

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM 8-K

Current report filing

Filing Date: **2004-08-23** | Period of Report: **2004-08-20**
SEC Accession No. **0001125282-04-004115**

([HTML Version](#) on [secdatabase.com](#))

FILER

APPLERA CORP

CIK: **77551** | IRS No.: **061534213** | State of Incorporation: **DE** | Fiscal Year End: **0630**
Type: **8-K** | Act: **34** | File No.: **001-04389** | Film No.: **04992610**
SIC: **3826** Laboratory analytical instruments

Mailing Address
301 MERRITT 7
NORWALK CT 06851

Business Address
301 MERRITT 7
NORWALK CT 06851
2038402000

**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

August 20, 2004

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

APPLERA CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

1-4389
(Commission
File No.)

06-1534213
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

301 Merritt 7
Norwalk, Connecticut 06851
(Address of Principal Executive Offices, Including Zip Code)

(203) 840-2000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers.

(b) and (c). On August 23, 2004, Applera Corporation (the “Company”) announced the retirement of Michael W. Hunkapiller, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and President, Applied Biosystems Group. At the same time, the Company announced the promotion of Catherine M. Burzik, formerly a Vice President of Applera Corporation and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Applied Biosystems, to the position left by Dr. Hunkapiller. Dr. Hunkapiller’s retirement and Ms. Burzik’s promotion were both effective as of August 20, 2004. Ms. Burzik began her employment with the Company and became an officer of the Company on September 2, 2003. Prior to that date, she was employed by Johnson & Johnson, a leading international provider of health care products, where she was President of its Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, Inc. subsidiary from 1998 to 2003, and General Manager of its Critikon, Inc. business from 1997 to 1998. Prior to that, Ms. Burzik was employed by Eastman Kodak Company, a leading international provider of imaging products and services, where she held various operations and marketing positions over 20 years. These positions included most recently Vice President, Corporate Marketing from 1996 to 1997, and Chief Executive Officer and President of its former subsidiary Kodak Health Imaging Systems, Inc. Ms. Burzik is 53.

The Company previously entered into a change of control agreement with Ms. Burzik. Under this agreement, Ms. Burzik becomes entitled to termination payments and benefits if, following a change in control, she terminates her employment for good reason, as defined in the agreement, or her employment is terminated without cause, as defined in the agreement. The termination payments are three times base salary and incentive compensation. The termination benefits include full vesting of all restricted stock and stock options and other benefits specified in the agreement.

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

Attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated by reference to this Item is the text of the Company’s August 23, 2004, press release announcing the events described above in Item 5.02 of this report.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

The following exhibit is filed with this Report:

Exhibit No. Description

99.1 Press Release issued August 23, 2004.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

APPLERA CORPORATION

By: /s/ William B. Sawch _____

William B. Sawch
Senior Vice President and
General Counsel

Dated: August 23, 2004

EXHIBIT INDEX

<i>Exhibit No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
99.1	Press Release issued August 23, 2004.

Contacts

Media

Peter Dworkin

650.554.2479

dworkipg@appliedbiosystems.com

Investors

Linda Greub

650.554.2349

greublm@appliedbiosystems.com

European Media and Investors

David Speechly, Ph.D.

(+) 44.162.273.9150

speechdp@eur.appliedbiosystems.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**APPLIED BIOSYSTEMS ANNOUNCES THE RETIREMENT OF
MICHAEL W. HUNKAPILLER
CATHERINE M. BURZIK NAMED PRESIDENT**

FOSTER CITY, CA - August 23, 2004- Applera Corporation today announced that Michael W. Hunkapiller, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and President of its Applied Biosystems Group (NYSE: ABI), has decided to retire, effective immediately. At the same time, the company announced the promotion of Catherine M. Burzik, formerly Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Applied Biosystems, to the position left by Dr. Hunkapiller.

Tony L. White, Chief Executive Officer, Applera Corporation, said, "The Company is indebted to Mike for his many pioneering contributions over the past two decades. He embodies the inventiveness that characterizes Applied Biosystems, and I speak on behalf of our entire team in thanking him for facilitating much of our success. On a larger scale, I have little doubt that history will record Mike as a key enabler of the overall life sciences revolution."

Mr. White continued, "Cathy Burzik joined us in September 2003 from Johnson & Johnson (NYSE: JNJ) where she was President of their Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics business. Cathy has extensive operating experience in running complex global businesses, and we look forward to her leadership and contributions to Applied Biosystems going forward. Since joining Applied Biosystems, Cathy has done an excellent job of managing operations and leading a strategic and operational analysis of Applied Biosystems with a focus on strengthening operating performance and identifying future growth opportunities."

Ms. Burzik assumes responsibility for Applied Biosystems during a time of change, challenge, and opportunity in the life sciences. Scientists today are utilizing information available as a result of the mapping of the human genome to better understand the interaction of genes, proteins, and disease and to study response to drug therapy based on individual genetic makeup. Pharmaceutical companies are working to capitalize on these insights to improve the output and efficiency of their drug discovery and development programs.

“Applied Biosystems has an excellent record of providing innovative research tools for the life sciences, a strong history of financial growth and profitability, and a talented and hardworking group of employees. We are deeply grateful to Mike Hunkapiller for his vision and leadership in building the Applied Biosystems business. I look forward to strengthening this solid foundation and am committed to continue to bring innovative products to the marketplace that will enable life scientists to make discoveries that will improve the human condition. As we formulate our strategic vision for the years ahead, I am confident of Applied Biosystems’ continued success,” said Ms. Burzik.

About Applera Corporation and Applied Biosystems

Applera Corporation consists of two operating groups. The Applied Biosystems Group serves the life science industry and research community by developing and marketing instrument-based systems, consumables, software, and services. Customers use these tools to analyze nucleic acids (DNA and RNA), small molecules, and proteins to make scientific discoveries, develop new pharmaceuticals, and conduct standardized testing. Applied Biosystems is headquartered in Foster City, CA, and reported sales of \$1.7 billion during fiscal 2004. The Celera Genomics Group is engaged principally in the discovery and development of targeted therapeutics for cancer, autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. Celera Genomics is leveraging its proteomic, bioinformatic, and genomic capabilities to identify and validate drug targets, and to discover and develop small molecule therapeutics. It is also seeking to advance therapeutic antibody and selected small molecule drug programs in collaboration with global technology and market leaders. Celera Diagnostics, a 50/50 joint venture between Applied Biosystems and Celera Genomics, is focused on discovery, development, and commercialization of diagnostic products. Information about Applera Corporation, including reports and other information filed by the company with the Securities and Exchange Commission, is available at <http://www.applera.com>, or by telephoning 800.762.6923. Information about Applied Biosystems is available at <http://www.appliedbiosystems.com/>.

Certain statements in this press release are forward-looking. These may be identified by the use of forward-looking words or phrases such as “believe,” “expect,” “should,” “anticipate,” and “planned,” among others. These forward-looking statements are based on Applera Corporation’ s current expectations. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a "safe harbor" for such forward-looking statements. In order to comply with the terms of the safe harbor, Applera Corporation notes that a variety of factors could cause actual results and experience to differ materially from the anticipated results or other expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements. The risks and uncertainties that may affect the operations, performance, development, and results of Applied Biosystems include but are not limited to: (1) rapidly changing technology could adversely affect demand for Applied Biosystems’ products, and its business is dependent on development of new products; (2) uncertain ability to execute successfully a management transition and a new organizational structure; and (3) other factors that might be described from time to time in Applera Corporation’ s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. All information in this press release is as of the date of the release, and Applera does not undertake any duty to update this information, including any forward-looking statements, unless required by law.