

United States
Securities and Exchange Commission
Washington, D.C. 20549

Schedule 13G
(Amendment No. __)*

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

RIGEL PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

(Title of Class of Securities)

766559108

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2000

(Date of Event That Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

Rule 13d-1(c)

Rule 13d-1(d)

* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>
CUSIP No. 766559108

Page 2 of 12 Pages

<S> (1) Names of Reporting Persons. SS or I.R.S. Identification Nos. of Above Persons

<C>

Alta Partners

(2) Check The Appropriate Box If A Member Of A Group

(a)
(b) X

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

California

Please see Attachment A
Number Of Shares (5) Sole Voting Power 4,683,923
Beneficially Owned
By Each Reporting (6) Shared Voting Power -0-
Person With
(7) Sole Dispositive Power 4,683,923
(8) Shared Dispositive Power -0-

(9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person

4,683,923 Please see Attachment A

(10) Check If The Aggregate Amount In Row (11) Excludes Certain Shares*

(11) Percent Of Class Represented By Amount In Row (11)

13.0% Please see Attachment A

(12) Type Of Reporting Person

IA

<FN>

*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!

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CUSIP No. 766559108

Page 3 of 12 Pages

<S>

<C>

(1) Names of Reporting Persons. SS or I.R.S. Identification Nos. of Above Persons

Alta California Partners, L. P.

(2) Check The Appropriate Box If A Member Of A Group

(a)
(b) X

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

Delaware

Please see Attachment A

Number Of Shares
Beneficially Owned
By Each Reporting
Person With

(5)	Sole Voting Power	4,579,305
(6)	Shared Voting Power	-0-
(7)	Sole Dispositive Power	4,579,305
(8)	Shared Dispositive Power	-0-

(9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person

4,579,305 Please see Attachment A

(10) Check If The Aggregate Amount In Row (11) Excludes Certain Shares*

(11) Percent Of Class Represented By Amount In Row (11)

12.7% Please see Attachment A

(12) Type Of Reporting Person

PN

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CUSIP No. 766559108

Page 4 of 12 Pages

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<C>

(1) Names of Reporting Persons. SS or I.R.S. Identification Nos. of Above Persons

Alta California Management Partners, L. P.

(2) Check The Appropriate Box If A Member Of A Group

(a)
(b) X

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

Delaware

	Please see Attachment A		
Number Of Shares Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person With	(5)	Sole Voting Power	4,579,305
	(6)	Shared Voting Power	-0-
	(7)	Sole Dispositive Power	4,579,305
	(8)	Shared Dispositive Power	-0-

(9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person

4,579,305 Please see Attachment A

(10) Check If The Aggregate Amount In Row (11) Excludes Certain Shares*

(11) Percent Of Class Represented By Amount In Row (11)

12.7% Please see Attachment A

(12) Type Of Reporting Person

PN

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CUSIP No. 766559108

Page 5 of 12 Pages

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(1) Names of Reporting Persons. SS or I.R.S. Identification Nos. of Above Persons

Alta Embarcadero Partners, LLC

(2) Check The Appropriate Box If A Member Of A Group

(a)
(b) X

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

California

	Please see Attachment A		
Number Of Shares Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person With	(5)	Sole Voting Power	104,618
	(6)	Shared Voting Power	-0-
	(7)	Sole Dispositive Power	104,618
	(8)	Shared Dispositive Power	-0-

(9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person

104,618 Please see Attachment A

(10) Check If The Aggregate Amount In Row (11) Excludes Certain Shares*

(11) Percent Of Class Represented By Amount In Row (11)

0.3% Please see Attachment A

(12) Type Of Reporting Person

CO

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CUSIP No. 766559108

Page 6 of 12 Pages

<S> <C>

(1) Names of Reporting Persons. SS or I.R.S. Identification Nos. of Above Persons

