FORM 3

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: 3235-010- | | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response: | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| Erwin Mark E. | | | 2. Date of Even Requiring State Month/Day/Yea 10/20/2008 | ment | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ADVENTRX PHARMACEUTICALS INC [ANX] | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|----------|---|--------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| (Last) 6725 MESA R | (First) | (Middle) | | | | tionship of Reporting Perso all applicable) Director | on(s) to Issue | | 5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | |
| (Street) | | | | | X | Officer (give title below) Senior VP, Opera | Other (spe- below) ations | cify | Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | | |
| SAN DIEGO | | 92121 | | | | | | | | Form filed by Reporting Pe | y More than One erson | | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | | | | | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | | t (D) (| 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) | | | | | |
| Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | | | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr | | | 4. Conver or Exer Price of | cise | 5. Ownership Form: | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) | | |
| | | | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | n Title | | Amount or Number of Shares | Derivat Securit | ive | Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | | | |
| Stock Option (| Right to Buy) | - | (1) | 03/30/2018 | 3 | Common Stock | 150,000 | 0.5 | 4 | D | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. 1/5 of the total shares subject to the option vest and become exercisable on each of January 1, 2009, January 1, 2010, January 1, 2011, January 1, 2012 and January 1, 2013.

<u>/s/ Mark E. Erwin</u> <u>10/22/2008</u>

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (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.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.