

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): **August 22, 2013**

**VICAL INCORPORATED**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other  
jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

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**000-21088**  
(Commission File Number)

**93-0948554**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
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))
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**Item 2.05 Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities.**

On August 22, 2013, Vical Incorporated (the "Company") issued a press release announcing, among other things, a restructuring to conserve capital, including a staff reduction of 47 employees, approximately 39% of the Company's total workforce. Following the restructuring, the Company will have approximately 74 employees. In addition, the Company is focusing its resources on its infectious disease vaccine programs and terminating activities related to Allovectin®, the Company's investigational cancer immunotherapy which recently failed to meet its Phase 3 efficacy endpoints. The Company's Board of Directors approved the restructuring on August 8, 2013, the same day Allovectin® Phase 3 results were unblinded. Affected employees were informed on or about August 22, 2013, the same day the restructuring is expected to be completed. The Company anticipates that it will incur personnel-related restructuring charges of \$2.2 million, consisting primarily of one-time termination benefits. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report.

**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

On August 22, 2013, and in connection with the restructuring, we entered into a separation agreement with Alain P. Rolland, Pharm.D., Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Product Development. Pursuant to the terms of the separation agreement, Dr. Rolland will be entitled to receive severance benefits consisting of continued base salary payments and the payment of health insurance premiums for a period of 12 months, plus a payment equal to his cash bonus paid in the previous year. Dr. Rolland will also receive accelerated vesting on all his unvested stock awards as if he had remained employed by the Company for 12 months from the date of termination. In addition, the post termination exercise period for Dr. Rolland's stock options will be extended to 12 months. In exchange for the severance benefits, Dr. Rolland provided the Company with a general waiver and release of claims. The Company's obligation to pay the severance benefits is subject to the waiver and release of claims not being revoked.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits.

| <b>Exhibit No.</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|--------------------|--|
| 10.1               | Separation Letter Agreement between Vical Incorporated and Alain P. Rolland, Pharm.D., Ph.D., dated August 22, 2013. |
| 99.1               | Press release issued by Vical Incorporated on August 22, 2013.   |

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## INDEX TO EXHIBITS

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10390 Pacific Center Court, San Diego, CA 92121-4340  
858-646-1100, FAX: 858-646-1150  
www.vical.com

August 22, 2013

Alain Rolland  
10390 Pacific Center Court  
San Diego, CA 92121-4340

Dear Alain:

This letter sets forth the substance of the separation and release agreement (the "**Agreement**") that Vical Incorporated (the "**Company**") is offering to you to aid in your employment transition.

Your last day of work with the Company and your employment termination date will be August 22, 2013 (the "**Separation Date**"). On the Separation Date, the Company will pay you all accrued salary and all accrued and unused vacation earned through the Separation Date, at the rates then in effect, subject to standard payroll deductions and withholdings. You are entitled to these payments by law.

If you sign this Agreement and allow it to become effective as specified below, you will receive the "Severance Benefits" set forth in Section 6(c) of your Amended and Restated Letter Agreement dated January 9, 2009 (the "Letter Agreement"). For the avoidance of doubt, you will not be entitled to any "Change of Control Severance Benefits" as such term is defined in the Letter Agreement. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement, Section 6(f) of the Letter Agreement relating to mitigation shall be null and void. Any payments otherwise scheduled to be made prior to the Effective Date (as defined below) shall accrue and be paid or received in the first payroll period that follows the Effective Date. These benefits are contingent upon your cooperation for two (2) months with the reasonable transition of any remaining duties and information to other representatives of the Company. In this regard, you agree to be reasonably available to answer questions and assist the Company with the transition of your duties, provided, however, that such assistance will not exceed five (5) hours per week to be performed at mutually agreeable times. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, unless the Company agrees otherwise, if you accept employment with another company focused on the development of DNA vaccines or are engaged as consultant to another company focused on the development of DNA vaccines, you will not be entitled to any further salary continuation payments as part of the "Severance Benefits".

You hereby acknowledge that, except as expressly provided in this Agreement, you will not receive any additional compensation, severance, or benefits from the Company after the Separation Date. In particular, you hereby acknowledge and agree that, except as expressly provided in the immediately preceding paragraph, the Company shall have no obligation or liability to you under the Letter Agreement.