Jean Deleage

(2) Check The Appropriate Box If A Member Of A Group

(a)
(b) X

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

United States

Please see Attachment A

Number Of Shares Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person With	(5)	Sole Voting Power	-0-
	(6)	Shared Voting Power	4,683,923
	(7)	Sole Dispositive Power	-0-
	(8)	Shared Dispositive Power	4,683,923

(9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person

4,683,923 Please see Attachment A

(10) Check If The Aggregate Amount In Row (11) Excludes Certain Shares*

(11) Percent Of Class Represented By Amount In Row (11)

13.0% Please see Attachment A

(12) Type Of Reporting Person

IN

<FN> *SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!
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<S> <C>

(1) Names of Reporting Persons. SS or I.R.S. Identification Nos. of Above Persons

Garrett Gruener

(2) Check The Appropriate Box If A Member Of A Group

(a)
(b) X

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

United States

Please see Attachment A

Number Of Shares Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person With	(5)	Sole Voting Power	-0-
	(6)	Shared Voting Power	4,683,923
	(7)	Sole Dispositive Power	-0-
	(8)	Shared Dispositive Power	4,683,923

(9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person

4,683,923 Please see Attachment A

(10) Check If The Aggregate Amount In Row (11) Excludes Certain Shares*

(11) Percent Of Class Represented By Amount In Row (11)

13.0% Please see Attachment A

(12) Type Of Reporting Person

IN

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*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!

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CUSIP No. 766559108

Page 8 of 12 Pages

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(1) Names of Reporting Persons. SS or I.R.S. Identification Nos. of Above Persons

Guy Nohra

(2) Check The Appropriate Box If A Member Of A Group

(a)
(b) X

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

United States

Please see Attachment A

Number Of Shares	(5)	Sole Voting Power	-0-
Beneficially Owned	(6)	Shared Voting Power	4,683,923
By Each Reporting	(7)	Sole Dispositive Power	-0-
Person With	(8)	Shared Dispositive Power	4,683,923

(9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person

4,683,923 Please see Attachment A

(10) Check If The Aggregate Amount In Row (11) Excludes Certain Shares*

(11) Percent Of Class Represented By Amount In Row (11)

13.0% Please see Attachment A

(12) Type Of Reporting Person

IN

<FN>

*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!

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CUSIP No. 766559108

Page 9 of 12 Pages

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(1) Names of Reporting Persons. SS or I.R.S. Identification Nos. of Above Persons

Marino Polestra

(2) Check The Appropriate Box If A Member Of A Group

(a)
(b) X

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

United States

Number Of Shares Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person With	Please see Attachment A		
	(5)	Sole Voting Power	-0-
	(6)	Shared Voting Power	4,683,923
	(7)	Sole Dispositive Power	-0-
	(8)	Shared Dispositive Power	4,683,923

(9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned By Each Reporting Person

4,683,923 Please see Attachment A

(10) Check If The Aggregate Amount In Row (11) Excludes Certain Shares*

(11) Percent Of Class Represented By Amount In Row (11)

13.0% Please see Attachment A

(12) Type Of Reporting Person

IN

<FN>

*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!

</FN>

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Item 1.

(a) Name of Issuer: Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ("Issuer")

(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

240 East Grand Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Item 2.

(a) Name of Person Filing:

Alta Partners ("AP")
Alta California Partners, L.P. ("ACP")
Alta California Management Partners, L.P. ("ACMP")
Alta Embarcadero Partners, LLC ("AEP")
Jean Deleage ("JD")
Garrett Gruener ("GG")
Guy Nohra ("GN")
Marino Polestra ("MP")

(b) Address of Principal Business Office:

One Embarcadero Center, Suite 4050
San Francisco, CA 94111

(c) Citizenship/Place of Organization:

Entities:	AP	-	California
	ACP	-	Delaware
	ACMP		Delaware
	AEP		California

Individuals:	JD	United States
	GG	United States
	GN	United States
	MP	United States

(d) Title of Class of Securities: Common Stock

(e) CUSIP Number: 766559108

Item 3. Not applicable.

