Valentine Keith Form 4 March 22, 2006

### FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

**SECURITIES** 

**OMB APPROVAL OMB** 

Number:

3235-0287

Expires:

January 31, 2005

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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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Valentine Keith |          |          | 2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol NUVASIVE INC [NUVA] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer   |  |  |  |
|---|----------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| (Last)  | (First)  | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction  | (Check all applicable)   |  |  |  |
| 4545 TOWNE CENTRE COURT                                   |          |          | (Month/Day/Year)<br>03/20/2006   | Director 10% Owner _X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) President                           |  |  |  |
|   | (Street) |          | 4. If Amendment, Date Original   | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check  |  |  |  |
| SAN DIEGO, CA 92121                                       |          |          | Filed(Month/Day/Year)  | Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |  |  |  |
| (City)  | (Stata)  | (Zin)    |  |  |  |  |  |

| (City)                               | (State) (                            | Zip) Table  | e I - Non-D                            | erivative S                                 | Securit | ties Acq   | uired, Disposed o  | f, or Beneficial   | ly Owned  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|---------|------------|--|--|---|
| 1.Title of<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3.<br>Transactic<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 4. Securit<br>on(A) or Dis<br>(Instr. 3, 4) | sposed  | of (D)     | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or<br>Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
| Common<br>Stock                      | 03/20/2006                           |   | M                                      | 5,000                                       | A       | \$<br>0.63 | 134,504  | D  |   |
| Common<br>Stock                      | 03/20/2006                           |   | M                                      | 7,500                                       | A       | \$<br>0.63 | 142,004  | D  |   |
| Common<br>Stock                      | 03/20/2006                           |   | M                                      | 26,666                                      | A       | \$<br>3.75 | 168,670  | D  |   |

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control

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number.

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

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4.<br>Transactic<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number of orDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed o (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | Expiration D<br>(Month/Day) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) |                 | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|---|--|
|   |   |   |   | Code V                                 | (A) (D)  | Date<br>Exercisable         | Expiration<br>Date                                       | Title           | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of Shares                           |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(Right to<br>Buy)                | \$ 0.63   | 03/20/2006                              |   | M                                      | 5,000  | <u>(1)</u>                  | 01/15/2013   | Common<br>Stock | 5,000   |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(Right to<br>Buy)                | \$ 0.63   | 03/20/2006                              |   | M                                      | 7,500  | (2)                         | 07/31/2012   | Common<br>Stock | 7,500   |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(Right to<br>Buy)                | \$ 3.75   | 03/20/2006                              |   | M                                      | 26,666   | (3)                         | 01/02/2014   | Common<br>Stock | 26,666  |  |

## **Reporting Owners**

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships |           |           |       |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-------|--|--|--|
| ·F···                          | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer   | Other |  |  |  |
| Valentine Keith                |               |           |           |       |  |  |  |
| 4545 TOWNE CENTRE COURT        |               |           | President |       |  |  |  |
| SAN DIEGO, CA 92121            |               |           |           |       |  |  |  |

### **Signatures**

/s/ Jason Hannon, Attorney-in-fact 03/22/2006

\*\*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).
- This option is immediately exercisable, but shares purchased under this option are subject to repurchase by the Issuer at the option (1) exercise price to the extent the Reporting Person has not vested in such shares as of the date of the Reporting Person's termination of service to the Issuer. Option shares vest in 12 equal monthly installments beginning on February 1, 2006.

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- This option is immediately exercisable, but shares purchased under this option are subject to repurchase by the Issuer at the option (2) exercise price to the extent the Reporting Person has not vested in such shares as of the date of the Reporting Person's termination of service to the Issuer. Option shares vest in 6 equal monthly installments beginning on February 12, 2006.
- This option is immediately exercisable, but shares purchased under this option are subject to repurchase by the Issuer at the option exercise price to the extent the Reporting Person has not vested in such shares as of the date of the Reporting Person's termination of service to the Issuer. 25% of the shares subject to this option vested on January 1, 2004, which was the first anniversary of the date of grant, and the remaining shares vest in 36 equal monthly installments thereafter.

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.