

NOVARTIS AG  
Form 6-K  
October 23, 2014

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## FORM 6-K

**REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER  
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 or 15d-16 OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**Report on Form 6-K dated October 23, 2014**

**(Commission File No. 1-15024)**

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**Novartis AG**

(Name of Registrant)

**Lichtstrasse 35**

**4056 Basel**

**Switzerland**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F:

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**Form 20-F:**  **Form 40-F:**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Yes:  **No:**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Yes:  **No:**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes:  **No:**

**Novartis International AG**

Novartis Global Communications

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**MEDIA RELEASE • COMMUNIQUE AUX MEDIAS • MEDIENMITTEILUNG**

**Novartis AIN457 (secukinumab) meets primary endpoint in two Phase III studies in ankylosing spondylitis, a debilitating joint condition of the spine**

- *Secukinumab is the first selective IL-17A inhibitor to meet primary endpoint in two pivotal Phase III studies showing improvement in active ankylosing spondylitis (AS) patients' symptoms versus placebo*
- *AS is a painful, progressively debilitating condition associated with inflammation of the spine, causing irreversible consequences that significantly reduce patients' mobility and quality of life(1),(2)*
- *Up to 40% of patients have an inadequate or no response to standard of care anti-TNF (tumor-necrosis-factor) medicines, currently the only biologic therapies available for patients with AS(1)*
- *The secukinumab results in AS follow positive topline data in psoriatic arthritis (PsA) announced in September; joint regulatory filing of secukinumab in AS and PsA planned for 2015*

**Basel, October 23, 2014** Novartis today announced that AIN457 (secukinumab) met primary and key secondary endpoints in two pivotal Phase III studies (MEASURE 1 and MEASURE 2) in patients with ankylosing spondylitis (AS). Key endpoints included improvements in signs and symptoms of the disease versus placebo and associated improvements in physical function and quality of life. Secukinumab is an investigational medicine that works by stopping the action of interleukin-17A (IL-17A)(3), a protein that is central to the development of inflammatory diseases(4), including AS. MEASURE 1 and MEASURE 2 enrolled a combined total of approximately 600 patients. Detailed results of the studies will be presented at an upcoming medical congress.

We are thrilled to see positive results with secukinumab in AS, a gravely debilitating condition with a significant remaining unmet need as up to 40% of patients do not respond to anti-TNF therapies, said Vasant Narasimhan, Global Head of Development, Novartis Pharmaceuticals. With these results in AS and the recently announced positive results in psoriatic arthritis, we now have data from four Phase III trials of secukinumab in spondyloarthropathies which we look forward to presenting at a congress later this year.

AS is a common type of spondyloarthritis (SpA), a family of long-term diseases impacting joints (inflammatory diseases), which includes other conditions such as psoriatic arthritis (PsA)(5). Occurring in up to 1% of the general population typically young men and women aged 25 or older AS is a painful, debilitating condition primarily associated with swelling, in severe cases fusion of the spine (bones growing together), and irreversible bone formation (new bones growing)(6),(7). It can cause persistent back pain, stiffness, fatigue and curvature of the spine that result in patients becoming progressively disabled and unable to work(1),(2). People with AS have very few therapeutic options available to them. In case of non-response to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory



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sale in any market where it has been submitted. Neither can there be any guarantee that AIN457 will be submitted or approved for any additional indications or labeling in any market, or at any particular time. Nor can there be any guarantee that AIN457 will be commercially successful in the future. In particular, management's expectations regarding AIN457 could be affected by, among other things, the uncertainties inherent in research and development, including unexpected clinical trial results and additional analysis of existing clinical data; unexpected regulatory actions or delays or government regulation generally; the company's ability to obtain or maintain proprietary intellectual property protection; general economic and industry conditions; global trends toward health care cost containment, including ongoing pricing pressures; unexpected





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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

**Novartis AG**

Date: October 23, 2014

By: /s/ MALCOLM B. CHEETHAM

Name: Malcolm B. Cheetham  
Title: Head Group Financial  
Reporting and Accounting