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FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPRC	VAL
OMB Number:	3235-0287
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* COLES N ANTHONY (Last) (First) (Middle)			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INC / MA [VRTX]		tionship of Reporting Perso all applicable) Director Officer (give title below)	on(s) to Issuer 10% Owner Other (specify below)		
(Last) (Hirst) (Middle) C/O VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED 130 WAVERLY STREET		(<i>'</i> ,	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 05/06/2004	SVP, Comm. Ops.				
			4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)				
(Street)				X	Form filed by One Repor	rting Person		
CAMBRIDGE	MA	02139			Form filed by More than Person	One Reporting		
(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)						5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Code	v	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)		(Instr. 4)
Common Stock	05/06/2004		A		65,000 ⁽¹⁾	A	\$0.01	68,840	D	
Common Stock								1,227	Ι	401(k)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

			(3 / 1	,											
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. Transa Code (8)				6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	v	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				

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-05/10/2004

In-Fact

** Signature of Reporting Person 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.

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.