FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response: | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |

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

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* JIAN LI (Last) (First) (Middle) | | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol DURECT CORP [DRRX] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/06/2006 | | | | | | | | ationship of call applical Director Officer (g below) | 10% Ow | | ner | | |
|--|--|------------|--|-----------|--|--|--------|----------|--|-----|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 10240 BUBB RD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | VP Finance & Corp. Controller | | | | |
| (Street) CUPERTINO CA 95014 | | | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | Line) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | | | |
| (City) | (: | State) | (Zip) | | | | | | | | | | | Form file Person | filed by More than One Reporting n | | | ting | |
| | | Table I | - Non-De | rivati | ive S | ec | uritie | s A | cquired, | Di | sposed o | f, or Be | enefici | ally Ow | ned | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transac Date (Month/D | | | | | | 2A. Deemed Execution Date any (Month/Day/Ye | | Code (In | ction Disposed | | es Acquired of (D) (Instr. | | 5. Amount Securities Beneficial Owned Fo | y | 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 | Reported Transactio (Instr. 3 an | | | | | | |
| | 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 | | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, any (Month/Day/Yea | Code (Ins | | | 1 ' | | 6. Date Exercisable 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 derivative Securities Beneficia Owned Followin Reported Transacti | e Ownersh s Form: Direct (D or Indire g (I) (Instr. | Ownership | Beneficial) Ownership ct (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | Co | ode | v | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | | expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | (Instr. 4) | | | | |
| Incentive Stock Option (right to buy) | \$5.27 | 01/06/2006 | | | A | | 38,585 | | 01/06/2007 | (1) | 01/06/2016 | Common Stock | 38,585 | \$0 | 38,58 | 35 | D | | |
| Non- Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | \$5.27 | 01/06/2006 | | | A | | 51,415 | | 01/06/2007 | (1) | 01/06/2016 | Common Stock | 51,415 | \$0 | 51,41 | 5 | D | | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. NQ/ISO Grants Dated January 6, 2006 combined will vest as follows: 1/4 of the underlying securities will vest on each 12-month anniversary of the Grant Date.

lian Li

01/10/2006

** 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.