

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL	
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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>Marucci Anthony S</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>66 COLD HILL ROAD</u> (Street) <u>MENDHAM NJ 07945</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>03/07/2008</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>AVANT IMMUNOTHERAPEUTICS INC [AVAN]</u>	
		4. 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>Exec. VP & Corporate Dev.</u>	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
<u>Stock Option (right to buy)</u>	<u>03/07/2008⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>03/07/2018</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>254,243⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>8.16</u>	<u>D</u>	

Explanation of Responses:

1. As of March 7, 2008 (the "Effective Date"), Anthony S. Marucci beneficially owns options to purchase 254,243 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share (the "Shares"), of AVANT Immunotherapeutics, Inc. Options to purchase 157,093 Shares are exercisable as of the Effective Date with one twenty-fourth (1/24) of the remaining options becoming exercisable each subsequent month following the Effective Date.

/s/ Anthony S. Marucci 03/17/2008
 ** 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 5 (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.