

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

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
 Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
 Definitive Proxy Statement
 Definitive Additional Materials
 Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
 Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

- (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

- (5) Total fee paid:

- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
 Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
- (1) Amount Previously Paid:

- (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

- (3) Filing Party:

- (4) Date Filed:

***** Exercise Your *Right* to Vote *****
**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the
Stockholder Meeting to Be Held on May 24, 2017**

IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

Meeting Information

Meeting Type: Annual Meeting
For holders as of: March 31, 2017
Date: May 24, 2017 **Time:** 2:00 PM PDT
Location: 2855 Gazelle Court
Carlsbad, CA 92010

IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
2855 GAZELLE COURT
CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA 92010
ATTN: CORPORATE SECRETARY

You are receiving this communication because you hold shares in the above named company.

This is not a ballot. You cannot use this notice to vote these shares. This communication presents only an overview of the more complete proxy materials that are available to you on the Internet. You may view the proxy materials online at www.proxyvote.com or easily request a paper copy (see reverse side).

We encourage you to access and review all of the important information contained in the proxy materials before voting.

**See the reverse side of this notice to obtain
proxy materials and voting instructions.**

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— Before You Vote —
How to Access the Proxy Materials

Proxy Materials Available to VIEW or RECEIVE:

1. Notice & Proxy Statement 2. Form 10-K

How to View Online:

Have the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow → XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX (located on the following page) and visit: www.proxyvote.com.

How to Request and Receive a PAPER or E-MAIL Copy:

If you want to receive a paper or e-mail copy of these documents, you must request one. There is NO charge for requesting a copy. Please choose one of the following methods to make your request:

- 1) BY INTERNET: www.proxyvote.com
- 2) BY TELEPHONE: 1-800-579-1639
- 3) BY E-MAIL*: sendmaterial@proxyvote.com

* If requesting materials by e-mail, please send a blank e-mail with the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow → XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX (located on the following page) in the subject line.

Requests, instructions and other inquiries sent to this e-mail address will NOT be forwarded to your investment advisor. Please make the request as instructed above on or before May 10, 2017 to facilitate timely delivery.

— How To Vote —

Please Choose One of the Following Voting Methods

Vote In Person: Many stockholder meetings have attendance requirements including, but not limited to, the possession of an attendance ticket issued by the entity holding the meeting. Please check the meeting materials for any special requirements for meeting attendance. At the meeting, you will need to request a ballot to vote these shares.

Vote By Internet: To vote now by Internet, go to www.proxyvote.com. Have the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow → XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX available and follow the instructions.

Vote By Mail: You can vote by mail by requesting a paper copy of the materials, which will include a proxy card.

Voting items

The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR the following nominees to be elected for a term expiring in 2020:

1. Election of Directors

Nominees

01 Spencer R. Berthelsen 02 B. Lynne Parshall 03 Joseph H. Wender

The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR Proposals 2 and 3:

2. Approve an amendment to the Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2011 Equity Incentive Plan to increase the aggregate number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance under the 2011 Equity Incentive Plan by 5,000,000 to an aggregate of 16,000,000 shares.

NOTE: Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

3. To approve, by non-binding vote, executive compensation.

The Board of Directors recommends you vote 1 YEAR with respect to Proposal 4:

4. To recommend, by non-binding vote, the frequency of executive compensation votes.

The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR Proposal 5:

5. Ratify the Audit Committee's selection of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors for the 2017 fiscal year.

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