

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

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

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

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>SNYDERMAN RALPH</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O TARGACEPT, INC.</u> <u>200 EAST FIRST STREET, SUITE 300</u>  (Street) <u>WINSTON- SALEM NC 27101</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>TARGACEPT INC [ TRGT ]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner  Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>02/16/2010</u>	
4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		

**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	02/16/2010		M		7,500	A	\$9.27	7,500	D	
Common Stock	02/16/2010		M		7,500	A	\$7.1	15,000	D	
Common Stock	02/16/2010		S		15,000	D	\$19.9214	0	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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (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: 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
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$9.27	02/16/2010		M			7,500	(I)	06/19/2017	Common Stock	7,500	\$0	17,500	D		
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$7.1	02/16/2010		M			7,500		06/09/2009	07/01/2018	Common Stock	7,500	\$0	0	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. This stock option vested (vests) and became (becomes) exercisable with respect to (a) one-third of the shares subject to the option on June 20, 2008 and (b) the remaining two-thirds of the shares subject to the option in pro rata quarterly installments over the second and third years following the date of grant so that the option will be vested and exercisable in full on the earlier of (i) June 20, 2010 or (ii) the business day immediately preceding the date of the issuer's annual meeting of stockholders that occurs in 2010, provided that the reporting person remains in service during such periods.

**Remarks:**

The shares covered by this Form 4 have been sold pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 Sales Plan dated December 16, 2009, which is intended to comply with Rule 10b5-1(c) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

/s/ Peter A. Zorn, Attorney-in-Fact for Ralph Snyderman 02/18/2010

\*\* 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 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.

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.