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IDENIX PHARMACEUTICALS INC

Form 4 May 30, 2008

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB

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Form 5 obligations may continue.

See Instruction

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(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

(First)

(Middle)

NOVARTIS AG

LICHSTRASSE 35

(Last)

Common

Stock

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

IDENIX PHARMACEUTICALS INC [IDIX]

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

05/29/2008

3.

Director Officer (give title below)

Issuer

10% Owner Other (specify

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line)

Form filed by One Reporting Person _X_ Form filed by More than One Reporting

 $I^{(1)}$

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

(Check all applicable)

Person

BASEL, V8 V8 CH 4002

(City) (State) (Zip)

05/29/2008

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

4. Securities Acquired 5. Amount of

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 1.Title of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Instr. 3) any (Month/Day/Year)

Transaction(A) or Disposed of Code (D) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)

Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)

(A) or (Instr. 3 and 4) Price Amount (D)

P 924 A

31,300,097

See Footnote

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

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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	2.	3. Transaction Date		4.	5.	6. Date Exerc		7. Title a		8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	of (Month/Day/Year) Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)			Amount Underlyi Securitie (Instr. 3	ing es	Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	Deriv Secur Bene Own Follo Repo Trans (Instr
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	or Title N of	umber		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
1 6	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
NOVARTIS AG LICHSTRASSE 35 BASEL, V8 V8 CH 4002		X					
NOVARTIS PHARMA AG LICHSTRASSE 35 BASEL, V8 V8 CH 4002		X					

Signatures

/s/ Martin

Morawietz 05/30/2008

**Signature of Date

Reporting Person

/s/ Stefan

Thommen 05/30/2008

**Signature of 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) These securities are owned directly by Novartis Pharma AG, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of Novartis AG. Novartis AG is an indirect beneficial owner of these securities.

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.

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