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       |

| $\overline{}$ | Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 |
|---------------|---|
|               |   |
|               | or Form E obligations may continue Coa Instruction 1/b)   |

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

|   |   |                  |   |                          |   | or Sectio     | n 30(n) of the   | Ínvestment Co       | mpany Act of   | 1940  |   |   |  |  |   |  |
|---|---|------------------|---|--------------------------|---|---------------|--|---------------------|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| Name and Address of Reporting Person     Picchio Gaston   |   |                  |   |                          | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Arbutus Biopharma Corp [ ABUS ] |               |  |                     |  |   |   | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  Director 10% Owner |  |  |   |  |
|   |   |                  |   |                          |   |               |  |                     |  |   | X   | Officer (give title   | below)   | Other (sp  | ecify below)  |  |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O ARBUTUS BIOPHARMA CORPORATION |   |                  |   |                          | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/17/2020                 |               |  |                     |  |   |   | Chief Development Officer   |  |  |   |  |
| 701 VETERANS CIRCLE                                       | IA CORT OF  | CATION           |   |                          | 02/1//20  | 020           |  |                     |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |  |
| (Street)  |   |                  |   |                          | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                    |               |  |                     |  |   | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) |   |  |  |   |  |
| WARMINSTER PA   | WARMINSTER PA 18974   |                  |   |                          |   |               |  |                     |  |   | X   | X Form filed by One Reporting Person  Form filed by More than One Reporting Person          |  |  |   |  |
| (City) (S   | tate)   | (Zi <sub>l</sub> | o)  |                          |   |               |  |                     |  |   |   | Form filed by Mic   | ile tilali Olle Kej  | iorang Person  |   |  |
|   |   |                  | Т   | able I -                 | Non-Der   | ivative Se    | curities Ac  | quired, Dis         | sposed of  | , or Beneficially Owr   | ed  |   |  |  |   |  |
| 2 mas of occurry (months)                                 |   |                  |   |                          | Date Exe  |               | Execution Date, C                                      |                     | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) 3, 4 and 5) |   | B   | Beneficially Owned Follow   |  |  | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect Beneficial                             |  |
|   |   |                  |   |                          | (Month/Day/Year) if any (Month/Day/Year)                                    |               |  | Code V              | Amount   | (A) or (D)  |   | orted Transaction(s) (Instr.<br>tr. 3 and 4)  |  | 4)   | Ownership (Instr.<br>4)   |  |
|   |   |                  |   | Table I                  |   |               |  |                     |  | or Beneficially Owner<br>e securities)                          | I   |   |  |  |   |  |
| Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)                   | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security |                  | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transac<br>(Instr. 8) | ction Code  | Securities Ac | curities Acquired (A) or<br>sposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 |                     | isable and<br>ite<br>'ear)   | 7. Title and Amount of Secur<br>Derivative Security (Instr. 3 a | ities Underlying<br>and 4)                                  | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instr.<br>5)   | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following | 10. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of<br>Indirect Beneficial<br>Ownership (Instr.<br>4) |  |
|   |   |                  |   | Code                     | v   | (A)           | (D)  | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date   | Title   | Amount or<br>Number of Shares                               |   | Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 4)                                       |  |   |  |
|   |   |                  |   |                          |   |               |  |                     |  |   |   |   |  |  |   |  |

### Explanation of Responses:

1. The stock option will vest and become exercisable 1/48th each month over the four year period.

### Remarks:

/s/ Dave Kille as attorney-in-fact for Gaston Picchio

\*\* 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).

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\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (b)(v).

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Is 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.

#### POWER OF ATTORNEY

(1) execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, in the undersigned's capacity as an officer and/or director of the Company, the undersigned's application for EDGAF (2) execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, in the undersigned's capacity as an officer and/or director of the Company, Forms 3, 4 and 5, in accordance with SE

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints the David C. Hastings, David Kille and James List of Arbutus Biopharma Corpor

(3) do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned which may be necessary or desirable to (A) complete and execute any such Forms 3, 4 or 5 (B)

(4) take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best :

The undersigned hereby grants to each such attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, neces

The undersigned acknowledges that the foregoing attorney-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, is not assuming, nor is the (

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4, and 5 with respect to the undersigned in the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 15th day of August, 2019.

/s/ Gaston Picchio Gaston Picchio