FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Washington, | D.C. | 20549 | |
|-------------|------|-------|--|
| · | | _00.0 | |

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

| OMB APP | ROVAL | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 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* Naftzger J. Christopher | | | | _ <u>A</u> | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Arbutus Biopharma Corp [ABUS] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | 5. | . Rela Check | tionship of Reporting all applicable) Director Officer (give title | | g Person(s) to Issu 10% Ow Other (s below) | | /ner | | |
|---|---|----------------------|--|------------|---|--|---------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| (Last) C/O ARI | , | First) OPHARMA CO | (Middle) | ON | | 02/01/2024 | | | | | | | | | below) Gen | eral Cou | nsel a | and CCO | | |
| 701 VETERANS CIRCLE | | | | | 4. | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) | | | | | | |
| (Street) WARMI | NSTER F | A | 18974 | | | | | | | | | | X | X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | | |
| (City) | (; | State) | (Zip) | | R | lule | 10b5- | 1(c) | Transa | cti | on Ind | ication | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Та | ble I - Nor | ո-Deri | ivativ | ve Se | curitie | s Acc | quired, I | Disp | osed c | of, or Be | eneficia | illy (| Owned | | | | | |
| Date | | | Date | nsactio | action 2A. Deemed Execution Date if any (Month/Day/Yea | | Date, | e, Transaction Dispos Code (Instr. | | 4. Securi Disposed | urities Acquired (A) o sed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 a | | nd 5) | 5. Amoun Securities Beneficia Owned Fo | s Form Illy (D) o ollowing (I) (In | | : Direct I r Indirect I str. 4) | '. Nature of ndirect Beneficial Ownership | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Code | v | Amount (A | | or Price | е | Reported Transaction (Instr. 3 a | on(s) | | (| Instr. 4) | |
| Common | Shares | | | 02/0 | 01/20 | 1/2024 A 95,100 ⁽¹⁾ A | | | \$ | \$0 95,100 D | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Table II - I | | | | | | uired, Di , option: | | | | | | wned | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | | 3A. Deemed Execution Da if any (Month/Day/Y | ate, | | nsaction Derivative Securities Acquired (or Dispose of (D) (Inst 3, 4 and 5) | | re ss I (A) sed str. | Expiration | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amo of Securities Underlying Derivative Secur (Instr. 3 and 4) | | [| | 9. Number derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported | e s illy | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | c | Code | v | (A) | | Date Exercisable | | xpiration ate | Title | Amount or Number of Share | . | | Transaction(s (Instr. 4) | | 21 | | |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$2.4 ⁽²⁾ | 02/01/2024 | | | A | 380,500 | | (3) | 0: | 2/01/2034 | Common Shares | 380,50 | 00 | \$0 | 380,50 | 00 | D | | | |

- 1. Represents the grant of restricted stock units ("RSUs"), which represent a contingent right to receive one common share for each RSU. The RSUs vest in three equal annual installments beginning one year from the grant date, subject to the Reporting Person's continuous service as of each vesting date. Unless otherwise provided, on each vesting date, common shares will automatically be sold to satisfy the Reporting Person's tax withholding obligations in a non-discretionary transaction.
- 2. Reflects the closing price of the Company's common shares on the Nasdaq Stock Market on the date of the grant.
- 3. This option vests over a four-year period, with 1/48th of the shares subject to the option vesting in substantially equal monthly installments measured from one month following the grant date, subject to the Reporting Person's continuous service as of each vesting date.

Remarks:

/s/ David C. Hastings as attorney-in-fact for J. Christopher Naftzger

02/05/2024

** 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.