FORM 4

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

| Washington, D.C. 20549 | |
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: 3235-028 | | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response. | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | or | Section | n 30(h |) of the | Ínvestme | nt Co | mpany Act | t of 1940 | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|----------|--|-------------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* ZERBE ROBERT L MD | | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Vericel Corp [VCEL] | | | | | | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | | | | |
| ZERDE KÜDEKT L MID | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X Direct | or | | 10% Ov | vner | |
| (Last) | (Fi | rst) | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/20/2024 | | | | | | | | Officer (give title below) | | | Other (s below) | pecify | | | |
| C/O VERICEL CORPORATION | | | | | 4. 11 | f Ame | ndmen | t. Date | of Origina | ıl File | d (Month/E | 6. | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable | | | | | | |
| 64 SIDNEY STREET | | | | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | | | |
| (Street) | | | | | - | | | | | | | | | Form | filed by Mo | | n One Repo | - 1 | |
| CAMBR | MBRIDGE MA 02139 | | | | | Person | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | - Rı | Rule 10b5-1(c) Transaction Indication | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (City) (State) (Zip) | | | | | | 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Tabl | le I - No | n-Deriv | ative | Sec | uritie | es Ac | quired | , Dis | sposed (| of, or Be | neficia | Ily Owne | d | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transa Date (Month/D | | | | r) Ex | A. Deemed Execution Date, f any Month/Day/Year) | | Transaction Disposed Code (Instr. | | ities Acquired (A) o d Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 a | | Benefic Owned | es ially Following | Form (D) o | n: Direct or Indirect nstr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Code | Code V Amou | | (A) or (D) | Price | | ted action(s) 3 and 4) | | | Instr. 4) | |
| Common Stock | | | 02/20 | 2024 | | | | M | | 722 | A | \$3.7 | 4 24 | 24,117 | | D | | | |
| Common Stock 02/20 | | | /2024 | 2024 | | | S | | 722 | 722 D ⁽¹⁾ \$ | | 23,395 | | | D | | | | |
| | | Т | able II - | | | | | | | | osed of | | | y 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 E if any (Month/Day | n Date, | 4. Transa Code (8) | | 5. Number of | | 6. Date Exercis Expiration Date (Month/Day/Yea | | е | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Securit (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number derivative Securities Beneficial Owned Following Reported Transactic (Instr. 4) | e s illy | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | | Code | v | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisal | | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | | | |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$3.74 | 02/20/2024 | | | M | | 722 | | (2) | | (3) | Common Stock | 722 | \$0 | 3,278 | | D | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. The sales reported in this Form 4 were effected by an automatic sale pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on August 11, 2023.
- 2. These options, representing the right to purchase 4,000 shares, became exercisable in three installments, contingent upon continued service to the Company, with the first vesting date on March 20, 2015, which was the date on which the option was granted, and the final vesting date on May 1, 2015.
- 3. These options, which were awarded on March 20, 2015, would otherwise expire and become forfeitable on March 20, 2025.

/s/ Sean Flynn, as Attorney-in-Fact for Robert Zerbe

02/22/2024

** 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.