FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: | 3235-028 | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average b | ourden | | | | | | | | |

0.5

hours per response:

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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* Menzaghi Frederique Ph.D. | | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Cara Therapeutics, Inc. [CARA] | | | | | | | | | Check all ap | olicable) | p Person(s) to Issuer 10% Owner Other (specify | |
|--|---|--|------------------------|----------|---|---|---|-----------------------|--|------------|--------------------|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O CARA THERAPEUTICS, INC. 4 STAMFORD PLAZA, 107 ELM ST, 9TH FLOOR | | | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 05/28/2019 | | | | | | | | | ^ belo | | |) | |
| (Street) STAMFO (City) | ORD CT | Γ (| 06902 Zip) | | 4. If | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable ine) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | |
| | | Tabl | e I - No | on-Deriv | ative | Sec | uritie | s Ac | quired | d, Di | sposed o | f, or | Bene | eficia | ally Own | ed | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transactic Date (Month/Day/ | | | | | Execution Date, | | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) 4. Securities Acquired (A Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, | | | | 5) Secur Benet | ficially d Following | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Code | v | Amount | (A) (D) | or I | Price | Trans | action(s) 3 and 4) | | (Instr. 4) | | |
| Common Stock 05/28/20 | | | | | 019 | | A | | 37,500(1) |) / | 1 | \$0.0 | 00 1 | 60,279 | D | | | |
| Common Stock 05/29/20 | | | | 019 | | S ⁽²⁾ | | 11,397 ⁽³⁾ | |) ! | \$21.1 | .9(4) 1 | 48,882 | D | | | | |
| Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | Execution Date, if any | | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | ate | Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. and 4) | | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transactions (Instr. 4) | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
| | | | | | Code | v | (A) | (D) | Date Exercis | sable | Expiration Date | Title | Ame or Nun of Sha | | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Represents the number of shares that vested under a performance-based restricted stock unit award (the "RSU") based on the Issuer's satisfaction of certain performance criteria of the award. In light of the performance-based vesting conditions of the award, such shares were not reportable under Section 16 until vesting was determined, which occurred on May 28, 2019. The vested shares represent one-half of the total number of shares subject to the award, and the remaining shares subject to the award will vest only upon the satisfaction of additional performance vesting criteria. Each RSU represents the contingent right to receive one share of common stock of the Issuer.
- 2. This sale was effected pursuant to a "sell to cover" arrangement adopted by the Reporting Person in accordance with Rule 10b5-1 on September 6, 2018 to satisfy the tax withholding obligations triggered by the vesting and of the RSUs reported herein as described in greater detail in footnote (1), and does not represent a discretionary trade by the Reporting Person.
- 3. Represents the number of shares required to be sold by the Reporting Person to cover tax withholding as described in footnote (2).
- 4. The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$21.03 to \$21.30, inclusive. The Reporting Person undertakes to provide to the Issuer, any security holder of the Issuer, or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the range set forth in this footnote (4) to this Form 4.

Remarks:

/s/Darren DeStefano, Attorneyin-Fact 05/30/2019

** 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.