

Novartis Bioventures Ltd
 Form 4
 March 28, 2019

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 Bioventures Ltd

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 Aerpio Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
 [ARPO]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 03/26/2019

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

C/O NOVARTIS INTERNATIONAL AG, WSJ-200.220

(Street)

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

BASEL, V8 CH-4002

(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 Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4)				
				Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	03/26/2019		S			177,762	D	\$ 1.01 <u>(1)</u>	5,622,488	I	See Footnote <u>(4)</u>
Common Stock	03/27/2019		S			50,749	D	\$ 0.99 <u>(2)</u>	5,571,739	I	See Footnote <u>(4)</u>
Common Stock	03/28/2019		S			88,835	D	\$ 0.94 <u>(3)</u>	5,482,904	I	See Footnote <u>(4)</u>

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

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(9-02)

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)	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 Beneficially (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Novartis Bioventures Ltd C/O NOVARTIS INTERNATIONAL AG WSJ-200.220 BASEL, V8 CH-4002		X		
NOVARTIS AG LICHTSTRASSE 35 BASEL, V8 CH 4056		X		

Signatures

/s/ Bartosz Dzikowski, Secretary of the Board of Novartis Bioventures Ltd	03/28/2019
__Signature of Reporting Person	Date
/s/ Florian Muellershausen, Authorized Signatory on behalf of Novartis Bioventures Ltd	03/28/2019
__Signature of Reporting Person	Date
/s/ Bartosz Dzikowski, Authorized Signatory on behalf of Novartis AG	03/28/2019
__Signature of Reporting Person	Date

/s/ Florian Muellershausen, Authorized Signatory on behalf of Novartis AG

03/28/2019

__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) Reflects sales of common stock executed in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$1.00 to \$1.06. The price reported reflects the weighted average sale price. The Reporting Persons hereby undertake to provide upon request to the Securities and Exchange Commission staff, the Issuer or a security holder of the Issuer full information regarding the number of shares and prices at which the sales were effected.

(2) Reflects sales of common stock executed in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$0.99 to \$1.02. The price reported reflects the weighted average sale price. The Reporting Persons hereby undertake to provide upon request to the Securities and Exchange Commission staff, the Issuer or a security holder of the Issuer full information regarding the number of shares and prices at which the sales were effected.

(3) Reflects sales of common stock executed in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$0.92 to \$1.00. The price reported reflects the weighted average sale price. The Reporting Persons hereby undertake to provide upon request to the Securities and Exchange Commission staff, the Issuer or a security holder of the Issuer full information regarding the number of shares and prices at which the sales were effected.

(4) The board of directors of Novartis Bioventures Ltd has sole voting and investment control and power over such securities. None of the members of its board of directors has individual voting or investment power with respect to such securities and each disclaims beneficial ownership of such securities. Novartis Bioventures Ltd is an indirectly owned subsidiary of Novartis AG.

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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