UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

#### SYNAPTIC PHARMACEUTICAL CORP

Form 4

December 17, 2002

#### Washington, D.C. 20549 FORM 4 OMB APPROVAL STATEMENT OF 3235-0287 ý Check this box if no longer OMB Number: CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP subject to Section 16. Form 4 Expires: January 31, 2005 or Form 5 obligations may Estimated average burden hours per response .... 0.5 continue. See Instruction Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 1(b). Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (Print or Type Responses) Name and Address of Reporting Person\* Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Issuer (Check all applicable) BVF Partners L.P. Synaptic Pharmaceutical Corp. ("SNAP") X 10% Owner \_ Director (Last) (First) (Middle) I.R.S. Identification 4. Statement for Officer Other Number of Month/Day/Year (specify (give title Reporting Person, if below) below) an entity (Voluntary) 227 West Monroe Street, Suite 4800 December 13, 2002 (Street) 5. If Amendment, Date Individual or Joint/Group Filing of Original (Check Applicable Line) (Month/Year) Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than Chicago, Illinois 60606 One Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1. Title of 2A. Deemed Nature of 2. Transaction 3. Transaction 4. Securities Acquired (A) or 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Security Date Execution Code Disposed of (D) Securities Form: Indirect (Instr. 3) Date, if any (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Beneficially Direct (D) Beneficial (Instr. 8) Owned at or Indirect Ownership End of (Instr. 4) (I) Month (Instr. 4) (Instr. 3 and 4) (Month/Day/Year) (Month/Day/Year) Code V Amount (A) or Price (D) Common Stock 12/13/02 S 378,000 D \$6.30 (1)(2)(1) Common Stock 12/13/02 S 251.000 D \$6.30 (1) (1)(3)S Common Stock 578,000 D 12/13/02 \$6.30 (1) (1)(4)504,233

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

<sup>\*</sup>If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

# 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 CONTROL NUMBER.

FORM 4 (Continued)					Table II Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)												
1. Title of 2. Derivative Security (Instr. 3)		Conversion 3. Tr or Exercise (N Price of Derivative Security	ansaction I		D	Deemed Exec Date, if any Month/Day/Y		4.	. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)			. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		6.	Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		
										Code V			(A)	(D)		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date
_																	
7.	Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8.	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)		ative 9.	Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)			10. Ownership Ford Derivative Securities: Dire (D) or Indirect ( (Instr. 4)		ect	Beneficial ct Ownership				
	Title		Amount or Nun of Shares	nber													
	Janatian of Pag																

Explanation of Responses:

The shares reported in this response are beneficially owned by BVF Partners L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Partners"), the designated filer of this joint filing on Form 4, and by its general partner, BVF Inc., a Delaware corporation ("BVF Inc."), which is also an investment advisor to Partners. Partners is the general partner of Biotechnology Value Fund, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("BVF, L.P.") and Biotechnology Value Fund II, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("BVF, L.P.") both investment limited partnerships. Partners also is the manager of BVF Investments, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company ("Investments"). Pursuant to the operating agreement of Investments, Partners is authorized, among other things, to invest the funds of Ziff Asset Management, L.P., the majority member of Investments, in the shares of Common Stock reported in Table I as being beneficially owned by Investments. Mark N. Lampert is the sole shareholder and sole director of BVF Inc., and is an officer of BVF Inc. This joint filing on Form 4 shall not be deemed an admission that Mark N. Lampert is, for purposes of Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise, the beneficial owner of any equity securities covered by this joint filing.

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	Shares beneficially owned by BVF, L.P.						
(3)	Shares beneficially owned by BVF2, L.P						
(4)	Shares beneficially owned by Investment	s.					
		BVF Par	tners L.P.				
		Ву:	BVF Inc., its general partner				
		By:	/s/ MARK N. LAMPERT	December 17, 2002			
			** Signature of Reporting Person	Date			
	** Intentional misstatements or omissions	of facts constitute Fed	leral Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 V	U.S.C. 78ff(a).			
	Note: File three copies of this Form, one of w	hich must be manually	y signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for p	procedure.			
	tential persons who are to respond to the collectio MB Control Number.	n of information conta	nined in this form are not required to respond unless the	e form displays a currently valid			
FC	ORM 4 (Continued)						
1.	Biotechnology Value Fund, L.P.	BIOTE	CHNOLOGY VALUE FUND, L.P.				
	227 West Monroe Street, Suite 4800 Chicago, Illinois 60606	By: BVF Partners L.P., its general partner					
		Ву	: BVF Inc., its general partner				
			By: /s/ MARK N. LAMPERT	December 17, 2002			
			**Signature of Reporting Person Authorized Signatory	Date			
2.	Biotechnology Value Fund II, L.P.	BIOTE	CHNOLOGY VALUE FUND II, L.P.				
	7 West Monroe Street, Suite 4800 nicago, Illinois 60606	By: BV	By: BVF Partners L.P., its general partner				
		Ву	By: BVF Inc., its general partner				
			By: /s/ MARK N. LAMPERT	December 17, 2002			
			**Signature of Reporting Person Authorized Signatory	Date			
3.	BVF Investments, L.L.C.	BVF IN	BVF INVESTMENTS, L.L.C.				
	227 West Monroe Street, Suite 4800 Chicago, Illinois 60606	By: BV	By: BVF Partners L.P., its manager				
		Ву	: BVF Inc., its general partner				

4. BVF Inc.
One Sansome Street, 31st Floor

BVF INC.

By: /s/ MARK N. LAMPERT

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Authorized Signatory December 17, 2002

Date

	San Francisco, California 94104	By: /s/ MARK N. LAMPERT	December 17, 2002		
		**Signature of Reporting Person Authorized Signatory	Date		
5.	Mark N. Lampert One Sansome Street, 31st Floor	By: /s/ MARK N. LAMPERT	December 17, 2002		
	San Francisco, California 94104	**Signature of Reporting Person Authorized Signatory	Date		

<sup>\*\*</sup> Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

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