Item 4 Ownership.

<TABLE>

Please see Attachment A

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<S>		<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>								
(a)	Beneficial Ownership	4,683,923	4,579,305	4,579,305	104,618	4,683,923	4,683,923	4,683,923
(b)	Percentage of Class	13.0%	12.7%	12.7%	0.3%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%
(c)	Sole Voting Power	4,683,923	4,579,305	4,579,305	104,618	-0-	-0-	-0-
	Shared Voting Power	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	4,683,923	4,683,923	4,683,923
	Sole Dispositive Power	4,683,923	4,579,305	4,579,305	104,618	-0-	-0-	-0-
	Shared Dispositive Power	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	4,683,923	4,683,923	4,683,923

</TABLE>

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

No reporting person is a member of a group as defined in Section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(H) of the Act.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

Not applicable.

Item 10. Certification

By signing below we certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and 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.

EXHIBITS

A: Joint Filing Statement

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.

Date: January 26, 2001

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

<S>
Alta Partners

<C>
Alta California Partners, L.P.

By: Alta California Management Partners, L.P.,

By: /s/ Jean Deleage

Jean Deleage, President

By: /s/ Jean Deleage

Jean Deleage, General Partner

Alta California Management Partners, L.P.

Alta Embarcadero Partners, LLC

By: /s/ Jean Deleage

Jean Deleage, General Partner

By: /s/ Jean Deleage

Jean Deleage, Member

/s/ Jean Deleage

Jean Deleage

/s/ Guy Nohra

Guy Nohra

/s/ Garrett Gruener

Garrett Gruener

/s/ Marino Polestra

Marino Polestra

</TABLE>

Exhibit A

Agreement of Joint Filing

We, the undersigned, hereby express our agreement that the attached Schedule 13G is filed on behalf of us.

Date: January 26, 2001

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.

Date: January 26, 2001

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<CAPTION>

<S>
Alta Partners

<C>
Alta California Partners, L.P.

By: Alta California Management Partners, L.P.,

By: /s/ Jean Deleage

Jean Deleage, President

By: /s/ Jean Deleage

Jean Deleage, General Partner

Alta California Management Partners, L.P.

Alta Embarcadero Partners, LLC

By: /s/ Jean Deleage

Jean Deleage, General Partner

By: /s/ Jean Deleage

Jean Deleage, Member

/s/ Jean Deleage

Jean Deleage

/s/ Guy Nohra

Guy Nohra

/s/ Garrett Gruener

Garrett Gruener

/s/ Marino Polestra

Marino Polestra

</TABLE>

Attachment A

Alta Partners provides investment advisory services to several venture capital funds including, Alta California Partners L.P. and Alta Embarcadero Partners, LLC. Alta California Partners, L.P. beneficially owns 4,579,305 shares of Common Stock. Alta Embarcadero Partners, LLC beneficially owns 104,618 shares of Common Stock. The respective general partners of Alta California Partners L.P. and Alta Embarcadero Partners exercise sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares owned by such funds.

The principals of Alta Partners are general partners of Alta California Management Partners, L.P. (which is a general partner of Alta California Partners, L.P.), and members of Alta Embarcadero Partners, LLC. As general partners and members of such funds, they may be deemed to share voting and investment powers for the shares held by the funds. The principals of Alta Partners disclaim beneficial ownership of all such shares held by the foregoing funds, except to the extent of their proportionate pecuniary interests therein.

Mr. Jean Deleage, a director of the company, is a general partner of Alta California Partners, L.P. and member of Alta Embarcadero Partners, LLC. He disclaims beneficial ownership of all such shares held by all of the foregoing funds. He does not directly own any securities in Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Alta Partners is a venture capital company with an office in San Francisco. Alta Partners is California Corporation. Alta California Partners, L.P. is a Delaware Limited Partnership and Alta Embarcadero Partners, LLC is a California Limited Liability Company.