

EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES CORP

Form 4

May 15, 2006

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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 OF
SECURITIES**

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

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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
Abate Thomas M

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O EDWARDS
LIFESCIENCES, ONE EDWARDS
WAY

(Street)

IRVINE, CA 92614

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol

EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES CORP
[EW]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
05/11/2006

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
__X__ Officer (give title ____ Other (specify
below) below)
CVP, CFO and Treasurer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
__X__ Form filed by One Reporting Person
____ Form filed by More than One Reporting
Person

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. 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) |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | | | |
| Common Stock | 05/11/2006 | | A | 6,000 (1) | A \$ 0 9,687 (2) | D | |
| Common Stock | 05/11/2006 | | A | 137 (1) | A \$ 0 9,824 (2) | D | |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of
information contained in this form are not
required to respond unless the form
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(9-02)

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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) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Acquire) | \$ 43.91 | 05/11/2006 | | A | 46,000 (3) | 05/11/2009 ⁽³⁾ 05/10/2013 | Common Stock 46,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships |
|---|---|
| Abate Thomas M C/O EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES ONE EDWARDS WAY IRVINE, CA 92614 | Director 10% Owner Officer CVP, CFO and Treasurer |

Signatures

/s/ Jay P. Wertheim,
Attorney-in-fact 05/15/2006

__Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- (1) Reflects unvested restricted stock units granted on May 11, 2006.
- (2) This Form 4 reflects changes in beneficial ownership only; it does not identify other securities of the Issuer beneficially owned by the reporting person.
- (3) This option was granted on May 11, 2006 under the Edwards Lifesciences Corporation Long-Term Stock Incentive Compensation Program and becomes exercisable as to 50% after three years from grant date and 100% after four years from grant date.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.