

OMB APPROVAL	
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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Cox Russell J.</u> <hr/> (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O VITAL THERAPIES, INC. 15010 AVENUE OF SCIENT, SUITE 200 <hr/> (Street) SAN DIEGO CA 92128 <hr/> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 01/03/2018	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>VITAL THERAPIES INC [VTL]</u>	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) Chief Executive Officer	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) <hr/> 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date				

Explanation of Responses:

Remarks:

No securities are beneficially owned.

/s/ Michael V. Swanson, as Attorney-in-Fact 01/04/2018

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (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).

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

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned, as a Section 16 reporting person of Vital Therapies, Inc. (the "Company"), hereby constitutes and appoints Michael V. Swanson, Duane Nash, John Michael Dunn, Daniel Horwood and David Mashburn the undersigned's attorneys-in-fact to:

1. complete and execute Forms 3, 4 and 5 and other forms and all amendments thereto as such attorneys-in-fact shall in their discretion determine to be required or advisable pursuant to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;
2. do all acts necessary in order to file such forms with the Securities and Exchange Commission, any securities exchange or national association, the Company and such other person or agency as the attorneys-in-fact shall determine.

The undersigned hereby ratifies and confirms all that said attorneys-in-fact and agent shall do or cause to be done by virtue hereof. The undersigned acknowledges that the foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity, shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4 and 5 with respect to the undersigned's holdings of and transactions in securities issued by the Company.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 3rd day of January, 2018.

Signature: /s/ Russell Cox

Print Name: Russell Cox

Exhibit 24