You currently hold outstanding stock options to purchase shares of common stock of the Company, as set forth on Exhibit A-1 (the "**Options**") granted under the Company's Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan (the "**Plan**"). Provided that this Agreement becomes effective as specified herein, and provided that you comply with all material terms of this Agreement, the period during which you may exercise vested shares of the Options shall be extended as provided on Exhibit A. You also currently hold outstanding restricted stock units (the "**RSUs**") and the vesting and delivery of any underlying shares will require the satisfaction of federal, state, local and foreign tax withholding obligations (the "**Withholding Taxes**"). You and the Company agree that to the extent permissible, the Company will satisfy the Withholding Taxes obligation relating to the RSUs by

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withholding shares of the Company's common stock from the shares issued or otherwise issuable to you in connection with the RSUs with a fair market value (measured as of the date shares are issued to pursuant to the terms of the RSUs) equal to the amount of such Withholding Taxes.

You understand and agree that the promises and payments in consideration of this Agreement shall not be construed to be an admission of any liability or obligation by the Company to you or to any other person, and that the Company makes no such admission.

In exchange for the consideration provided to you by this Agreement that you are not otherwise entitled to receive, you hereby generally and completely release the Company and its current and former directors, officers, employees, stockholders, partners, agents, attorneys, predecessors, successors, parent and subsidiary entities, insurers, affiliates, and assigns (collectively, the "**Released Parties**") from any and all claims, liabilities and obligations, both known and unknown, that arise out of or are in any way related to events, acts, conduct, or omissions occurring prior to or on the date that you sign this Agreement (collectively, the "**Released Claims**"). The Released Claims include, but are not limited to: (a) all claims arising out of or in any way related to your employment with the Company, or the termination of that employment; (b) all claims related to your compensation or benefits from the Company including salary, bonuses, commissions, vacation pay, expense reimbursements, severance pay, fringe benefits, stock, stock options, or any other ownership interests in the Company; (c) all claims for breach of contract, wrongful termination, and breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing; (d) all tort claims, including claims for fraud, defamation, emotional distress, and discharge in violation of public policy; and (e) all federal, state, and local statutory claims, including claims for discrimination, harassment, retaliation, attorneys' fees, or other claims arising under the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended), the federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (as amended) ("**ADEA**"), the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (as amended), the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (as amended) ("**FMLA**"), the federal Equal Pay Act of 1963, the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (as amended) with respect to severance benefits, the California Family Rights Act ("**CFRA**"), the California Labor Code (as amended), and the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (as amended). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following are not included in the Released Claims (the "**Excluded Claims**"): (a) any rights or claims for indemnification you may have pursuant to any written indemnification agreement with the Company to which you are a party, the charter, bylaws, or operating agreements of the Company, or under applicable law; (b) any rights that are not waivable as a matter of law; or (c) any claims arising from the breach of this Agreement. You hereby represent and warrant that, other than the Excluded Claims, you are not aware of any claims you have or might have against any of the Released Parties that are not included in the Released Claims.

You acknowledge that you are knowingly and voluntarily waiving and releasing any rights you may have under the ADEA ("**ADEA Waiver**"). You also acknowledge that the consideration given for the ADEA Waiver is in addition to anything of value to which you were already entitled. You are advised by this writing, as required by the ADEA, that: (a) your waiver and release do not apply to any claims that may arise after you sign this Agreement; (b) you should consult with an attorney prior to executing this release; (c) you have forty-five (45) days within which to consider this release (although you may choose to voluntarily execute this release earlier); (d) you have seven (7) days following the execution of this release to revoke this Agreement (in a written revocation directed to me); and (e) this Agreement will not be effective until the eighth day after you sign this Agreement, provided that you have not earlier revoked this Agreement (the "**Effective Date**"). You will not be entitled to receive any of the benefits specified by this Agreement unless and until it becomes effective. The information required to be provided by the Older Worker Benefits Protection Act is attached as Exhibit B hereto.

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In granting the release herein, which includes claims that may be unknown to you at present, you acknowledge that you have read and understand Section 1542 of the California Civil Code: **“A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.”** You hereby expressly waive and relinquish all rights and benefits under that section and any law or legal principle of similar effect in any jurisdiction with respect to the releases granted herein, including but not limited to the release of unknown and unsuspected claims granted in this Agreement.

