

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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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* <u>O'NEIL PATRICK R.</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.</u> <u>2855 GAZELLE COURT</u> (Street) <u>CARLSBAD</u> <u>CA</u> <u>92010</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS INC [IONS]</u> 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>01/29/2018</u> 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>SVP Legal & General Counsel</u> 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
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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	01/29/2018	01/29/2018	M ⁽¹⁾		55 ⁽¹⁾	A	\$10.82	14,507	D	
Common Stock	01/29/2018	01/29/2018	S ⁽¹⁾		55 ⁽¹⁾	D	\$55	14,452	D	
Common Stock	01/29/2018	01/29/2018	M ⁽¹⁾		300 ⁽¹⁾	A	\$10.82	14,752	D	
Common Stock	01/29/2018	01/29/2018	S ⁽¹⁾		300 ⁽¹⁾	D	\$55	14,452	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	01/29/2018	01/29/2018	M			55	01/02/2017	01/01/2020	Common Stock	55	\$0	0	D	
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$10.82	01/29/2018	01/29/2018	M			300	01/02/2017	01/01/2020	Common Stock	300	\$0	1,400	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 6/30/2017.

Remarks:

/s/Patrick R. O'Neil01/31/2018

** Signature of Reporting PersonDate

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.