## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

# FORM 8-K

Current report filing

Filing Date: **2003-12-03** | Period of Report: **2003-12-03** SEC Accession No. 0001047469-03-039182

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### **FILER**

#### **GENZYME CORP**

CIK:732485| IRS No.: 061047163 | State of Incorp.:MA | Fiscal Year End: 1231

Type: 8-K | Act: 34 | File No.: 333-90510 | Film No.: 031035711 SIC: 2836 Biological products, (no disgnostic substances)

Mailing Address ONE KENDALL SQUARE CAMBRIDGE MA 02139 Business Address ONE KENDALL SQ CAMBRIDGE MA 02139 6172527500

# 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): December 3, 2003

# **GENZYME CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Massachusetts

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

06-1047163

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

500 Kendall St., Cambridge, Massachusetts

(Address of principal executive offices)

02142

(zip code)

(617) 252-7500

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

#### Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information And Exhibits.

- (c) Exhibits:
  - 99 Press Release of Genzyme Corporation dated December 3, 2003.

#### Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure

On December 3, 2003, Genzyme Corporation issued a press release announcing its intention to issue convertible notes. A copy of the press release is attached to this Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.

#### **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.

#### GENZYME CORPORATION

#### /s/ MICHAEL S. WYZGA

Michael S. Wyzga

By: Executive Vice President, Finance, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Accounting Officer

DATE: December 3, 2003

#### **EXHIBIT INDEX**

**EXHIBIT** 

NO.

DESCRIPTION

99 Press Release of Genzyme Corporation dated December 3, 2003

# QuickLinks

<u>Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information And Exhibits.</u>
<u>Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure</u>

**SIGNATURE** 

**EXHIBIT INDEX** 

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For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Dan Quinn (617) 768-6849 Investor Contact: Sally Curley (617) 768-6140

December 3, 2003

#### **Genzyme Announces Proposed Offer of Convertible Senior Notes**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—Genzyme Corporation (Nasdaq: GENZ) today announced that it plans to issue approximately \$600 million of convertible senior notes. The notes will be convertible into Genzyme Corporation common stock.

Genzyme expects to use these proceeds to pay off amounts outstanding under its credit facility, to redeem outstanding three percent debentures and for general corporate purposes. Genzyme currently has approximately \$300 million outstanding under its credit facility. The company has \$575 million in outstanding three percent convertible debentures, which are first redeemable on May 20, 2004.

The notes, and the common stock issuable upon conversion of the notes, have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or securities laws of any state or other jurisdiction, and may not be offered or sold in the United States, absent registration or an applicable exemption from registration requirements. This press release shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy these securities, nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any state or jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to the registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such state or jurisdiction.

This press release contains forward-looking statements concerning Genzyme's plan to issue convertible notes and potential uses of the proceeds from the offering, if completed. Genzyme may not be successful in issuing the notes due to market conditions or otherwise and, if the offering is completed, may not use the net proceeds for some of the potential purposes described above. These statements speak only as of the date of this press release, and Genzyme undertakes no obligation to update or revise the statements.

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QuickLinks

Genzyme Announces Proposed Offer of Convertible Senior Notes