FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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OMB APPROVAL									
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*  ECKER DAVID J						2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol ISIS PHARMACEUTICALS INC [ ISIS ]								elationship o	able) r	g Pers	10% Ov	vner
(Last) (First) (Middle) 2292 FARADAY AVENUE						3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/01/2005								below)	(give title Vice P	ve title Other (below)  Vice President		:pecity
(Street) CARLSBAD CA 92008 (City) (State) (Zip)						4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)							Line	ndividual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable e)  X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person				1
		Tal	ble I - No	n-Der	ivativ	e Se	ecuritie	s Ac	quired,	Dis	posed o	f, or Ber	neficiall	y Owned				
1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transac Date (Month/Da						Execution Date,		Transaction Disposed C		es Acquired (A) or Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		Benefici Owned F	es ally Following	Form (D) o	: Direct r Indirect str. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership		
									Code	v	Amount	(A) or (D) Price		Transact	Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)			(Instr. 4)
Common Stock 01/01/2				1/200	2005 01/01/2005		J	V	2,008(1)	) A	\$4.666	5 37	7,493		I	By Trust		
			Table II -								osed of, convertib			Owned				
1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security		Execution	Date, Transac Code (Ir			tion of E		6. Date Exercisa Expiration Date (Month/Day/Yea		of Securitie		ies g Security	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	e S Illy	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
					Code		(A)		Date Exercisab		Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares					
Employee Stock Option (right to	\$5.8	01/03/2005	03/2005 01/03/2005		A		28,918		01/03/200	9 <sup>(2)</sup>	01/02/2012	Common Stock	28,918	\$0	28,91	8	D	

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. Reporting 2,008 shares acquired under the Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan on January 1, 2005.
- 2. Grant of 1-3-05 to reporting person of stock options under the Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 1989 Stock Option Plan. 25% of the shares subject to the option will vest and become exercisable on 1-3-06. Thereafter, the remaining shares subject to the option vest and become exercisable in 36 equal monthly installments, at the rate of 7,230 shares per year for the first two years, then 7,229 shares for the remaining two years. The option is exercisable as to 0 shares on 1-3-05.

## Remarks:

David J. Ecker

01/04/2005

\*\* 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.