FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| TATEMENT O | F CHANGES | IN BENEFICIAL | OWNERSHIP |
|------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|

| l | OMB APPRO               | VAL       |  |  |  |  |  |
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|   | OMB Number:             | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |
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|   | 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*  CRAIG WILLIAM S  (Last) (First) (Middle)  C/O CADENCE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.  12481 HIGH BLUFF DRIVE, SUITE 200 |   |  |   |                                       | <u>C.</u>  | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CADENCE PHARMACEUTICALS INC [CADX]  3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 08/20/2009 |       |              |                  |                                     |  |                     |                                    |   |                                      |            | ationship of Reporting<br>k all applicable)<br>Director<br>Officer (give title<br>below) |  | g Pei                                | rson(s) to Is:<br>10% O<br>Other (<br>below)                             | wner   |
|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|-------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
|  |   |  |   |                                       |  |   |       |              |                  |                                     |  |                     |                                    |   |                                      |            | SVP  |  |                                      |  |  |
| (Street) SAN DIEGO CA 92130  (City) (State) (Zip)  |   |  |   | 4. If                                 | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) |   |       |              |                  |                                     |  |                     |                                    |   | i. Indiv<br>ine)<br>X                | · '        |  |  |                                      |  |  |
|  |   | Tab  | le I - Noi                                    | n-Deriv                               | ative  | Se  | curit | ies Ac       | qui              | ired, [                             | Disp   | posed c             | of, o                              | r Bei   | nefici                               | ally (     | Owne   | d  |                                      |  |  |
| Dat  |   |  | Date  | Transaction<br>ate<br>Ionth/Day/Year) |  | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year)   |       | Code (Instr. |                  |                                     | 4. Securities Acquired (A)<br>Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4<br>5) |                     |                                    |   | 4 and Securit<br>Benefic<br>Owned    |            | ies<br>ially<br>Following  | Fori<br>(D)  | m: Direct<br>or Indirect<br>nstr. 4) | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership                      |  |
|  |   |  |   |                                       |  |   |       |              | -                | Code                                | v  | Amount              | mount (A) o                        |   | Pric                                 |            |  | action(s)<br>3 and 4)  |                                      |  | (Instr. 4)   |
| Common stock 08/20/  |   |  |   | /2009                                 | 2009   |   |       | М            |                  | 5,000                               | )  | A                   | \$(                                | 0.4   | 7,000                                |            |  | D  |                                      |  |  |
| Common stock 08/20/  |   |  |   | /2009                                 | 2009   |   |       |              | S <sup>(1)</sup> |                                     | 5,000  | )                   | D                                  | \$10.19   |                                      | 2,000      |  |  | D                                    |  |  |
|  |   | Т  | able II -                                     |                                       |  |   |       |              |                  |                                     |  | sed of,<br>onvertil |                                    |   |                                      |            | wned   |  |                                      |  |  |
| 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. Deeme<br>Execution<br>if any<br>(Month/Da | Date,                                 | 4.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8)                  |   |       |              | Exp              | Date Exe<br>Diration I<br>Donth/Day | Date   |                     | Amo<br>Seci<br>Und<br>Deri<br>Seci | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instr. 3<br>and 4) |                                      | Der<br>Sec | Price of<br>rivative<br>curity<br>str. 5)  | 9. Number<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficiall<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transactio<br>(Instr. 4) | у                                    | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|  |   |  |   |                                       | Code   | ode V   |       | (D)          | Date<br>Exe      | e<br>ercisable                      |  | kpiration<br>ate    | Title                              |   | Amoun<br>or<br>Numbe<br>of<br>Shares |            |  |  |                                      |  |  |
| Stock<br>option<br>(right to<br>buy)   | \$0.4   | 08/20/2009                                 |   |                                       | М  |   |       | 5,000        | 02/              | /16/2005                            | 03   | 2/15/2015           | com                                |   | 5,000                                |            | (2)  | 67,500   |                                      | D  |  |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. The sale reported on this Form 4 was effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on May 18, 2009.
- 2. Not applicable to this transaction.

## Remarks:

/s/ Hazel M. Aker Attorney-in-

08/21/2009

\*\* 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.