SEC Form 4

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

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[*] O'NEIL PATRICK R. | 2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading Symbol IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS INC [ IONS ] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) |
|---|---|---|
| (Last)          (First)          (Middle) C/O IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. 2855 GAZELLE COURT | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/01/2016 | Director                     10% Owner X Officer (give title      Other (specify below)                    below) SVP, Legal & General Counsel |
| (Street) CARLSBAD      CA      92010 (City)          (State)          (Zip) | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 12/05/2016 | 12/05/2016 | M[(1)] | | 350[(1)] | A | $10.82 | 9,876 | D | |
| Common Stock | 12/05/2016 | 12/05/2016 | S[(1)] | | 350[(1)] | D | $45 | 9,526 | D | |

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | $10.82 | 12/05/2016 | 12/05/2016 | M | | | 350 | 01/02/2014[(2)] | 01/01/2020 | Common Stock | 350 | $0 | 2,344 | D | |

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. Acquired as a result of exercising a stock option pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 Trading Plan. The purchase and sale reported on this Form 4 was effective pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 Trading Plan adopted by the reporting person on 9/21/2015.

2. Grant of 1/2/2013 to reporting person of stock options under the Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 1989 Stock Option Plan. 25% of the shares subject to the option vested and became exercisable on 1/2/2014. Thereafter, the remaining shares subject to the option vest and become exercisable in 36 equal monthly installments, at the rate of 1,875 shares per year. Following this transaction, the option was exercisable as to 2,187 on 12/5/2016.

**Remarks:**

/s/Patrick R. O'Neil                                    12/07/2016

** 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.**