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## FORM 4

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| Check this box if no longer subject to |
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| 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 OMB APPROVAL
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|   |         |         | of Section So(ii) of the investment Company Act of 1940                           |                        |   |                                |
|---|---------|---------|---|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Name and Addre   | 1 0     | Person* | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br>IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS INC [ IONS ] |                        | ationship of Reporting Pe<br>k all applicable)<br>Director                              | rson(s) to Issuer<br>10% Owner |
| (Last) (First) (Middle)<br>C/O IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.<br>2855 GAZELLE COURT<br>(Street)<br>CARLSBAD CA 92010 |         | ( )     | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br>07/01/2019                    |                        | Officer (give title below)  | Other (specify below)          |
|   |         | 92010   | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                          | 6. Indir<br>Line)<br>X | vidual or Joint/Group Filir<br>Form filed by One Re<br>Form filed by More tha<br>Person | porting Person                 |
| (City)  | (State) | (Zip)   |   | 1                      |   |                                |

#### 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>Transa<br>Code (<br>8) |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |               |       | 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 of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |  |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|---|--|---------------|-------|---|---|---|--|
|                                 |  |   | Code                         | v | Amount   | (A) or<br>(D) | Price | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)  |   | (1150.4)  |  |
| Common Stock                    | 07/01/2019                                 | 07/01/2019  | M <sup>(1)</sup>             |   | 666 <sup>(1)</sup>   | A             | \$0   | 59,582  | I   | By<br>Joseph<br>H.<br>Wender<br>Trust                             |  |
| Common Stock                    | 07/01/2019                                 | 07/01/2019  | M <sup>(1)</sup>             |   | 667 <sup>(1)</sup>   | A             | \$0   | 60,249  | I   | By<br>Joseph<br>H.<br>Wender<br>Trust                             |  |
| Common Stock                    | 07/02/2019                                 | 07/02/2019  | M <sup>(1)</sup>             |   | 889 <sup>(1)</sup>   | A             | \$0   | 61,138  | I   | By<br>Joseph<br>H.<br>Wender<br>Trust                             |  |
| Common Stock                    | 07/03/2019                                 | 07/03/2019  | M <sup>(1)</sup>             |   | 667(1)   | A             | \$0   | 61,805  | I   | By<br>Joseph<br>H.<br>Wender<br>Trust                             |  |

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) 6. Date Exercisable and 7. Title and Amount 9. Number of 3. Transaction 3A. Deemed 8. Price of 11. Nature 2 5. Number 10. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) Derivative Security (Instr. 5) Conversion Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) derivative Securities of Indirect Beneficial Date Execution Date, of of Securities Ownership Underlying Derivative Security or Exercise Price of (Month/Day/Year) if any (Month/Day/Year) Derivative Securities Form: Direct (D) Beneficially Ownership Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) Owned Following or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) Amount or Number Expiration Date Date of Code v (A) (D) Exercisable Title Shares Restricted Commor Stock Units (2) 07/01/2019 07/01/2019 Μ 666 (3) (3) 666 \$<mark>0</mark> 0 D Stock Restricted Common Stock Units (2) (3) (3) 667 07/01/2019 07/01/2019 Μ 667 \$<mark>0</mark> 666 D Stock Restricted Common Stock Units 889 (2) 07/02/2019 07/02/2019 Μ 889 (3) (3) \$<mark>0</mark> 2,666 D Stock Restricted Common Stock Units 667 (2) 07/03/2019 07/03/2019 Μ 667 (3) (3)\$<mark>0</mark> 1,333 D Stock Restricted Common (4) (4) 7,110 Stock Units (2) 07/01/2019 07/01/2019 A 7,110 \$<mark>0</mark> 7,110 D Stock

| Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned         (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |   |  |   |                              |   |  |                                   |                           |                                     |                 |   |     |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----|--|--|--|
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)  | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code (<br>8) |   | 5. Numl<br>of<br>Derivati<br>Securiti<br>Acquire<br>(A) or<br>Dispose<br>(D) (Inst<br>4 and 5) | ve<br>es<br>ed<br>ed of<br>tr. 3, | Expiration Dat            | Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                 | 7. Title and Amount<br>of Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Security<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |     | 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  |     |  |  |  |
| Director<br>Stock<br>Option<br>(right to<br>buy)   | \$64.8  | 07/01/2019                                 | 07/01/2019  | A                            |   | 16,000   |                                   | 07/01/2020 <sup>(5)</sup> | 06/30/2029 <sup>(5)</sup>           | Common<br>Stock | 16,000  | \$0 | 16,000   | D  |  |

#### Explanation of Responses:

1. Acquired pursuant to vesting and release of shares pursuant to Restricted Stock Unit awards. These shares were issued to the Joseph H. Wender Trust.

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

3. Restricted Stock Units vest in four equal annual installments. Upon vesting, the restricted stock units will be paid out in whole shares of Ionis common stock or cash as may be determined by the Company. 4. Grant of July 1, 2019 to reporting person of Restricted Stock Unit Award under the Amended and Restated Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2002 Non-Employee Directors' Stock Option Plan. Restricted Stock Units

vest in four equal annual installments, the first installment vesting on July 1, 2020. Upon vesting, the restricted stock units will be paid out in whole shares of Ionis common stock or cash as may be determined by the Company. The RSU shall be fully vested on July 1, 2023. The RSU is vested as to 0 shares on July 1, 2019.

5. Grant of July 1, 2019 to reporting person of stock options under the Amended and Restated Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2002 Non-Employee Directors' Stock Option Plan. The option vests and becomes exercisable in four equal annual installments, the first installment vesting on July 1, 2020. The option shall be fully vested and exercisable on July 1, 2023. The option is exercisable to 0 shares on July 1, 2019. **Remarks:** 

/s/Patrick R. O'Neil, attorney-in-07/03/2019

<u>fact</u>

\*\* 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.

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