

ATHERSYS, INC / NEW
Form SC 13G
April 14, 2008

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

SCHEDULE 13G

**Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No. _____)***

Athersys, Inc.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share

(Title of Class of Securities)

04744L106

(CUSIP Number)

June 6, 2007

(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)

* 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. 04744L106

13G

Page 2 of 9 Pages

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS.

I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

RA Capital Management, LLC

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

Massachusetts

5 SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF 1,606,395

6 SHARED VOTING POWER

SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY 0

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

EACH REPORTING PERSON 1,606,395

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

0

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,606,395

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

o

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

8.3%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IA

CUSIP No. 04744L106

13G

Page 3 of 9 Pages

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS.

I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

Richard H. Aldrich

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

United States

5 SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF 0

6 SHARED VOTING POWER

SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY 1,606,395

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

EACH REPORTING PERSON 0

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

WITH 1,606,395

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,606,395

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

o

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

8.3%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IN

CUSIP No. 04744L106

13G

Page 4 of 9 Pages

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS.

I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

Peter Kolchinsky

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

United States

5 SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF 0

6 SHARED VOTING POWER

SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY 1,606,395

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

EACH REPORTING PERSON 0

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

WITH 1,606,395

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,606,395

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

o

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

8.3%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IN

CUSIP No. 04744L106

13G

Page 5 of 9 Pages

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS.

I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

RA Capital Biotech Fund, L.P.

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

Delaware

5 SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF 1,578,614

6 SHARED VOTING POWER

SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY 0

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

EACH REPORTING PERSON 1,578,614

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

0

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,578,614

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

o

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

8.2%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

PN

CUSIP No. 04744L106

13G

Page 6 of 9 Pages

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS.

I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

RA Capital Biotech Fund II, L.P.

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

Delaware

5 SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF 27,781

6 SHARED VOTING POWER

SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY 0

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

EACH REPORTING PERSON 27,781

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

WITH 0

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

27,781

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

o

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

0.1%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

PN

CUSIP No. 04744L106

Page 7 of 9

Item 1.

(a) **Name of Issuer:** Athersys, Inc. (the Issuer).

(b) **Address of the Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:** 3201 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

Item 2.

(a) **Name of Person Filing:** This joint statement on Schedule 13G is being filed by Richard H. Aldrich, Peter Kolchinsky, RA Capital Management, LLC, RA Capital Biotech Fund, L.P. and RA Capital Biotech Fund II, L.P., who are collectively referred to herein as the Reporting Persons. Mr. Aldrich and Mr. Kolchinsky (together, the Managers) are the managers of RA Capital Management, LLC (Capital), which is the sole general partner of each of RA Capital Biotech Fund, L.P. (Fund I) and RA Capital Biotech Fund II, L.P. (Fund II). The Reporting Persons have entered into a Joint Filing Agreement, dated as of the date hereof, a copy of which is filed with this Schedule 13G as Exhibit 1 (which is incorporated herein by reference), pursuant to which the Reporting Persons have agreed to file this statement jointly in accordance with the provisions of Rule 13d-1(k) under the Act.

(b) **Address of Principal Business Office:** The principal business office of the Reporting Persons with respect to the shares reported hereunder is 111 Huntington Avenue, Suite 610, Boston, MA 02199.

(c) **Citizenship:** Capital is a Massachusetts limited liability company. Each of Fund I and Fund II is a Delaware limited partnership. The Managers are United States citizens.

(d) **Title and Class of Securities:** Common stock, par value \$0.001 per share (Common Stock).

(e) **CUSIP Number:** 04744L106

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to §§240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

Not applicable.

Item 4. Ownership

In the aggregate, the Reporting Persons beneficially own 1,606,395 shares of the Common Stock of the Issuer, representing approximately 8.3% of such class of securities. The beneficial ownership of each Reporting Person is as follows: (i) Fund I beneficially owns 1,578,614 shares of Common Stock representing approximately 8.2% of the class, (ii) Fund II beneficially owns 27,781 shares of Common Stock representing approximately 0.1% of the class and (iii) Capital, as the sole general partner of each of Fund I and Fund II, and Mr. Aldrich and Mr. Kolchinsky as the managers of Capital, each beneficially own 1,606,395 shares of Common Stock of the Issuer representing approximately 8.3% of the class. The percentage of the Common Stock beneficially owned by each Reporting Person is based on a total of 19,227,988 shares of Common Stock of

CUSIP No. 04744L106

Page 8 of 9

the Issuer outstanding as of March 13, 2008, as reported in the Issuer's most recent annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal period ended December 31, 2007, plus the number of shares of Common Stock able to be acquired by the Reporting Person within 60 days of this filing.

Each of Fund I and Fund II has the power to vote and dispose of the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by such entity (as described above). Capital, as the sole general partner of each of Fund I and Fund II, has the sole authority to vote and dispose of all of the shares of Common Stock reported in this Schedule 13G. The Managers, by virtue of their position as managers of Capital, have the shared authority to vote and dispose of all of the shares of Common Stock reported in this Schedule 13G.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

Not applicable.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

Not applicable.

Item 10. Certification

By signing below I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

CUSIP No. 04744L106

Page 9 of 9

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.

DATE: April 14, 2008

RA CAPITAL BIOTECH FUND, L.P.

By: /s/ Richard H. Aldrich

Richard H. Aldrich
Manager

RA CAPITAL BIOTECH FUND II,
L.P.

By: /s/ Richard H. Aldrich

Richard H. Aldrich
Manager

RA CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC

By: /s/ Richard H. Aldrich

Richard H. Aldrich
Manager

RICHARD H. ALDRICH

/s/ Richard H. Aldrich

PETER KOLCHINSKY

/s/ Peter Kolchinsky

Exhibit 1

JOINT FILING AGREEMENT

Pursuant to Rule 13d-1(k)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the undersigned hereby agrees, as of April 14, 2008, that only one statement containing the information required by Schedule 13G, and each amendment thereto, need be filed with respect to the ownership by each of the undersigned of shares of Common Stock of Athersys, Inc., and such statement to which this Joint Filing Agreement is attached as Exhibit 1 is filed on behalf of each of the undersigned.

RA CAPITAL BIOTECH FUND, L.P.

By: /s/ Richard H. Aldrich

Richard H. Aldrich
Manager

RA CAPITAL BIOTECH FUND II,
L.P.

By: /s/ Richard H. Aldrich

Richard H. Aldrich
Manager

RA CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC

By: /s/ Richard H. Aldrich

Richard H. Aldrich
Manager

RICHARD H. ALDRICH

/s/ Richard H. Aldrich

PETER KOLCHINSKY

/s/ Peter Kolchinsky