | (D)                           | Date<br>Exercisable  | Expiration<br>Date | Title   | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of Shares |   |  |  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)                | \$1.7   |  |   |                              |   |   |                               | (1)  | 07/01/2014         | Common<br>Stock   | 150,668                             |   | 150,668  | D  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)                | \$4.31  |  |   |                              |   |   |                               | (2)  | 06/08/2015         | Common<br>Stock   | 63,197                              |   | 63,197   | D  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)                | \$4.31  |  |   |                              |   |   |                               | (3)  | 09/13/2015         | Common<br>Stock   | 27,417                              |   | 27,417   | D  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)                | \$5.01  | 04/26/2006                                 |   | A                            |   | 54,873  |                               | 04/26/2006   | 04/26/2016         | Common<br>Stock   | 54,873                              | \$0   | 54,873   | D  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)                | \$5.01  | 04/26/2006                                 |   | A                            |   | 40,000  |                               | (4)  | 04/26/2016         | Common<br>Stock   | 40,000                              | \$0   | 40,000   | D  |  |

Explanation of Responses:

1. 50,223 shares vest on each of 7/1/05 and 7/1/06; 50,222 shares vest on 7/1/07.

2. 21,066 shares vest on each of 7/1/05 and 7/1/06; 21,065 shares vest on 7/1/07.

3. 9,139 shares vest on each of 9/13/05, 7/1/06 and 7/1/07.

4. 20,000 shares vest immediately; the remainder vest on 12/14/06.

/s/ Richard E. Bagley

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

04/26/2006

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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