

ATHERSYS, INC / NEW  
 Form 4  
 June 18, 2008

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 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 \*  
**SHEFFERY MICHAEL B**

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 767 THIRD AVENUE  
 (Street)

NEW YORK, NY 10017

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**ATHERSYS, INC / NEW [ATHX]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
**06/16/2008**

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 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 Ownership Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Code V Amount (D) Price		

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

**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 control number.**

SEC 1474 (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	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)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
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Derivative Security			or Disposed of (D)		Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
			(D)	(D)								
Director stock option (right to purchase)	\$ 2.96	06/16/2008	A				15,000		(1)	06/16/2013	Common Stock	15,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SHEFFERY MICHAEL B 767 THIRD AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10017	X			

## Signatures

/s/ Laura K. Campbell, as attorney-in-fact for Michael B. Sheffery 06/18/2008

\_\_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) The option vests 50%/25%/25% over three years in quarterly increments.

The option was granted to Mr. Sheffery, a director of Athersys. Mr. Sheffery is also a partner of OrbiMed Advisors LLC and OrbiMed Capital GP III LLC, which is the General Partner of Caduceus Private Investments III, LP. Mr. Sheffery is obligated to transfer any shares issued under the option to Caduceus Private Investments III, LP and OrbiMed Associates III, LP.

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.