

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>O'NEIL PATRICK R.</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O ISIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.</u> <u>2855 GAZELLE COURT</u> (Street) <u>CARLSBAD CA 92010</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>ISIS PHARMACEUTICALS INC [ISIS]</u>	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 and General Counsel</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>03/04/2013</u>	
4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		

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	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	M ⁽¹⁾		10,350 ⁽¹⁾	A	\$11.27	11,674	D	
Common Stock	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	S ⁽¹⁾		10,350 ⁽¹⁾	D	\$15.817	1,324	D	
Common Stock	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	M ⁽²⁾		1,350 ⁽²⁾	A	\$11.12	2,674	D	
Common Stock	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	S ⁽²⁾		1,350 ⁽²⁾	D	\$15.817	1,324	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					
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$11.27	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	M			10,351	01/04/2011 ⁽³⁾	01/03/2017	Common Stock 10,350	\$0	7,050	D	
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$11.12	03/04/2013	03/04/2013	M			1,350	01/02/2011	01/01/2014	Common Stock 1,350	\$0	0	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- Acquired as a result of exercising a stock option pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 Trading Plans. The purchase and sale reported on this Form 4 was effective pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 Trading Plans adopted by the reporting person on 3/16/12 and 1/30/13.
- Acquired as a result of exercising a stock option pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 Trading Plan. The purchase and sale reported on this Form 4 was effective pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 Trading Plan adopted by the reporting person on 3/16/12.
- Grant of 1/4/10 to reporting person of stock options under the Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 1989 Stock Option Plan. 25% of the shares subject to the option vested and became exercisable on 1/4/11. Thereafter, the remaining shares subject to the option vest and become exercisable in 36 equal monthly installments, at the rate of 4,350 shares per year. Following this transaction, the option was exercisable as to 3,425 on 3/4/13.

Remarks:

/s/Patrick R. O'Neil

03/04/2013

** 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.