

METABASIS THERAPEUTICS INC  
Form 8-K  
August 07, 2008

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

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**Form 8-K**

**Current Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): August 7, 2008**

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**Metabasis Therapeutics, Inc.**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

**000-50785**  
(Commission File Number)

**33-0753322**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**11119 North Torrey Pines Road**  
**La Jolla, California**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**92037**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(858) 587-2770**

**Not Applicable.**

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  
  - o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  
  - o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  
  - o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.**

On August 7, 2008, we entered into a two-year Research Collaboration Agreement with Roche. Under the terms of the agreement, Metabasis HepDirect liver-targeting technology will be applied to Roche's proprietary lead nucleosides for the treatment of hepatitis C virus. We will receive an upfront payment of \$10.0 million from Roche. In the event a development candidate is identified, Roche will assume development responsibility and we will be eligible to receive up to \$193 million in additional payments upon achievement of predetermined preclinical and clinical development events as well as regulatory and commercialization events. Roche will retain full commercial rights for any marketed products resulting from the collaboration and will pay us a royalty on net sales of such products.

**Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.**

On August 7, 2008, Metabasis announced its financial results for the second quarter ended June 30, 2008 in the earnings release filed as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference herein.

The information in this Item 2.02 is being furnished and shall not be deemed filed for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section. The information in this Item 2.02 shall not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement or other document pursuant to the Securities Act.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits.

<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
99.1	Earnings release of Metabasis Therapeutics, Inc. dated August 7, 2008.

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**METABASIS THERAPEUTICS, INC.**

By: */s/ Paul K. Laikind*

Paul K. Laikind  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Date: August 7, 2008

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

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