You hereby acknowledge your continuing obligations under your Employee’s Proprietary Information and Inventions Agreement (“*EPIIA*”), a copy of which has been provided to you. Pursuant to the *EPIIA*, you understand that among other things, you must not use or disclose any confidential or proprietary information of the Company without written authorization from the Company and must immediately return all Company property and documents (including all embodiments of proprietary information) and all copies thereof in your possession or control.

This Agreement constitutes the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the entire agreement between the Company and you with regard to the subject matter hereof. You acknowledge that you are not relying on any promise or representation by the Company that is not expressly stated herein. This Agreement may only be modified by a writing signed by both you and a duly authorized officer of the Company.

If this Agreement is acceptable to you, please sign below and return the original to me within the 45-day period specified above.

We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Vical Incorporated

By:  /s/ Vijay Samant  
**Vijay Samant**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**I have read, understand and agree fully to the foregoing Agreement:**

/s/ Alain Rolland  
**Alain Rolland**

Date:  August 22, 2013

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## Exhibit A

### Option Terms

**1.1 Extension; Amendment.** You acknowledge that certain of the Options are currently outstanding incentive stock options held by you to purchase shares of common stock of the Company. Your employment with the Company will terminate on the Separation Date, and therefore the term of each of the Options is currently scheduled to expire no later than 90 days following the Separation Date. In consideration of your promises herein, and effective and contingent upon (i) this Agreement becoming effective in accordance with the terms below; and (ii) your consent (by signing and not revoking this Agreement) to the amendment of the Options as described herein, the Board has approved an amendment to the Options to extend the post-termination exercise period to permit you to exercise the Options for a period of 12 months following the Separation Date (the "*Amendment*"); provided, however, that nothing in this Agreement shall prevent earlier termination of the Options in connection with a merger or consolidation of the Company that occurs during such period, as further specified in the Plan.

**1.2 Modification; Tax Treatment.** Section 424(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "*Code*"), provides that if the terms of an option are modified, then such modification shall be considered as the granting of a new option. An extension of the post-termination exercise period of the Options would be deemed a modification and, thus, the grant of new options. Section 422(b) of the Code provides that an option is treated as an incentive stock option only if the option price is not less than the fair market value of the stock at the time such option is granted. The Amendment would be treated as the grant of a new option (as described above) and, thus, would require a new comparison of the option exercise price and the current fair market value of the Company's common stock. As a result, to the extent that one or more of the Options that is an incentive stock option has an exercise price less than the fair market value of the Company's common stock as of the Separation Date, then each such option would immediately fail to be treated as an incentive stock option but rather, will be treated as a nonstatutory stock option. Under Section 424(h) of the Code relating to modification, you also understand and acknowledge that even if the Options do not immediately lose incentive stock option status as a result of the Amendment, the holding period with respect to the disposition of shares acquired pursuant to the Options necessary to obtain the favorable tax treatment of incentive stock option (*i.e.*, 2 years from the date of grant) would restart as of the Separation Date, which is the effective date of the new grant. Section 422(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code provides that the holder of an incentive stock option must be an employee of the Company (or an affiliate of the Company) during the period beginning on the date that the option is granted and ending on the day three (3) months before the date of exercise. According to this rule, you understand and acknowledge that even if the Options do not immediately lose incentive stock option status as a result of the Option Amendment, if you exercise the Options more than 3 months after the Separation Date, then each such option would fail to be treated as an incentive stock option, but rather, will be treated as a nonstatutory stock option.

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**1.3 Consent to Amendment.** You understand that the Board may not amend the terms of the Options in a manner that would adversely affect your rights under such Options without your written consent. You further understand that you are under no obligation to consent to the Amendment. You represent that have read this consent and have had sufficient time to review and discuss this matter. You acknowledge that neither the Company nor its agents have recommended or influenced your decision to consent to the Amendment. You further acknowledge that you have had the opportunity to seek independent advice regarding this matter from your legal counsel and tax advisor. After due consideration of the above, you hereby agree to the Amendment and to the provisions of this Agreement which amend the vesting of the Options. You acknowledge that the Amendment may result in a loss of incentive stock option status for each of the Options.

