Instruction 1(b).

FORM 4

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See

## **UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**OMB APPROVAL** OMB Number: Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5

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

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>RUFFOLO ROBERT R</u> |  |  |  |                             |   | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  Diffusion Pharmaceuticals Inc. [ DFFN ] |      |  |                |   |   |  |   | of Reportin<br>cable)<br>r   | g Pers                            | son(s) to Issi<br>10% Ow   |  |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------|---|--|------|--|----------------|---|---|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 1317 CARLTON AVENUE, SUITE 400           |  |  |  |                             | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/02/2018 |  |      |  |                |   |   |  | Officer<br>below)   | (give title  |                                   | Other (s<br>below)   | pecify   |
| (Street) CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 22902                                |  |  |  |                             | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)    |  |      |  |                |   |   |  | ndividual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable e)  X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |  |                                   |  |  |
| (City)   | (City) (State) (Zip)   |  |  |                             |   |  |      |  |                |   |   |  |   |  |                                   |  |  |
|  |  | Tab  | le I - Non-De  | rivativ                     | e Se  | curities   | s Ac | quired, D  | ispos          | ed o  | f, or Be  | neficiall                              | y Owned   |  |                                   |  |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transa Date (Month/D         |  |  |  |                             | Execution   |  |      | Transaction Disposed Code (Instr. 5)                 |                | ities Acquired (A) o<br>d Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 a |   | Beneficia                              | s<br>ally<br>ollowing   | Form<br>(D) o  | : Direct<br>r Indirect<br>str. 4) | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4)        |  |
|  |  |  |  |                             |   |  |      | Code V   | Am             | nount   | (A) or<br>(D)   | Price                                  | Transact<br>(Instr. 3 a   | ction(s)   |                                   |  | iiisu. 4)  |
|  | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |  |  |                             |   |  |      |  |                |   |   |  |   |  |                                   |  |  |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)              | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security  | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code<br>(8) |   |  |      | 6. Date Exercisable Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) |                | and   | 7. Title and Amou<br>of Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Securi<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |  | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5)   | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 4) |                                   | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|  |  |  |  | Code                        | v   | (A)  | (D)  | Date<br>Exercisable                                  | Expira<br>Date | ation   | Title   | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |   |  |                                   |  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(Right to                                     | \$1.18   | 01/02/2018                                 |  | A                           |   | 25,000   |      | (1)  | 01/02/         | /2028   | Common<br>Stock   | 25,000                                 | \$0   | 25,000   | 0                                 | D  |  |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

1. The shares underlying the options vest in 12 equal (or as nearly equal as possible) monthly installments on the last calendar day of each month over a one-year period beginning on January 31, 2018.

/s/ Ben Shealy, attorney-in-fact for Robert R. Ruffolo

01/04/2018

\*\* 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.