

NOVARTIS AG
Form 4
June 08, 2006

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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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).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
NOVARTIS AG

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
IDENIX PHARMACEUTICALS
INC [IDIX]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

LICHSTRASSE 35, CH 4002,
BASEL, SWITZERLAND

(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
06/06/2006

____ Director
____ Officer (give title below)
 10% Owner
____ Other (specify below)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
____ Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) Code V Amount (D) Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 06/06/2006 | | P | 365 A \$ 20.48 | 31,299,173 | I ⁽¹⁾ | See Footnote ⁽¹⁾ |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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 control number.

SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

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| 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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Own Follo Repo Trans (Instr |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| NOVARTIS AG LICHSTRASSE 35 CH 4002, BASEL, SWITZERLAND | | X | | |
| NOVARTIS PHARMA AG LICHSTRASSE 35 CH 4002, BASEL, SWITZERLAND | | X | | |

Signatures

Novartis AG by: /s/ Juergen Vierkoetter (authorized signatory) 06/08/2006

__Signature of Reporting Person Date

Novartis AG by: /s/ Peter Rupprecht (authorized signatory) 06/08/2006

__Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- (1) Novartis Pharma AG, acquired directly 365 shares for \$20.48 per share. Following this transaction, Novartis AG is the indirect beneficial owner of 31,299,173 shares which are owned directly by Novartis Pharma AG, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Novartis AG.

Remarks:

Exhibit 99 - Joint Filer Information

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.