FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| <b>STATEMENT</b> | <b>OF CHANGES</b> | S IN BENEFICIAL | <b>OWNERSHIP</b> |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|

| OMB APPROVAL |
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|              |

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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).                      |

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*  MCINERNEY TIMOTHY |   |        |   |                            |                               | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ZIOPHARM ONCOLOGY INC [ ZIOP ] |  |                                 |  |       |                  |  |                                   |           | k all applic   | able)  | .,             |  |   |  |  |
|---|---|--------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|--|-------|------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|--|--|----------------|--|---|--|--|
| (Last)  | ,   | •      | (Middle)  |                            |                               |  | of Earliest<br>2010  | Trans                           | saction (Mo                            | nth/E | ay/Year)         |  |                                   |           | Officer<br>below)  | vned  Amount of ceurities eneficially whed Following ported ansaction(s) istr. 3 and 4)  Person  Reporting Person  6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)  230,705(1)  D |                |  |   |  |  |
| (Street)  | Common Stock, \$.001 par value  Table I  Title of Security (Instr. 3)  Table I  Table II  Title of Conversion or Exercise instr. 3)  Table II  Table II |        | 08525   |                            | 4.1                           | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                   |  |                                 |  |       |                  |  |                                   |           | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)     X Form filed by One Reporting Person     Form filed by More than One Reporting |  |                |  |   |  |  |
| (City)  | (S  | tate)  | (Zip)   |                            |                               |  |  |                                 |  |       |                  |  |                                   |           | Person   |  |                |  |   |  |  |
|   |   | Tal    | ole I - Nor                                       | n-Deriv                    | /ativ                         | e Se   |  |                                 | _                                      | Disp  | 1                |  |                                   |           | Owned  |  |                |  |   |  |  |
| 1. Title of   | Security (Ins   | tr. 3) |   | 2. Trans<br>Date<br>(Month |                               |  | 2A. Deem<br>Execution<br>if any<br>(Month/Da   | Date                            | Code (I                                |       | Disposed         | ties Acquii<br>d Of (D) (In:                                       | str. 3, 4                         | or<br>and | Securitie<br>Beneficia<br>Owned F<br>Reported  | s<br>Illy<br>ollowing<br>I   | Form<br>(D) or | : Direct<br>r Indirect   | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |  |  |
|   |   |        |   |                            |                               |  |  |                                 | Code                                   | V     | Amount           | (A) o<br>(D)   | r Pri                             | ce        | (Instr. 3 a  | ınd 4)   |                |  |   |  |  |
| Common  | Stock, \$.00  |        |   |                            |                               |  |  |                                 |  |       |                  |  |                                   |           |  | 705(1)   |                | D  |   |  |  |
|   |   | •      | Table II -  |                            |                               |  |  |                                 | uired, Di<br>s, option                 |       |                  |  |                                   |           | wned   |  |                |  |   |  |  |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)         | Conversion or Exercise  | Date   | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution I<br>if any<br>(Month/Day | Date,                      | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code (i<br>8) |  | 5. Numl<br>of<br>Derivati<br>Securiti<br>Acquire<br>(A) or<br>Dispose<br>of (D) (I<br>3, 4 and | ive<br>ies<br>ed<br>ed<br>nstr. | 6. Date Exc<br>Expiration<br>(Month/Da | Date  |                  | 7. Title ar<br>of Securi<br>Underlyir<br>Derivative<br>(Instr. 3 a | ties<br>Ig<br>e Secur             | S         | . Price of<br>perivative<br>security<br>nstr. 5)   | 9. Number<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficial<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transactio<br>(Instr. 4)  | ly             | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)            |  |  |
|   |   |        |   |                            | Code                          | v  | (A)  | (D)                             | Date<br>Exercisabl                     |       | xpiration<br>ate | Title  | Amou<br>or<br>Numb<br>of<br>Share | er        |  |  |                |  |   |  |  |
| Warrants<br>to<br>Purchase<br>Common<br>Stock               | \$4.75  |        |   |                            |                               |  |  |                                 | 09/13/2009                             | 5 0   | 5/31/2012        | Common<br>Stock,<br>\$.001 par<br>value                            | 20,7                              | 67        |  | 20,767   | 7              | D  |   |  |  |
| Director<br>Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)            | \$4.31  |        |   |                            |                               |  |  |                                 | 07/20/2003                             | 7 0   | 7/20/2015        | Common<br>Stock,<br>\$.001 par<br>value                            | 15,0                              | 29        |  | 15,029   | )              | D  |   |  |  |
| Director<br>Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)            | \$5.01  |        |   |                            |                               |  |  |                                 | 04/26/2000                             | 6 0   | 4/26/2016        | Common<br>Stock  | 15,0                              | 00        |  | 15,000   | )              | D  |   |  |  |
| Warrants<br>to<br>Purchase<br>Common<br>Stock               | \$5.09  |        |   |                            |                               |  |  |                                 | 05/03/2000                             | 6 0   | 5/03/2013        | Common<br>Stock,<br>\$.001 par<br>value                            | 80,7                              | 37        |  | 80,737   | 7              | D  |   |  |  |
| Director<br>Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)            | \$6.49  |        |   |                            |                               |  |  |                                 | 12/13/2009                             | 9 1   | 2/13/2016        | Common<br>Stock  | 15,0                              | 00        |  | 15,000   | )              | D  |   |  |  |
| Warrant   | \$5.75  |        |   |                            |                               |  |  |                                 | 02/23/2007                             | 7 0   | 2/23/2012        | Common<br>Stock  | 35,7                              | 39        |  | 35,739   | 9              | D  |   |  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)                        | \$4.85  |        |   |                            |                               |  |  |                                 | (2)                                    | 0     | 6/18/2017        | Common<br>Stock  | 15,0                              | 00        |  | 15,000   | )              | D  |   |  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)                        | \$2.73  |        |   |                            |                               |  |  |                                 | (3)                                    | 1     | 2/12/2017        | Common<br>Stock  | 20,0                              | 00        |  | 20,000   | )              | D  |   |  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to                                | \$0.7   |        |   |                            |                               |  |  |                                 | (4)                                    | 0     | 5/13/2019        | Common<br>Stock  | 15,0                              | 00        |  | 15,000   | )              | D  |   |  |  |

| Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |   |  |   |                  |   |        |     |   |                    |  |  |   |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|---|------------------|---|--------|-----|---|--------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)  | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                  | 4. 5. Number of Orde (Instr. Derivative |        |     | 6. Date Exerc<br>Expiration Da<br>(Month/Day/\) | ate                | 7. Title an<br>of Securit<br>Underlyin<br>Derivative<br>(Instr. 3 ar | ies<br>g<br>Security                   | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|  |   |  |   | Code             | v                                       | (A)    | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable                             | Expiration<br>Date | Title  | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |   |  |  |  |
| Warrants<br>to<br>purchase<br>common<br>stock  | \$2.04  |  |   |                  |   |        |     | 09/15/2009                                      | 09/15/2014         | Common<br>Stock,<br>\$.001 par<br>value                              | 50,000                                 |   | 50,000   | D  |  |
| Warrants<br>to<br>purchase<br>common<br>stock  | \$2.04  |  |   |                  |   |        |     | 09/15/2009                                      | 09/15/2014         | Common<br>Stock  | 40,298                                 |   | 40,298   | D  |  |
| Warrants<br>to<br>Purchase<br>Common<br>Stock  | \$4.02  |  |   |                  |   |        |     | 12/09/2009                                      | 12/09/2014         | Common<br>Stock  | 25,000                                 |   | 25,000   | D  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)   | \$2.85  |  |   |                  |   |        |     | (5)   | 12/31/2019         | Common<br>Stock,<br>\$.001 par<br>value                              | 7,500                                  |   | 7,500  | D  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)   | \$5.09  |  |   |                  |   |        |     | 03/31/2011                                      | 03/31/2020         | Common<br>Stock,<br>\$.001 par<br>value                              | 15,000                                 |   | 15,000   | D  |  |
| Warrants<br>to<br>purchase<br>Common<br>Stock  | \$4.02  | 04/14/2010                                 |   | J <sup>(6)</sup> |   | 29,898 |     | 04/14/2010                                      | 12/09/2014         | Common<br>Stock  | 29,898                                 | (6)   | 29,898   | D  |  |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. Includes grants of restricted stock with restrictions that will lapse as to 3,750 shares on each of December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2011 and restrictions that lapse as to 15,000 shares on March 31, 2011.
- 2. 5,000 shares vest on each of 6/18/08, 6/18/09 and 6/18/10.
- $3.\,6,667$  shares vest on each of 12/12/08 and 12/12/09; 6,666 shares vest on 12/12/10.
- $4.\,5,\!000$  shares vest on each of  $12/31/09,\,6/30/2010$  and 12/31/2010.
- 5. 3,750 shares vest on each of 12/31/2010 and 12/31/2011.
- 6. Acquired upon distribution of a warrant previously held by the Reporting Person's employer.

/s/ Timothy McInerney 04/16/2010

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

- $^{\star}$  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.

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