
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): January 1, 2018

CERUS CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

000-21937
(Commission
File Number)

68-0262011
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

2550 Stanwell Drive
Concord, California
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

94520
(Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code (925) 288-6000

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (*see* General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communication pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communication pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communication pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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

On January 1, 2018, Bruce C. Cozadd, who served as a member of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Cerus Corporation (the “Company”) since November 2001, informed the Company of his intention to retire from the Board effective as of January 3, 2018. Mr. Cozadd’s decision to retire was precipitated by the recent hire of Daniel N. Swisher, Jr., the Chair of the Company’s Board, as the President and Chief Operating Officer of Jazz Pharmaceuticals plc, effective as of January 3, 2018. Mr. Cozadd is a co-founder of Jazz Pharmaceuticals plc and has served as its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since April 2009. Mr. Cozadd’s decision to retire was not the result of a disagreement with the Company on any matter relating to the Company’s operations, policies or practices. Mr. Cozadd served as a member of the Compensation Committee and the Audit Committee, a committee for which he served as chair until October 2017.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

- (d) Exhibits.

The following exhibit is furnished with this report:

99.1 [Letter of Resignation from Bruce C. Cozadd, dated January 1, 2018.](#)

SIGNATURE

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.

CERUS CORPORATION

Dated: January 5, 2018

By: /s/ Chrystal N. Menard

Chrystal N. Menard

Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel

January 1, 2018

Daniel N. Swisher, Jr.
Board Chair
Cerus Corporation

Dear Dan:

Please accept this letter as notice of my resignation from the Board of Cerus, effective January 3. As we will be working directly together at Jazz Pharmaceuticals as of that date, it seems appropriate that I step off the Board we serve on together, and which you chair.

It has been an honor to serve on this Board since 2001. Cerus Corporation's mission to improve blood safety inspires me today as much it did when I joined the Board more than 16 years ago, and I support the company's direction and leadership.

Please express my gratitude to the rest of the Board and the management team for their tireless efforts.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bruce C. Cozadd

Bruce C. Cozadd
Director

cc: Obi Greenman, CEO
Tim Anderson, Chair of Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee
Chrystal Menard, General Counsel