FORM 4

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPROVAL             |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number:              | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated average burden |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| hours per response:      |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  | . , |                     |  |   | or S  | Secti                            | ion 30(h)  | of the I | nvestmer  | nt Cor    | mpany Act    | of 194  | 10  |   |   |               |   |       |
|--|-----|---------------------|--|---|---|----------------------------------|--|----------|---|-----------|--------------|---|---|---|---|---------------|---|-------|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*  ALAM JOHN J  |     |                     | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INC / MA [ VRTX ] |   |   |                                  |  |          |   |           |              | Check all a<br>Dir<br>V Off                         | oplicable)<br>ector<br>cer (give title  | Oth   | Owner<br>er (specify                    |               |   |       |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED 130 WAVERLY STREET   |     |                     |  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 05/06/2004 |   |                                  |  |          |   |           |              |   | SVP, Drug Eval. & Appr.   |   |   |               |   |       |
| (Street) CAMBR (City)  |     |                     | )1239<br>Zip)  |   | 4. If   | Ame                              | endment.   | , Date o | f Original  | l Filed   | i (Month/Da  | ay/Yea  | ar)   |   | ine)<br>X Fo<br>Fo                      | m filed by On | p Filing (Check<br>e Reporting Pe<br>ore than One R | erson |
|  |     | Tabl                | e I - No   | n-Deriv   | ative   | Se                               | curitie  | s Acc    | quired,   | Dis       | posed o      | f, or   | Bene  | eficia  | ally Owi                                | ed            |   |       |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transa Date (Month/D   |     |                     | n/Day/Year) if a   |   | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                                  | Transaction Disposed Of Code (Instr. 5)  |          | ies Acquired (A)<br>Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4   |           |              | nd Secu<br>Ben                                      | rities<br>ficially<br>ed Following  | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | of Indirect                             |               |   |       |
|  |     |                     |  |   |   |                                  |  | Code     | v   | Amount    |              | (A) or<br>(D)                                       | Price   | Tran  | saction(s)<br>r. 3 and 4)               |               | (11311. 4)  |       |
| Common Stock   |     |                     | 05/06  | 05/06/2004  |   |                                  |  | A        |   | 65,000(1) |              | A   | \$ <mark>0</mark> .   | .01   | 88,234                                  | D             |   |       |
| Common Stock   |     |                     |  |   |   |                                  |  |          |   |           |              |   |   |   | 2,628                                   | I             | 401(k)  |       |
| 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)  3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)  3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)  4. A Deemed Execution Date if any (Month/Day/Year) |     | n Date,<br>ay/Year) | 4.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8)  |   | n of  | ired<br>r<br>osed<br>)<br>: 3, 4 | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)  Date Expiration Date Expiration Date |          | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. and 4)  Amour or Numbe of Title Shares |           | ount<br>nber | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (Instr. 4) | Ownershi<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirec<br>(I) (Instr. 4    | Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>t (Instr. 4) |               |   |       |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

1. Stock grant made under 1996 Stock and Option Plan, vesting 50% on May 6, 2009, subject to acceleration upon achievement of a performance-based milestone based on Company profitability, and 50% on May 6, 2007.

## Remarks:

Valerie L. Andrews, Attorney-

In-Fact

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

05/10/2004

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.

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 Number.