

**FORM 4**

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

(Print or Type Responses)

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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<p>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Payan, Donald G. (Last) (First) (Middle)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">240 East Grand Avenue (Street)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">South San Francisco, CA 94080 (City) (State) (Zip)</p>	<p>2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Inc. RIGL</p>	<p>4. Statement for (Month/Day/Year)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12/20/2002</p>	<p>6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Executive Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer</p> <p>7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person</p>
<p>3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)</p>		<p>5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)</p>	

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	12/20/02		P		1466	A	1.090			
Common Stock	12/20/02		P		2500	A	1.100			
Common Stock	12/20/02		P		493	A	1.119			
Common Stock	12/20/02		P		1734	A	1.120			
Common Stock	12/20/02		P		300	A	1.130			
Common Stock	12/20/02		P		1300	A	1.140			
Common Stock	12/20/02		P		9998	A	1.150	767,791	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)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Securities: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				

Explanation of Responses:

/s/ James Welch  
\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

12/23/02  
Date

Attorney-in-fact

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.

*http://www.sec.gov/divisions/corpfin/forms/form4.htm*  
*Last update: 09/05/2002*