

**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**

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): **September 18, 2008**

**AVI BioPharma, Inc.**

(Exact name of Company as specified in its charter)

**Oregon**  
(State or other  
jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

**001-14895**  
(Commission File No.)

**93-0797222**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**One S.W. Columbia, Suite 1105  
Portland, OR 97258**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**(503) 227-0554**  
Registrant's telephone number, including area code

**Not Applicable**  
(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:

- Written communications 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 communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

On September 18, 2008, Alan P. Timmins was terminated without cause as President and Chief Operating Officer of AVI BioPharma, Inc. (the "Company").

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Portland, State of Oregon, on September 19, 2008.

AVI BioPharma, Inc.

By: /s/ LESLIE HUDSON, Ph.D.  
Leslie Hudson, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)