

IDENIX PHARMACEUTICALS INC  
 Form 4  
 September 03, 2008

**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  
 (Street)  
 BASEL, V8 CH 4002  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 09/02/2008  
 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

\_\_\_\_ Director  
 \_\_\_\_ Officer (give title below)  
 \_\_\_X\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 \_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 \_\_\_ Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 \_\_\_X\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V Amount (A) or (D) Price   |   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 09/02/2008                           |  | P                              | 4,654 A \$ 2.93   | 31,304,751  | I (1)  | See footnote (1)                  |

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 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. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Transaction (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                            | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| NOVARTIS AG<br>LICHSTRASSE 35<br>BASEL, V8 CH 4002        |               | X         |         |       |
| NOVARTIS PHARMA AG<br>LICHSTRASSE 35<br>BASEL, V8 CH 4002 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Felix Eichhorn  
Date: 09/03/2008

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

/s/ Stephan Thommen  
Date: 09/03/2008

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

## 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.