

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Switzerland

NUMBER OF

SHARES	5	SOLE VOTING POWER
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON	3,428,571	
WITH SHARED VOTING POWER	6	
WITH SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	7	
WITH SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	8	

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

3,428,571

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

9.5%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON
CO

ITEM 1(a). NAME OF ISSUER:

Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

ITEM 1(b). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

240 East Grand Avenue
South San Francisco, California 94080

ITEM 2(a). NAME OF PERSON FILING:

Novartis Pharma AG

ITEM 2(b). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE:

Lichtstrasse 35
CH-4002 Basel
Switzerland

ITEM 2(c). CITIZENSHIP:

Novartis Pharma AG ("Novartis") is a company incorporated under the laws of Switzerland.

ITEM 2(d). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES:

Common Stock, par value \$.001 per share

ITEM 2(e). CUSIP NUMBER:

ITEM 3. Not Applicable

ITEM 4. OWNERSHIP:

- (a) AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED: 3,428,571
- (b) PERCENT OF CLASS: 9.5%
- (c) NUMBER OF SHARES AS TO WHICH SUCH PERSON HAS:
 - (i) Sole power to vote or to direct to vote: 3,428,571
 - (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct to vote: 0
 - (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 3,428,571
 - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 0

ITEM 5. OWNERSHIP OF FIVE PERCENT OR LESS OF A CLASS:

Not Applicable

ITEM 6. OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON:

Not Applicable

ITEM 7. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH ACQUIRED THE SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY:

Not Applicable

ITEM 8. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP:

Not Applicable

ITEM 9. NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP:

Not Applicable

ITEM 10. CERTIFICATION:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

December 12, 2000

NOVARTIS PHARMA AG

By: /s/ A. Egloff

Name: Dr. A. Egloff
Title: Senior Legal Counsel

By: /s/ Joseph E. Mamie

Name: Joseph E. Mamie
Title: Head Financial Investments

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