Harrington John J Form 4 November 25, 2008

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

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OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES** Form 4 or Form 5

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

(Print or Type Responses)

1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Harrington John J Issuer Symbol ATHERSYS, INC / NEW [ATHX] (Check all applicable) (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) _X_ Director 10% Owner _X__ Officer (give title . _ Other (specify 3201 CARNEGIE AVENUE 11/21/2008 below) Dir. & Chief Scientific Off. (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line)

CLEVELAND, OH 44115

| (City) | (State) (Z | Zip) Table | I - Non-Do | erivative S | Securi | ties Acq | puired, Disposed o | f, or Beneficial | ly Owned |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|------------|---------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1.Title of | 2. Transaction Date | 2A. Deemed | 3. | 4. Securi | ties A | cquired | 5. Amount of | 6. Ownership | 7. Nature of |
| Security | (Month/Day/Year) | y/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction(A) or Disposed of | | | d of | Securities | Form: Direct | Indirect | |
| (Instr. 3) | | any | Code | (D) | | | Beneficially | (D) or | Beneficial |
| | | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | Owned | Indirect (I) | Ownership | |
| | | | | | | | Following | (Instr. 4) | (Instr. 4) |
| | | | | | (A) | | Reported | | |
| | | | | | | Transaction(s) | | | |
| | | | Code V | Amount | or (D) | Price | (Instr. 3 and 4) | | |
| Common Stock | 11/21/2008 | | P | 5,835 | A | \$ 0.33 | 91,644 | D | |
| Common Stock | 11/24/2008 | | P | 5,000 | A | \$ 0.33 | 96,644 | D | |

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative | 2. Conversion | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if | 4. Transacti | 5. orNumber | 6. Date Exerc Expiration D | | 7. Title Amount | | 8. Price of Derivative | 9. Nu Deriv |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| Security (Instr. 3) | or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | (Month/Day/Tear) | any (Month/Day/Year) | Code (Instr. 8) | de of (Month/Day/Year) | | | Underly Securiti (Instr. 3 | ying ies | Security (Instr. 5) | Secur Bene Owne Follo Repo Trans (Instr |
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title N | Amount or Number of Shares | | |

Relationships

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|---------|-------|--|--|--|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Harrington John J

Dir. & Chief Scientific Off. 3201 CARNEGIE AVENUE X

CLEVELAND, OH 44115

Signatures

/s/ Laura K. Campbell, as attorney-in-fact for John 11/25/2008 Harrington

> **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).

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.

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