| SEC Form 4 |  |
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## FORM 4

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

| -                        | -         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number:              | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| hours per response:      | 0.5       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 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

| 1. Name and Addre   | 1 0     | erson*    | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br>IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS INC [ IONS | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) |                                   |                          |  |  |  |
|---|---------|-----------|---|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| KLEIN JOSEPH III   (Last) (First)   (Middle)   2855 GAZELLE COURT |         |           | ]   | X   | Director                          | 10% Owner                |  |  |  |
|   |         | (Middle)  |   | -   | Officer (give title<br>below)     | Other (specify<br>below) |  |  |  |
|   |         | (ivitute) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br>07/15/2021                  |   | ··· · <b>/</b>                    | ,                        |  |  |  |
| (Street)  |         |           | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                        | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applica Line)                |                                   |                          |  |  |  |
| CARLSBAD  | CA      | 92010     |   | X   | Form filed by One Rep             | porting Person           |  |  |  |
| ,   |         |           |   |   | Form filed by More that<br>Person | an 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<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8) |  | 4. Securities<br>Disposed Of |               |                          | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned Following<br>Reported | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|--|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|
|                                 |  |   | Code V                                  |  | Amount                       | (A) or<br>(D) | Price                    | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)  |   |   |
| Common Stock                    | 07/15/2021                                 | 07/15/2021  | <b>M</b> <sup>(1)</sup>                 |  | 5,333(1)                     | A             | \$0.0                    | 19,127  | D   |   |
| Common Stock                    | 07/15/2021                                 | 07/15/2021  | <b>M</b> <sup>(1)</sup>                 |  | 889(1)                       | A             | \$0.0                    | 20,016  | D   |   |
| Common Stock                    | 07/15/2021                                 | 07/15/2021  | <b>M</b> <sup>(1)</sup>                 |  | 666(1)                       | A             | \$0.0                    | 20,682  | D   |   |
| Common Stock                    | 07/15/2021                                 | 07/15/2021  | <b>M</b> <sup>(1)</sup>                 |  | 1,778(1)                     | A             | \$0.0                    | 22,460  | D   |   |
| Common Stock                    | 07/15/2021                                 | 07/15/2021  | <b>S</b> <sup>(2)</sup>                 |  | 4,334 <sup>(2)</sup>         | D             | \$35.2998 <sup>(3)</sup> | 18,126  | D   |   |
| Common Stock                    |  |   |   |  |                              |               |                          | 100   | I   | by Son <sup>(4)</sup>   |

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

|   |   |   | (e.y.,     | puis,                                      | cans | , wa  | Indina                       | s, options,         | converti   | Die Sect                | inues)   |       |  |                    |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|------------|--|------|---|------------------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------|--|-------|--|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative | Date       | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | Date | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code (<br>8) |                     | of<br>Deri<br>Sec<br>Acq<br>(A)<br>Disj<br>of (I | oosed<br>D)<br>tr. 3, 4 | 6. Date Exerc<br>Expiration Da<br>(Month/Day/) | ate   | 7. Title an<br>Amount o<br>Securities<br>Underlyin<br>Derivative<br>(Instr. 3 ar | f<br>g<br>Security | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 4) | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|   |   |   |            | Code                                       | v    | (A)   | (D)                          | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date                               | Title                   | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares         |       |  |                    |   |  |  |  |
| Restricted<br>Stock Unit                            | \$0.0 <sup>(5)</sup>  | 07/15/2021  | 07/15/2021 | М  |      |   | 5,333                        | (6)                 | (6)  | Common<br>Stock         | 5,333  | \$0.0 | 13,108   | D                  |   |  |  |  |
| Restricted<br>Stock Unit                            | \$0.0 <sup>(5)</sup>  | 07/15/2021  | 07/15/2021 | М  |      |   | 889                          | (7)                 | (7)  | Common<br>Stock         | 889  | \$0.0 | 12,219   | D                  |   |  |  |  |
| Restricted<br>Stock Unit                            | \$0.0 <sup>(5)</sup>  | 07/15/2021  | 07/15/2021 | М  |      |   | 666                          | (7)                 | (7)  | Common<br>Stock         | 666  | \$0.0 | 11,553   | D                  |   |  |  |  |
| Restricted<br>Stock Unit                            | \$0.0 <sup>(5)</sup>  | 07/15/2021  | 07/15/2021 | м  |      |   | 1,778                        | (7)                 | (7)  | Common<br>Stock         | 1,778  | \$0.0 | 9,775  | D                  |   |  |  |  |

#### **Explanation of Responses:**

1. Acquired pursuant to vesting and release of shares pursuant to a Restricted Stock Unit Award.

2. Shares sold pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 Trading Plan adopted by the reporting person on September 18, 2020.

3. The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$34.78 to \$35.68 inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. any security holder of Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the ranges set forth in footnote (3) on this Form 4.

4. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of all securities held by his son, and this report should not be deemed an admission that the reporting person is the beneficial owner of such securities for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.

5. Each Restricted Stock Unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Ionis common stock, or its equivalent cash value.

6. Restricted Stock Units vest 100% on either the first anniversary of the date of grant or the next regularly scheduled annual meeting of stockholders of the Company, whichever occurs earlier, and are delivered to the reporting person on the July 15th following the vesting date. Upon vesting, the Restricted Stock Units will be paid in whole shares of Ionis common stock or cash as may be determined by the Company.

7. Restricted Stock Units vest in four equal annual installments and are delivered to the reporting person on the July 15th following the vesting date. Upon vesting, the Restricted Stock Units will be paid in whole shares of Ionis common stock or cash as may be determined by the Company.

#### By: Patrick R. O'Neil, attorney-07/19/2021

in-fact For: Joseph Klein III

\*\* 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.