## FORM 4

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

| OMB APPROVAL            |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| MB Number: 3235-0287    |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| stimated average burden |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ours per respons        | e 0.5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| (Print or Typ  |   |   |   |   |  |                         |  |   |                                  |  |   |                              |  |   |   |  |        |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|-------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--------|---|
| Name and Address of Reporting Person *  MCGRATH JOHN   |   |   |   |   | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Atara Biotherapeutics, Inc. [ATRA] |                         |  |   |                                  |  |   |                              | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable) |   |   |  |        |   |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 611 GATEWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 900  (Street)  SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080                      |   |   |   | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 05/16/2016  4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) |  |                         |  |   |                                  |  | Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) Chief Financial Officer   |                              |  |   |   | low)                                   |        |   |
|  |   |   |   |   |  |                         |  |   |                                  |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) X_Form filed by One Reporting PersonForm filed by More than One Reporting Person |                              |  |   |   |  |        |   |
|  |   |   |   |   |  |                         |  |   |                                  |  |   |                              |  |   |   |  | (City) | ) |
| 1.Title of Security<br>(Instr. 3)  |   | 2. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) |   | (Instr. 8)   |                         | (A) o                                  | 1. Securities Acquir A) or Disposed of Instr. 3, 4 and 5)  (A) or |                                  | 5. Amount of S Beneficially Ov Reported Trans (Instr. 3 and 4) |   | Owned Following ansaction(s) |  | 6.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I)  | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |  |        |   |
| C  | Gr1   |   | 05/16/2016  |   |  | Code                    | · V                                    |   | _ ` ′                            | Price  | 86,519  |                              |  |   | (Instr. 4)  |  |        |   |
| Common   |   |   | 05/16/2016  |   |  | M                       |  | 2,80  |                                  | \$ 0 (1)   |   |                              |  |   | D   |  |        |   |
| Common   | Stock   |   | 05/16/2016  |   |  | M                       |  | 7,69  | 8 A                              | \$ 0 (1)<br>\$   | 94,217  |                              |  |   | D   |  |        |   |
| Commono Stock  |   | 05/16/2016                                |   |   | S(2)(3   | <u>3)</u>               | 5,39                                   | 5 D   | 15.77<br>(4)                     | 88,822   |   |                              |  | D   |   |  |        |   |
|  | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Ye   | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Da                                  | e, if Transaction of Code D<br>(Instr. 8) Sc<br>(A<br>D<br>(instr. 8) C   |  | arrants, o<br>5. Number | 6. Date Exe<br>and Expira<br>(Month/Da |   | ertible secisable on Date (Year) | 7. Title<br>Amoun<br>Underly<br>Securit<br>(Instr. 3           | and at of ying ies 3 and 4  | 4) Amount or Number          | Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5)                                       | f 9. Number<br>e Derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficiall<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction<br>(Instr. 4) | Owners Form o  Derivat Securit Direct o  or India                 | Ownersh<br>y: (Instr. 4)<br>(D)<br>ect |        |   |
|  |   |   |   | Code  | V (  | (A) (D)                 | Liter                                  | Jouote  | 24.0                             |  |   | of<br>Shares                 |  |   |   |  |        |   |
| Restricted<br>Stock<br>Units   | ( <u>5)</u>   | 05/16/2016                                | 5   | М   |  | 2,805                   |  | <u>(6)</u>  | (7)                              | Comm   |   | 2,805                        | \$ 0   | 9,348   | I   | See<br>Footnot                         |        |   |
| Restricted<br>Stock<br>Units   | <u>(5)</u>  | 05/16/2016                                | 05/16/2016  |   | М  |                         | <u>(9)</u>                             |   | (10)                             | Comm   |   | 7,698                        | \$ 0   | 51,316  | I   | See<br>Footnote                        |        |   |
| Repor  | ting O  | wners                                     |   |   |  |                         |  |   |                                  |  |   |                              |  |   |   |  |        |   |
|  |   | N / + 33                                  |   |   | Relatio  | nships                  |  |   |                                  |  |   |                              |  |   |   |  |        |   |
| Reporting Owner Name / Address  Director 1  MCGRATH JOHN 611 GATEWAY BOULEVARD SUITE 900 SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080 |   |   | 10% Owner   | Officer  Chief Financia   |  |                         | ficer                                  | Other   |                                  |  |   |                              |  |   |   |  |        |   |
| Signat   | ures  |   |   |   |  |                         |  |   |                                  |  |   |                              |  |   |   |  |        |   |

05/18/2016

Date

## **Explanation of Responses:**

/s/ Tina Gullotta, Attorney-in-Fact for John F. McGrath, Jr.

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

- \* 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) Shares issued upon settlement of vested restricted stock units ("RSUs").
- (2) Shares sold to cover tax obligation from settlement of vested restricted stock units.
- (3) Transaction pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 Plan adopted July 2, 2015.
- (4) The price in Column 4 is a weighted average sale price. The prices actually received ranged from \$15.54 to \$15.95. The reporting person will provide to the issuer, any security holder of the issuer, or the SEC staff, upon request, information regarding the number of shares sold at each price within the range.
- (5) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of the Issuer's common stock or a cash settlement.
- The RSUs were granted with both (a) a liquidity event-based vesting condition and (b) a service-based vesting condition, both of which conditions must be satisfied in order for the RSUs to vest. The liquidity event-based condition was satisfied upon the closing of the Issuer's initial public offering (the "IPO"). The shares that vested on the closing date of the IPO, and the shares that vested thereafter through May 15, 2015, were settled on May 15, 2015. The service-based vesting condition provides that 25% of the total number of shares on March 13, 2014 and 1/48th of the total number of shares monthly thereafter, subject to the holder's continuous service through each such date.
- (7) The earlier of (i) March 13, 2020 or (ii) the recepient's termination date.
- (8) The shares are held by the David B. Horowitz and John McGrath Jr. Revocable Living Trust dated 6/3/11, of which the Reporting Person is trustee.
- The RSUs were granted with both (a) a liquidity event-based vesting condition and (b) a service-based vesting condition, both of which conditions must be satisfied in order for the RSUs to vest. The liquidity event-based condition was satisfied upon the closing of the Issuer's initial public offering (the "IPO"). The shares that vested on the closing date of the IPO, and the shares that vested thereafter through May 15, 2015, were settled on May 15, 2015. The service-based vesting condition provides that 25% of the total number of shares on January 6, 2015 and 1/48th of the total number of shares monthly thereafter, subject to the holder's continuous service through each such date.
- (10) The earlier of (i) December 12, 2020 or (ii) the recipient's termination 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.