INTUITIVE SURGICAL INC

Form 4

December 16, 2008

FORM 4

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

OMB Number: 3235-0287

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Expires: January 31, 2005

0.5

OMB APPROVAL

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

burden hours per response...

Estimated average

See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * SMITH LONNIE M			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol INTUITIVE SURGICAL INC [ISRG]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)		
(Last) 950 KIFER R	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/10/2008	_X_ Director 10% Owner _X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) CEO		
	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_Form filed by One Reporting Person		
SUNNYVALE, CA 94086				Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		

(City)	(State)	Zip) Table	e I - Non-D	erivative S	Securit	ties Acq	uired, Disposed o	f, or Beneficial	ly Owned	
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)		3. 4. Securities Acquired Transaction(A) or Disposed of (D) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8) (A) or			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)		
			Code V	Amount	(D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)			
Common Stock	12/10/2008		G	1,500	D	\$0	400,675	D		
Common Stock	12/15/2008		M	14,706	A	\$ 14.5	415,381	D		

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

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SEC 1474

(9-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transacti Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of orDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exer Expiration D (Month/Day/	ate	7. Title and Underlying (Instr. 3 and	Securities
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Incentive Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 14.5	12/15/2008		М	14,706	<u>(1)</u>	01/22/2011	Common Stock	14,706

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
SMITH LONNIE M							
950 KIFER ROAD	X		CEO				
SUNNYVALE, CA 94086							

Signatures

Lonnie M Smith 12/16/2008

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- (1) Incentive Stock Option granted pursuant to the 2000 Equity Incentive Plan. Option shall vest 1/8 on the six-month anniversary of the grant date and the remaining shares in equal installments over the next 42 months after the date of grant of 1/4/2006.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. 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 number.

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