FORM 4

## **UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPROVAL             |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number:              | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated average burden |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| hours per response:      | 0.5       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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* <u>Hopper Jonathan Mark</u> |   |  |  |         |  | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Vericel Corp [ VCEL ] |   |       |  |                         |  |                                   |  | heck all a<br>D  | applica<br>irector                        |  |   | on(s) to Isso<br>10% Ov<br>Other (s                                     | wner                                       |  |
|--|---|--|--|---------|--|---|---|-------|--|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O VERICEL CORPORATION 64 SIDNEY STREET     |   |  |  |         |  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/18/2022       |   |       |  |                         |  |                                   |  |  | elow)                                     | hief Med   | lical (   | below)  | ,  |  |
| (Street) CAMBRIDGE MA 02139  |   |  |  | 4.      | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) |   |   |       |  |                         |  |                                   |  | Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)     X Form filed by One Reporting Person     Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |   |  |   |   |  |  |
| (City)   | (5  | State)                                     | (Zip)  |         |  |   |   |       |  |                         |  |                                   |  |  |   |  |   |   |  |  |
|  |   | Та   | ble I - Nor  | ı-Deriv | vativ  | /e Se   | curitie   | s Acq | uired,   | Dis                     | posed of   | , or Be                           | neficia  | lly Ow   | ned                                       |  |   |   |  |  |
| Date   |   |  |  | Date    | Transaction<br>ate<br>Month/Day/Year)                    |   | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) |       | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8)          |                         | 4. Securities Acquired (A)<br>Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 |                                   |  |  |   | s<br>lly<br>ollowing   | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) |   | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership |  |
|  |   |  |  |         |  |   |   |       | Code   | v                       | Amount   | (A) o<br>(D)                      | Price  | Tra  | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)        |  |   |   | (Instr. 4)                                 |  |
| Common Stock 02/1  |   |  |  |         | .9/20  | 9/2022  |   |       | М  |                         | 1,750  | A                                 | \$0  | (1)  | 46,644 <sup>(2)</sup>                     |  |   | D   |  |  |
| Common Stock 02/2  |   |  |  | 02/1    | 9/2022   |   |   |       | F  |                         | 730(3)   | D                                 | \$34   | 1.9  | 45,914 <sup>(2)</sup>                     |  |   | D   |  |  |
|  |   |  | Table II -   |         |  |   |   |       |  |                         | osed of, onvertib  |                                   |  | y Own  | ed  |  |   |   |  |  |
| 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 Day<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/ | c       | I.<br>Fransa<br>Code (                                   |   | Derivative  |       | 6. Date Exerci<br>Expiration Da<br>(Month/Day/Ye |                         | e  | of Secur<br>Underlyi<br>Derivativ | 7. Title and Amou<br>of Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Securi<br>Instr. 3 and 4) |  | Price of<br>rivative<br>curity<br>str. 5) | 9. Numbe<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficial<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported | re<br>es<br>ally<br>g<br>d  | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4 | Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4)      |  |
|  |   |  |  | c       | Code   | v   | (A)   | (D)   | Date<br>Exercisa                                 | Date E<br>Exercisable D |  | Title                             | Amour<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares  | er   |   | Transactio<br>(Instr. 4)   | on(s)   |   |  |  |
| Restricted<br>Stock Unit   | (4)   | 02/19/2022                                 |  |         | M  |   |   | 1,750 | (1)  |                         | (5)  | Common<br>Stock                   | 1,75   | <b>'50</b> \$34.9  |   | 5,250  |   | D   |  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)                                 | \$34.9  | 02/18/2022                                 |  |         | A  |   | 51,385  |       | (6)  |                         | 02/18/2032   | Common<br>Stock                   | 51,38  | 5 \$   | 60  | 51,38  | 5   | D   |  |  |
| Restricted<br>Stock Unit   | (4)   | 02/18/2022                                 |  |         | A  |   | 9,300   |       | (7)  |                         | (5)  | Common<br>Stock                   | 9,30   | ) \$   | s <b>0</b>                                | 9,300  |   | D   |  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)                                 | \$34.9  | 02/18/2022                                 |  |         | A  |   | 2,865   |       | (6)  |                         | 02/18/2032   | Common<br>Stock                   | 2,86   | 5 \$   | 60  | 2,865  | 5   | D   |  |  |

## Explanation of Responses:

- 1. The shares of common stock were acquired by the Reporting Person as a result of the vesting of Restricted Stock Units (RSUs) granted to the Reporting Person on February 19, 2021. The remaining RSUs will vest in annual installments on February 19, 2023, February 19, 2024, and February 19, 2025, respectively.
- 2. These shares include shares acquired pursuant to the Issuer's 2015 Employee Stock Purchase Plan in transactions that were exempt under both Rule 16b-3(d) and Rule 16b-3(c).
- $3. \ These shares were withheld by the Issuer to satisfy the tax withholding requirements in connection with the vesting of RSUs. \\$
- 4. Each RSU represents a contingent right to receive one share of common stock of Vericel Corporation.
- 5. No expiration date for this type of award.
- 6. These options shall begin vesting on February 18, 2022 and shall continue to vest and become exercisable in equal quarterly installments over the course of the following four (4) year period.
- 7. These RSUs vest in four annual installments with the initial vesting of RSUs granted to the Reporting Person on February 18, 2023. The remaining RSUs will vest in annual installments on February 18, 2024, February 18, 2025, and February 18, 2026, respectively.

## Remarks:

/s/ Sean Flynn, as Attorney-in-Fact for Jonathan Hopper

02/22/2022

\*\* 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.

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 Number.