

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

---

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): **April 27, 2009**

**GERON CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**0-20859**  
(Commission File Number)

**75-2287752**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**230 CONSTITUTION DRIVE  
MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025**  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

**(650) 473-7700**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**N/A**  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
-

**Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.**

Please see Item 5.02 below for a description of the material terms of an offer letter entered into between Geron Corporation (“Geron”) and Stephen M. Kelsey, M.D., which description is incorporated by reference into this Item 1.01.

**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

On April 27, 2009, Geron publicly disseminated a press release announcing that Stephen M. Kelsey, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.Path., had been appointed as its executive vice president and chief medical officer, oncology, effective April 27, 2009. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated by reference herein. In this position, Dr. Kelsey, 48, will manage the operational and strategic activities of Geron’s oncology programs. He will report to Dr. Thomas Okarma, Geron’s president and chief executive officer.

Prior to joining Geron, Dr. Kelsey held various positions at Genentech, Inc., most recently as vice-president, clinical hematology/oncology. From June 2000 to June 2002, Dr. Kelsey was the director of clinical affairs at Pharmacia Corporation (SUGEN, Inc.) in South San Francisco and director of global clinical development (oncology) at Pharmacia Corporation in Milan, Italy. From July 1987 to June 2000, Dr. Kelsey served variously as a senior lecturer in hematology/oncology at St. Bartholomews and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry and visiting fellow at Vancouver General Hospital and Terry Fox Laboratories. Dr. Kelsey earned his B.Sc. in Pharmacology, M.B. Ch.B., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.Path., and Doctorate of Medicine (M.D.) degrees from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. Dr. Kelsey is also Board certified in the European Union and British Columbia in Internal Medicine and Hematology/Oncology.

In connection with hiring Dr. Kelsey as an at-will employee and appointing him as executive vice president and chief medical officer, oncology, Geron and Dr. Kelsey, each executed an offer letter, which provides for base salary compensation of \$400,000 per annum, a target bonus of 45 percent of his base salary which will not be prorated based upon his start date of April 27, 2009, as well as employee benefits pursuant to Geron’s benefits policies. Dr. Kelsey also received a restricted stock grant of 40,000 shares of Geron common stock on April 27, 2009. The shares of restricted stock will remain subject to a repurchase right of Geron until April 27, 2010, at which time such repurchase right will lapse with respect to 25% of such shares. Geron’s repurchase right will lapse with respect to the balance of the shares on April 27, 2011. Dr. Kelsey is also entitled to a stock option grant to purchase up to 200,000 shares of Geron common stock. Pursuant to Geron’s stock option granting practices, the Compensation Committee grants stock options on the third Wednesday of each month. Dr. Kelsey’s stock option will have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of Geron common stock measured by the market closing price on May 20, 2009 and will vest monthly over 48 months, subject to a six month cliff period, for so long as Dr. Kelsey continues to provide services to the Company.

Dr. Kelsey is also a party to Geron's Severance Plan (the "Severance Plan"). Under the Severance Plan, if Dr. Kelsey was terminated for any reason other than "cause" (as defined in the Severance Plan) and has signed a mutually acceptable separation agreement, he shall be entitled to (i) a lump sum payment equal to his then-current base salary for the Severance Period (as defined in the Severance Plan); and (ii) payment of premiums required for the continuation of health, dental and vision insurance under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, as amended ("COBRA") through the earlier of the end of the applicable Severance Period or when other employment offering health care coverage is obtained.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(c) Exhibits

99.1 Press release dated April 27, 2009.

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

GERON CORPORATION

Date: April 27, 2009

By: /s/ David L. Greenwood  
Name: David L. Greenwood  
Title: Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

**Geron Appoints Stephen Kelsey as Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Oncology, and Hassan Movahhed as Vice President of Clinical Operations for Oncology**

MENLO PARK, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--April 27, 2009--Geron Corporation (Nasdaq:GERN) today announced the appointment of Stephen M. Kelsey, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.Path., as executive vice president and chief medical officer, oncology, and Hassan Movahhed as vice president of clinical operations, oncology. Dr. Kelsey will manage the operational and strategic activities of the company's oncology programs. He will report to Dr. Thomas B. Okarma, Geron's president and chief executive officer. Mr. Hassan will be responsible for all oncology clinical operations and will report to Dr. Kelsey.

Stephen Kelsey

"This is a fantastic time to join the oncology team at Geron," said Dr. Kelsey. "I am very excited to be involved in the development of anti-cancer therapies that target telomerase. The evidence to date that support the utility of the telomerase inhibitor imetelstat (GRN163L) against most human cancer types coupled with the recent demonstration of broad activity against multiple cancer stem cell types, makes the clinical development program particularly exciting."

"We are very pleased to engage Stephen at this point in the clinical development program as we demonstrate telomerase inhibition in patients treated with imetelstat (GRN163L)," said Dr. Okarma. "He brings extensive experience in the clinical development of oncology drugs that will build on and complement the strengths of our existing team."

Dr. Kelsey joins Geron from Genentech, Inc., where he was vice-president, clinical hematology/oncology, responsible for a broad range of oncology development programs spanning pre-Phase I through marketed products.

Before his tenure at Genentech he was director of clinical affairs at Pharmacia Corporation (SUGEN, Inc.) in South San Francisco and director of global clinical development (oncology) at Pharmacia Corporation in Milan, Italy. Dr. Kelsey was the lead clinician for both SU6668 and SU011248, which is now marketed as Sutent by Pfizer.

Dr. Kelsey was a senior lecturer in hematology/oncology at St. Bartholomews and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry. He earned his M.D., F.R.C.P. and F.R.C.Path in the U.K. at the University of Birmingham.

Hassan Movahhed

In addition, Geron has appointed Hassan Movahhed as vice president, clinical operations, oncology. Mr. Movahhed will run the company's oncology clinical trials and will report to Dr. Kelsey.

---

Mr. Movahhed was most recently at Elan Biopharmaceuticals, Inc., where he was vice president and head, global clinical operations. He has had long tenures at Bristol Myers Squibb and Amgen, also heading clinical operations. Mr. Movahhed has broad experience in clinical trials, including studies in oncology as well as nephrology, rheumatology, cardiology and CNS disease.

#### About Geron

Geron is developing first-in-class biopharmaceuticals for the treatment of cancer and chronic degenerative diseases, including spinal cord injury, heart failure and diabetes. The company is advancing an anti-cancer drug and a cancer vaccine that target the enzyme telomerase through multiple clinical trials. Geron is also the world leader in the development of human embryonic stem cell (hESC)-based therapeutics. The company has received FDA clearance to begin the world's first human clinical trial of a hESC-based therapy: GRNOPC1 for acute spinal cord injury. For more information about Geron, visit [www.geron.com](http://www.geron.com).

This news release may contain forward-looking statements made pursuant to the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Investors are cautioned that statements in this press release regarding potential applications of Geron's telomerase technology constitute forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties, including, without limitation, risks inherent in the development and commercialization of potential products, uncertainty of clinical trial results or regulatory approvals or clearances, need for future capital, dependence upon collaborators and maintenance of our intellectual property rights. Actual results may differ materially from the results anticipated in these forward-looking statements. Additional information on potential factors that could affect our results and other risks and uncertainties are detailed from time to time in Geron's periodic reports, including the annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

#### CONTACT:

Geron Corporation

Anna Krassowska, Ph.D., 650-473-7765

Investor and Media Relations

[info@geron.com](mailto:info@geron.com)