## Vical Announces Restructuring and Staff Reduction

SAN DIEGO, Aug. 22, 2013 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Vical Incorporated (Nasdaq:VICAL) today announced a restructuring to conserve capital, including a staff reduction of 47 employees, approximately 39% of the company's total workforce. Following the restructuring, the company will have approximately 74 employees. In addition, the company is focusing its resources on its infectious disease vaccine programs and terminating activities related to Allovectin<sup>®</sup>, the company's investigational cancer immunotherapy which recently failed to meet its Phase 3 efficacy endpoints.

"We have evaluated our organization and priorities and are restructuring to extend our cash runway to ensure that our promising infectious disease vaccine programs are adequately resourced to create maximum shareholder value," said Vijay Samant, Vical's President and Chief Executive Officer. "This has been a very difficult process and we regret the impact this business decision has on our departing employees. We acknowledge their commitment and contributions to Vical over the years and wish them continued success."

### Restructuring Impact and Financial Guidance

The company expects to incur personnel-related restructuring charges of approximately \$2.2 million in the third quarter of 2013. The net cash burn of approximately \$17 million for the first half of 2013 was slightly below the projected range of \$18 million to \$20 million. Vical had cash and investments of approximately \$70 million at June 30, 2013. The company is projecting net cash burn for the second half of 2013, including anticipated cash severance payments in connection with the restructuring, of \$13 million to \$15 million. The company believes its currently available cash and investments will be adequate to satisfy its needs at least through 2015.

### Continuing Programs

Vical has multiple independent and collaborative infectious disease vaccine programs:

- Astellas Pharma Inc. initiated a multinational 500-patient Phase 3 trial of ASP0113, Vical's investigational therapeutic vaccine designed to control cytomegalovirus (CMV) in transplant recipients, for hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT) recipients in June and expects to initiate a Phase 2 trial of ASP0113 for solid organ transplant (SOT) recipients later this year.
- The company is planning to initiate a Phase 1/2 clinical trial of its Vaxfectin<sup>®</sup>-formulated therapeutic vaccine against herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2) before the end of 2013.
- The company's Vaxfectin<sup>®</sup>-formulated CyMVectin<sup>™</sup> prophylactic vaccine, designed to prevent CMV infection before and during pregnancy, has completed preclinical development and has an allowed investigational new drug application (IND). Vical is seeking a partner for further development.
- Vical has licensed its proprietary Vaxfectin<sup>®</sup> adjuvant to Bristol-Myers Squibb Company for use in the production of antibodies, and to Cyvax, Inc., a privately held vaccine development company, for use in malaria vaccines. The company is pursuing additional licensing opportunities for Vaxfectin<sup>®</sup>.
- Two of the company's licensees have products approved for use in animal health applications:
  - In 2005, Vical's licensee Aqua Health, a subsidiary of Novartis Animal Health, received Canadian approval to market its proprietary product, Apex<sup>®</sup>-IHN, a DNA vaccine to protect farm-raised salmon against infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHNV).
  - In 2009, Vical's licensee Merial, now a subsidiary of Sanofi, received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to sell a therapeutic DNA vaccine, ONCEPT<sup>®</sup>, designed to aid in extending the survival time of dogs with oral melanoma.

### About Vical

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 is developing certain infectious disease vaccines internally. 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 address significant unmet medical needs. Additional information on Vical is available at [www.vical.com](http://www.vical.com).

### Forward-Looking Statements

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 anticipated restructuring charges, net cash use guidance, as well as anticipated developments in independent and collaborative programs, including the initiation and completion of clinical trials. Risks and uncertainties include whether Vical will effectively focus resources on its infectious disease vaccine programs; whether Vical, Astellas or others will

continue development of ASP0113, the HSV-2 vaccine, CyMVectin™, or any other independent or collaborative programs; whether Astellas will initiate the planned Phase 2 trial of ASP0113 for SOT recipients later this year, if at all; whether Vical or others will initiate a Phase 1/2 clinical trial of the HSV-2 vaccine in the second half of 2013, if at all; whether Vical will achieve levels of revenues and control expenses to meet its financial projections; whether Vical or others will continue development of any independent or collaborative programs; whether any product candidates will be shown to be safe and efficacious in clinical trials; the timing of clinical trials; whether Vical or its collaborative partners will seek or gain approval to market 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.

CONTACT: Susan Neath  
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