

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
SCHEDULE 14A**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:  
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  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):  
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- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
  - (1) Amount Previously Paid:  
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\_\_\_\_\_
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  - (4) Date Filed:  
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**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 control number**

**\*\*\* Exercise Your *Right to Vote* \*\*\***  
**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the  
Stockholder Meeting to Be Held on May 23, 2018**

**IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.**

IONIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.  
2855 GAZELLE COURT  
CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA 92010  
ATTN: CORPORATE SECRETARY

**Meeting Information**

**Meeting Type:** Annual Meeting  
**For holders as of:** March 26, 2018  
**Date:** May 23, 2018      **Time:** 2:00 PM PDT  
**Location:** 2855 Gazelle Court  
Carlsbad, CA 92010

You are receiving this communication because you hold shares in the above named company.

This is not a ballot. You cannot use this notice to vote these shares. This communication presents only an overview of the more complete proxy materials that are available to you on the Internet. You may view the proxy materials online at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com) or easily request a paper copy (see reverse side).

We encourage you to access and review all of the important information contained in the proxy materials before voting.

**See the reverse side of this notice to obtain proxy materials and voting instructions.**

— **Before You Vote** —  
How to Access the Proxy Materials

**Proxy Materials Available to VIEW or RECEIVE:**

1. Notice & Proxy Statement    2. Form 10-K

**How to View Online:**

Have the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow →  (located on the following page) and visit: [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com).

**How to Request and Receive a PAPER or E-MAIL Copy:**

If you want to receive a paper or e-mail copy of these documents, you must request one. There is NO charge for requesting a copy. Please choose one of the following methods to make your request:

- 1) BY INTERNET: [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com)
- 2) BY TELEPHONE: 1-800-579-1639
- 3) BY E-MAIL\*: [sendmaterial@proxyvote.com](mailto:sendmaterial@proxyvote.com)

\* If requesting materials by e-mail, please send a blank e-mail with the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow →  (located on the following page) in the subject line.

Requests, instructions and other inquiries sent to this e-mail address will NOT be forwarded to your investment advisor. Please make the request as instructed above on or before May 20, 2018 to facilitate timely delivery.

— **How To Vote** —

Please Choose One of the Following Voting Methods

**Vote In Person:** Many stockholder meetings have attendance requirements including, but not limited to, the possession of an attendance ticket issued by the entity holding the meeting. Please check the meeting materials for any special requirements for meeting attendance. At the meeting, you will need to request a ballot to vote these shares.

**Vote By Internet:** To vote now by Internet, go to [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com). Have the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow →  available and follow the instructions.

**Vote By Mail:** You can vote by mail by requesting a paper copy of the materials, which will include a proxy card.

**Voting items**

The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR the following nominees to be elected for a term expiring in 2021

1. Election of Directors

**Nominees**

01 Frederick T. Muto      02 Breaux B. Castleman

The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR proposals 2 and 3.

- 2. To approve, by non-binding vote, executive compensation.
- 3. Ratify the Audit Committee's selection of Ernst & Young LLP as independent auditors for the 2018 fiscal year.

NOTE: Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

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