

PETERSON RICHARD D  
 Form 4  
 May 17, 2010

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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**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 \*  
 PETERSON RICHARD D

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 MEDICIS PHARMACEUTICAL CORP [MRX]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 7720 N. DOBSON RD.  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 05/13/2010

\_\_\_\_ Director  
 \_\_\_\_ Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 EVP, CFO & Corp Treasurer

SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price
Common Stock					169,701 <sup>(1)</sup>	D	
Common Stock	05/13/2010		M		22,010	A	\$ 18.33
Common Stock	05/13/2010		S		22,010 <sup>(2)</sup>	D	\$ 25.2645
Common Stock	05/17/2010		S		1,000	D	\$ 24.5185

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

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(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 (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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option	\$ 18.33	05/13/2010		M	22,010	07/11/2003	07/11/2012	Common Stock	22,010

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
PETERSON RICHARD D 7720 N. DOBSON RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256			EVP, CFO & Corp Treasurer	

## Signatures

Richard D. Peterson                      05/17/2010

\_\_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) Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned in Column 5 reflects a transfer to the reporting officer's former spouse of 4,337 shares on May 3, 2010, pursuant to a divorce settlement decree.
- (2) The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$25.215 to \$25.325, inclusive.

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.