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

FORM 8-K CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of

The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): October 11, 2004

VICAL INCORPORATED

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Delaware 000-21088 93-0948554 (I.R.S. Employer (State or other jurisdiction (Commission File Number) of incorporation) Identification No.)

10390 Pacific Center Court San Diego, California

(Address of principal executive offices)

92121-4340 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (858) 646-1100

Not Applicable.

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

We entered into an employment offer letter effective October 11, 2004, with Jill M. Church, pursuant to which Ms. Church joined us as our Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary. Under the offer letter, Ms. Church will receive an annual salary of \$210,000 and a stock option to purchase up to 60,000 shares of our common stock. The exercise price of the stock option will be equal to the fair market value of our common stock on Ms. Church's hire date and its other terms will be determined by our Stock Plan Committee pursuant to our Stock Incentive Plan. Ms. Church will also be considered for a cash bonus award of up to 25% of the base salary paid to her during 2005.

Under the offer letter, Ms. Church's employment may be terminated by either party at any time for any reason, with or without notice. However, if during the first four years of Ms. Church's employment we terminate her employment for any reason other than for cause or disability or she resigns her employment for good reason (each as defined in the offer letter), we will continue to pay Ms. Church her base compensation at the rate then in effect for up to six months. These payments would be reduced by the amount of any other compensation earned by Ms. Church during this period. If we terminate Ms. Church's employment for cause or disability or she resigns her employment without good reason, all compensation will cease immediately upon the last day of her employment.

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers.

On October 11, 2004, we issued a press release announcing the appointment of Jill M. Church, age 43, as our Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary. Ms. Church's term of office as an executive officer of the Company will be determined in the discretion of our Board of Directors.

From February 1999 until joining us, Ms. Church was Vice President of Finance and Controller of dj Orthopedics, Inc., a publicly-traded medical device company, where she held broad responsibilities in finance, accounting, treasury, risk management, and corporate governance. From September 1994 until joining dj Orthopedics, Ms. Church served as an audit manager for the San Diego office of Ernst & Young LLP, where her clients included life sciences, computer software and telecommunications companies as well as government contractors. From June 1990 until joining Ernst & Young, she was Division Controller at Medical Imaging Centers of America, Inc., a chain of freestanding imaging centers and mobile imaging centers, where she held divisional accounting and financial reporting responsibilities. Ms. Church received a B.S. degree in business administration and accounting from San Diego State University, and is a Certified Public Accountant.

A description of the material terms of Ms. Church's employment offer letter is set forth in Item 1.01 above. A copy of the press release we issued with respect to Ms. Church's appointment is attached as Exhibit 99.1 hereto and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

Exhibit No. Description

99.1 Press Release of Vical Incorporated dated October 11, 2004, announcing the appointment of Jill M. Church as Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

VICAL INCORPORATED

Date: October 12, 2004 By: /s/ VIJAY B. SAMANT

Vijay B. Samant

President and Chief Executive Officer

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

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99.1 Press Release of Vical Incorporated dated October 11, 2004, announcing the appointment of Jill M. Church as Vice

President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary.

Vical Appoints Church as Chief Financial Officer

SAN DIEGO, Oct. 11 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Vical Incorporated (Nasdaq: VICL) today announced the appointment of Jill M. Church as Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary.

Since February 1999, Ms. Church has been Vice President of Finance and Controller of dj Orthopedics, Inc., a publicly-traded company, where she held broad responsibilities in finance, accounting, treasury, risk management, and corporate governance. For nearly five years before joining dj Orthopedics, Ms. Church served as an audit manager for the San Diego office of Ernst & Young, LLP, where her clients included life sciences, computer software and telecommunications companies as well as government contractors. Prior to joining Ernst & Young, she was Division Controller at Medical Imaging Centers of America, Inc., with divisional accounting and financial reporting responsibilities. Ms. Church received a B.S. degree in business administration and accounting from San Diego State University, and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Vijay B. Samant, Vical's President and Chief Executive Officer, said, "We are pleased to welcome Jill as a member of Vical's senior management team. Her significant financial experience, knowledge of corporate governance best practices, and familiarity with the healthcare industry will be assets to the company."

About Vical

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Vical researches and develops biopharmaceutical products based on its patented DNA delivery technologies for the prevention and treatment of serious or life-threatening diseases. Potential applications of the company's DNA delivery technology include DNA vaccines for infectious diseases or cancer, in which the expressed protein is an immunogen; cancer immunotherapeutics, in which the expressed protein is an immune system stimulant; and cardiovascular therapies, in which the expressed protein is an angiogenic growth factor. The company has retained all rights to its internally developed product candidates. In addition, the company collaborates with major pharmaceutical companies and biotechnology companies that give it access to complementary technologies or greater resources. These strategic partnerships provide the company with mutually beneficial opportunities to expand its product pipeline and serve significant unmet medical needs. Additional information on Vical is available at www.vical.com.

This press release contains forward-looking statements subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. Forward-looking statements include statements about current and potential applications of Vical's technology, the potential for future business collaborations and financial transactions, as well as the company's focus, collaborative partners, and product candidates. Risks and uncertainties include whether the company's technology will be successfully applied, whether the company will enter into additional collaborations, whether the company will successfully complete additional financings and whether such financings will be sufficient to meet the company's needs for capital, whether any product candidates will be shown to be safe and effective in clinical trials, the timing, nature and cost of clinical trials, whether Vical or its collaborative partners will seek or gain approval to market any product candidates, whether Vical or its collaborative partners will succeed in marketing any product candidates, and additional risks set forth in the company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These forward-looking statements represent the company's judgment as of the date of this release. The company disclaims, however, any intent or obligation to update these forward-looking statements.

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SOURCE Vical Incorporated

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CO: Vical Incorporated
ST: California
IN: HEA MTC
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