FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| 1 | OMB APPRO | OVAL |
|---|------------------------|-----------|
| | OMB Number: | 3235-0287 |
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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* Geary Richard S | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ISIS PHARMACEUTICALS INC [ISIS] | | ionship of Reporting Pe all applicable) Director Officer (give title | rson(s) to Issuer 10% Owner Other (specify |
| (Last) C/O ISIS PHAD 2855 GAZELL | | (Middle) ALS, INC. | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 03/05/2015 | | SVP, Develo | ppment |
| (Street) CARLSBAD (City) | CA (State) | 92010 (Zip) | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | 6. Indivi Line) X | dual or Joint/Group Filir Form filed by One Rep Form filed by More the Person | porting Person |
| | | Table I - Non-D | erivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Bene | eficially (| Owned | |

| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------|-------------------------|---|---|---|----------|------------------------------------|---|------------|--|
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) (Month/Day/Year) (Month/Day/Year) (Month/Day/Year) (Month/Day/Year) (Month/Day/Year) (A. Securities Acquired (A) or Transaction Code (Instr. 8) (Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and D) (Instr. | | | 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) | | (111501.4) | |
| Common Stock | 03/05/2015 | 03/05/2015 | S ⁽¹⁾ | | 3,015(1) | D | \$71.668 | 4,555 | D | | |
| Common Stock | 03/05/2015 | 03/05/2015 | M ⁽²⁾ | | 80(2) | A | \$11.27 | 4,635 | D | | |
| Common Stock | 03/05/2015 | 03/05/2015 | S ⁽²⁾ | | 80(2) | D | \$71.668 | 4,555 | D | | |
| Common Stock | 03/05/2015 | 03/05/2015 | M ⁽²⁾ | | 8,000(2) | A | \$10.29 | 12,555 | D | | |
| Common Stock | 03/05/2015 | 03/05/2015 | S ⁽²⁾ | | 8,000(2) | D | \$71.668 | 4,555 | D | | |
| Common Stock | 03/05/2015 | 03/05/2015 | M ⁽²⁾ | | 7,000(2) | A | \$7.25 | 11,555 | D | | |
| Common Stock | 03/05/2015 | 03/05/2015 | S ⁽²⁾ | | 7,000(2) | D | \$70.318 | 4,555 | 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. Transa Code (8) | | of | | 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) | \$11.27 | 03/05/2015 | 03/05/2015 | M | | | 80 | 01/04/2014 | 01/03/2017 | Common Stock | 80 | \$0 | 0 | D | |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$10.29 | 03/05/2015 | 03/05/2015 | М | | | 8,000 | 01/03/2015 | 01/02/2018 | Common Stock | 8,000 | \$0 | 426 | D | |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$7.25 | 03/05/2015 | 03/05/2015 | M | | | 7,000 | 01/03/2013 ⁽³⁾ | 01/02/2019 | Common Stock | 7,000 | \$0 | 7,035 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

- $1. \ The sale reported in this Form 4 was effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on 2/3/2015 and 2/3/2015 are considered by the reporting person on 2/3/2015 and 2/3/2015 are considered by the reporting person on 2/3/2015 are considered by the reporting person of 2/3/2015 are considered by the 2/3/2015 are considered by th$
- 2. 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 2/3/2015.
- 3. Grant of 1/3/2012 to reporting person of stock options under the Isis Pharmacueticals, Inc. 1989 Stock Option Plan. 25% of the shares subject to the option vested and became exercisable on 1/3/2013. Thereafter, the remaining shares subject to the option vest and become exercisable in 36 equal monthly installments, at the rate of 6984 shares per year. Following this transaction, the option was exercisable as to 1,215 on 3/5/2015.

Remarks:

/s/Richard S. Geary

** 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.