FORM 4

to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See

Instruction 1(b).

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Washington, D | .C. 20549 |
|---------------|-----------|
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP Check this box if no longer subject

| OMB APPROVAL             |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: 3235-0287    |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated average burden |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| hours ner response       | . 05 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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*  BENNETT C FRANK             |   |   |  |   | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS INC [ IONS ]   |  |  |  |  |   |                   |  |  | all applicable) Director Officer (give title   |  | 10% Ov<br>Other (s   |  | vner  |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| `   | ,   | (Middle)  |  |   |  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 08/31/2021  |  |  |  |   |                   |  |  |  | ,  | Scien  | ,  | er  |
|   |   |   |  | 4. If #   | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)   |  |  |  |  |   |                   |  |  | Form<br>Form   | filed by One Reporting Person filed by More than One Reporting   |  |  |   |
|   | Table   | I - No  | n-Deriva   | tive S  | Secui  | rities   | Acc  | uired  | , Dis  | posed of  | , or E            | Benefic  | ially  | Own  | ed   |  |  |   |
| Date  |   |   | Execution (Year)   |   |  | ıtion Date,  |  |  |  |   |                   | 4 and Securi<br>Benefi<br>Owned  |  | ties<br>cially<br>I Following  | Forn<br>(D) c  | n: Direct<br>or Indirect<br>nstr. 4)   | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4)  |   |
|   |   |   |  |   |  |  |  | Code   | v  | Amount  | (A) o             | Price  |  | Transa   | saction(s)   |  |  | (msu. 4)  |
| Common Stock 08/  |   |   | 08/31/2  | 021 08/31   |  | 31/20  | )21  | J <sup>(1)</sup>   |  | 151   | 151 A \$3         |  | .796   | 96 42,771  |  |  | D  |   |
|   | Tal   | ble II -  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |                   |  |  | Owne   | d  |  |  |   |
| 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | Date Execution Date,                              |   | Code (<br>8)   | (instr.   | of<br>Deriv<br>Secu<br>Acqu<br>(A) o<br>Dispo<br>of (D)<br>(Instr<br>and 5   | rative<br>rities<br>ired<br>r<br>osed<br>)<br>1. 3, 4  | Expirat<br>(Month  | tion D<br>n/Day/`  | ate<br>rear)   | Amou or Numb of   |                   | nt<br>er   |  | derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficiall<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported  | у  | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4)   | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4)   |   |
|   | (Fi ZELLE CO SAD CA (SI Security (Instance) Stock | (First) (I ZELLE COURT  BAD CA 9  (State) (Z  Table Security (Instr. 3)  Stock  Tal  2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative (Month/Day/Year) | (First) (Middle)  ZELLE COURT  BAD CA 92010  (State) (Zip)  Table I - No  Security (Instr. 3)  Stock  Table II -  Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative (Month/Day/Year) (Month/Day/Year) | (First) (Middle)  ZELLE COURT   3AD CA 92010  (State) (Zip)  Table I - Non-Derivation (Month/Day)  Stock  Table II - Derivation (e.g., puth of the price of Date (Month/Day/Year)  2. Table II - Derivation (e.g., puth of the price of Date (Month/Day/Year)  2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative (Month/Day/Year) | Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security   Security | Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security (Month/Day/Year)   Security (Mon | Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security (Month/Day/Year)   Security (Mon | Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security   Security | Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security   Security | Code   Code | Code   V   Amount | Conversion or Exercise Price of Date (B.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible security (Instr. 3)   Stock   O8/31/2021   O8 | Conversion   Con | Check   Circle   Check   Circle   Check   Check   Check   Carp   Check   Check   Check   Check   Carp   Check   Check   Carp   Check   C | IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS INC   Check all app   Direc   Check all app   Check al | Check all applicable   Director   Non-Derivative   Securities   Acquired (A) or   Price   Transaction (State)   OB/31/2021   OB/31/20 | Check all applicable   Director   Check all applicable   Director   Check all applicable   Director   X Officer (give title below) | Check all applicable   Director   10% O   Other (below) |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

1. Reporting shares acquired under the Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Amended and Restated 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan on August 31, 2021. These shares may not be sold until February 28, 2022.

By: Patrick R. O'Neil, attorney-in-fact For: Clarence 09/02/2021 **Bennett** 

\*\* 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 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).

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.