

APPLERA CORP
Form SC 13G/A
March 12, 2004

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G/A

OMB APPROVAL
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**Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No. 4)***

APPLERA CORP. APPLIED BIOSYSTEMS

(Name of Issuer)

COMMON

(Title of Class of Securities)

038020103

(CUSIP Number)

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- Rule 13d-1(b)
- Rule 13d-1(c)
- Rule 13d-1(d)

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*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP No. 038020103

1. **Names of Reporting Persons. I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only)**
 PRIMECAP Management Company 95-3868081

2. **Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)**

(a)
 (b)

3. **SEC Use Only**

4. **Citizenship or Place of Organization**
 225 South Lake Avenue #400, Pasadena, CA 91101

**Number of
 Shares
 Beneficially
 Owned by
 Each
 Reporting
 Person With**

5. **Sole Voting Power**
 3,276,718

6. **Shared Voting Power**
 0

7. **Sole Dispositive Power**
 20,811,068

8. **Shared Dispositive Power**
 0

9. **Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person**
 20,811,068

10. **Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions)** 0

11. **Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)**
 10.09%

12. **Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions)**
 IA

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| (c) | Number of shares as to which the person has: | |
| | (i) | Sole power to vote or to direct the vote |
| | (ii) | Shared power to vote or to direct the vote |
| | (iii) | Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of |
| | (iv) | Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of |

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person

If any other person is known to have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, such securities, a statement to that effect should be included in response to this item and, if such interest relates to more than five percent of the class, such person should be identified. A listing of the shareholders of an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 or the beneficiaries of employee benefit plan, pension fund or endowment fund is not required.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company or Control Person

If a parent holding company has filed this schedule, pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b)(ii)(G), so indicate under Item 3(g) and attach an exhibit stating the identity and the Item 3 classification of the relevant subsidiary. If a parent holding company has filed this schedule pursuant to Rule 13d-1(c), attach an exhibit stating the identification of the relevant subsidiary.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

If a group has filed this schedule pursuant to Rule 3d-1(b)(ii)(H), so indicate under Item 3(h) and attach an exhibit stating the identity and Item 3 classification of each member of the group. If a group has filed this schedule pursuant to Rule 13-1(c), attach an exhibit stating the identity of each member of the group.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

Notice of dissolution of a group may be furnished as an exhibit stating the date of the dissolution and that all further filings with respect to transactions in the security reported on will be filed, if required, by members of the group, in their individual capacity. See Item 5.

Item 10. Certification

The following certification shall be included if the statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b):

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purposes or effect.

Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

February 27, 2004

Date

/s/ THEO A. KOLOKOTRONES

Signature

Theo A. Kolokotronis, President

Name/Title