

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Spink Katharine E.</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>6300 DUMBARTON CIRCLE</u> (Street) <u>FREMONT CA 94555</u> (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>Asterias Biotherapeutics, Inc. [AST]</u> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>EVP & COO</u> |
| | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>06/05/2017</u> | |
| 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|-------|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 06/05/2017 | | F ⁽¹⁾ | | 7,260 | D | \$3.2 | 10,949 | D | |

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 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) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|-----------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | | | |
| Stock Option | \$2.34 | | | | | 08/01/2013 | 03/09/2020 | Common Stock 192,500 | | 192,500 ⁽²⁾ | D | |
| Stock Option | \$3.9 | | | | | 02/12/2016 | 02/12/2025 | Common Stock 100,000 | | 100,000 ⁽³⁾ | D | |
| Stock Option | \$5.45 | | | | | 12/31/2015 | 11/04/2025 | Common Stock 100,000 | | 100,000 ⁽⁴⁾ | D | |
| Stock Option | \$3.64 | | | | | 02/26/2017 | 02/26/2026 | Common Stock 165,000 | | 165,000 ⁽⁵⁾ | D | |
| Stock Options | \$3.45 | | | | | 03/30/2018 | 03/30/2027 | Common Stock 150,000 | | 150,000 ⁽⁶⁾ | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

- In accordance with Rule 16b-3, represents shares withheld by the Issuer to satisfy tax withholding obligation upon vesting of a previously reported restricted stock award.
- Of such stock options, 4,167 have vested not as of the date hereof.
- Of such stock options, 43,751 have vested not as of the date hereof.
- Of such stock options, 62,500 have vested not as of the date hereof.
- Of such stock options, 113,438 have not vested as of the date hereof.
- Of such stock options, 150,000 have not vested as of the date hereof.

/s/ Katharine E. Spink

06/07/2017

** 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.

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