FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP |
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|----------------------------------------------|

| 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

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Mara Joseph Anthony Jr | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Vericel Corp [VCEL] | | | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 64 SIDNEY STREET | | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/22/2024 | | | | , | below) | r (give title) Chief Financia | | below) | респу | | | |
| (Street) CAMBRIDGE MA 02139 | | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | Line | Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable ine) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | | |
| (Спу) | (City) (State) (Zip) Rule 10b5-1(c) Transaction Indication Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10. | | | | | | | | | | | to | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transa Date | | | | . Transact | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, | | | 3. Transactio | Transaction Code (Instr. 5) Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, | | | 5. Amour Securitie Beneficia | nt of es ally Following | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | Direct o ndirect B tr. 4) C | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
| | | | | | ve Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficits, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities | | | | eficially | cially Owned | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | e, Tran | nsaction le (Instr. | 5. Number of | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number derivative Securities Beneficial Owned Following Reported Transactio (Instr. 4) | Ownersi Form: Direct (I or Indire (I) (Instr. | Ownership | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
| | | | | Cod | ie V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | | |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$48.31 | 02/22/2024 | | А | | 46,250 | | (1) | 02/22/2034 | Common Stock | 46,250 | \$0 | 46,250 | | D | |
| Restricted Stock Unit | (2) | 02/22/2024 | | A | | 18,500 | | (3) | (4) | Common Stock | 18,500 | \$0 | 18,500 |) | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. These options shall begin vesting on February 22, 2024 and shall continue to vest and become exercisable in equal quarterly installments over the course of the following four (4) year period.
- $2. \ Each \ Restricted \ Stock \ Unit \ (RSU) \ represents \ a \ contingent \ right \ to \ receive \ one \ share \ of \ common \ stock \ of \ Vericel \ Corporation.$
- 3. These RSUs vest in four annual installments with the initial vesting of RSUs granted to the Reporting Person on February 22, 2025. The remaining RSUs will vest in annual installments on February 22, 2026, February 22, 2027, and February 22, 2028, respectively.
- 4. No expiration date for this type of award.

/s/ Sean Flynn, as Attorney-in-Fact for Joseph Mara

02/26/2024

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

- * 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.