

**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
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * <u>Bencherif Merouane</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O TARGACEPT, INC. 200 EAST FIRST STREET, SUITE 300  (Street) WINSTON- SALEM NC 27101  (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) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>SVP, Preclinical Research</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/10/2010</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	12/10/2010		M		7,194	A	\$5.55	7,194	D	
Common Stock	12/10/2010		M		14,275	A	\$8.51	21,469	D	
Common Stock	12/10/2010		M		10,624	A	\$2.93	32,093	D	
Common Stock	12/10/2010		S		32,093	D	\$24.0537 <sup>(1)</sup>	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
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$5.55	12/10/2010		M			7,194	(2)	08/15/2016	Common Stock	7,194	\$0	30,751	D	
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$8.51	12/10/2010		M			14,275	(3)	12/18/2017	Common Stock	14,275	\$0	14,280	D	
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$2.93	12/10/2010		M			10,624	(4)	01/08/2019	Common Stock	10,624	\$0	23,908	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- The price reported is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$24.00 to \$24.25, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to the issuer, any security holder of the issuer, or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the range set forth in this footnote.
- This option vested in installments and became vested and exercisable in full on June 30, 2010.
- This option vested (vests) in equal installments on the last day of 16 consecutive calendar quarters beginning with December 31, 2007.
- This option vested (vests) in equal installments on the last day of 16 consecutive calendar quarters beginning with March 31, 2009.

**Remarks:**

/s/ Peter A. Zorn, Attorney-in-Fact for Merouane Bencherif 12/14/2010

\*\* 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.