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FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See |
|---|
| obligations may continue. See |
| Instruction 1(b). |

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

| OMB APPR | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response. | 05 | | | | | | | | | |

| | 1. Name and Addres | 1 0 | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ISIS PHARMACEUTICALS INC [ISIS] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--|-------|--|---|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| GABRIELI CHRISTOPHER | | | | [[] | X | Director | 10% Owner | | | |
| | (Last) 1865 PALMER A | ast) (First) (Middle) 865 PALMER AVE, SUITE 104 | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 08/19/2003 | | Officer (give title below) | Other (specify below) | | | |
| | | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | 6. Indiv | idual or Joint/Group Filing (| 10% Owner Other (specify below) Check Applicable | | | |
| | (Street) | | | | Line) | 3. | | | | |
| | LARCHMONT | NY | 10538 | | X | Form filed by One Report | ting Person | | | |
| | | | | | | Form filed by More than (| One Reporting | | | |
| | (City) | (State) | (Zip) | | | 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. Transa Code (8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported | 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 | Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | (1130.4) | | |
| Common Stock | 08/19/2003 | 08/19/2003 | S | | 10,000(1) | D | \$5.82 | 11,678 ⁽²⁾ | Ι | Footnote (2) | | |
| Common Stock | 08/20/2003 | 08/20/2003 | S | | 11,000 ⁽¹⁾ | D | \$5.8902 | 678 ⁽²⁾ | Ι | Footnote (2) | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 740 ⁽³⁾ | Ι | Footnote (3) | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 155,431 | D | | | |

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

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|---|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--|---|-------|---|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 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. Transa Code (8) | | 5. Nu of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) or Dispo of (D) (Instr and 5 | ative rities ired osed | 6. Date Exerc Expiration Da (Month/Day/Y | 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) | Ownership Form: Direct (D) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | Code | v | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. The shares sold were held by Bessemer Venture Partners III L.P. ("BVP III"). The reporting person is a General Partner of Deer III & Co., the sole General Partner of BVP III. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership except to the extent of his partnership interest.

2. Owned by BVP III. The reporting person is a Geenral Partner of Deer III & Co., the sole General Partner of BVP III. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership except to the extent of his partnership interest.

3. Owned indirectly by the Gabrieli Family Foundation, a charitable foundation. The reporting person may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of such shares by virtue of his position as Trustee, but disclaims beneficial ownership.

Remarks:

B. Lynne Parshall, by Power of 08/21/2003

<u>Attorney</u>

** 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.