# FORM 4

#### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Check this box if no longer subject to |
|--|
| Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5           |
| obligations may continue. See          |
| Instruction 1(h)                       |

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

**OMB APPROVAL** 3235-0287 Estimated average burden hours per response 0.5

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| Name and Address of Reporting Person*     Vahanian Nicholas N.                           |   |  |  |         |   | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol NEWLINK GENETICS CORP [ (NLNK) ]  |   |         |   |        |  |                 |   | eck all applic<br>Directo                   | ,   |  | on(s) to Issuer  10% Owner Other (specify                         |  |
|--|---|--|--|---------|---|---|---|---------|---|--------|--|-----------------|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O NEWLINK GENETICS CORPORATION 2503 SOUTH LOOP DR., SUITE 5100 |   |  |  |         |   | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/13/2014   |   |         |   |        |  |                 |   | President, Chief Medical Offic              |   |  |   |  |
| (Street) AMES IA 50010  (City) (State) (Zip)   |   |  |  |         | _   4.                                  | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)  6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)  X Form filed by One Reporting Person  Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |   |         |   |        |  |                 |   |   |   |  |   |  |
| (City)   | (5  |  |  | on-Deri | ivativ                                  |   | curi  | ties Ac | auire                                   | d Di   | sposed of  | f or Re         | neficiall   | v Owned                                     |   |  |   |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transact Date (Month/Day)                            |   |  |  |         | action                                  | 2A<br>Ex<br>r) if a   | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) |         | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8) |        | 4. Securities Acquired (A) of Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 a |                 | (A) or  | 5. Amou<br>Securitie<br>Benefici<br>Owned F | es<br>ally<br>Following   | 6. Owner<br>Form: D<br>(D) or In<br>(I) (Instr | Direct Indirect E   | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)              |
|  |   |  |  |         |   |   |   |         | Code                                    | v      | Amount   | (A) or<br>(D)   | Price   | Reporte<br>Transac<br>(Instr. 3             | tion(s)   |  | 1   | instr. 4)  |
| Common Stock 01/13/2   |   |  |  |         |   | 014   |   |         | S <sup>(1)</sup>                        |        | 10,000   | D               | \$26  | 80,4  | 480 <sup>(2)</sup>  | D  |   |  |
| Common Stock 01/14   |   |  |  |         | /2014                                   |   |   |         | S <sup>(1)</sup>                        |        | 16,336   | D               | \$26.577  | (3) 64,                                     | L44 <sup>(2)</sup>  | D  |   |  |
| Common Stock 01/14/2   |   |  |  |         | /2014                                   | 2014  |   |         |   |        | 18,664   | A               | \$2.1   | 82,8  | 308 <sup>(2)</sup>  | Г  |   |  |
| Common Stock 01/14/2   |   |  |  |         | /2014                                   | 2014  |   |         | S <sup>(1)</sup>                        |        | 18,664   | D               | \$26.577  | (3) 64,                                     | 4,144 <sup>(2)</sup>  |  | )   |  |
| Common Stock   |   |  |  |         |   |   |   |         |   |        |  |                 | 52  | 52,856                                      |   |  | By<br>Spouse  |  |
|  |   |  | Table II                                   |         |   |   |   |         |   |        | posed of,<br>convertib                                       |                 |   | Owned                                       |   |  |   |  |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)                                      | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deen<br>Executio<br>if any<br>(Month/D | n Date, | 4.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8) |   |   |         | 6. Date<br>Expirat<br>(Month            | ion Da | e of Sec<br>Under<br>Deriva                                  |                 | . Title and Amount If Securities Inderlying Serivative Security (nstr. 3 and 4) |   | 9. Number derivative Securities Beneficial Owned Following Reported Transactio (Instr. 4) | e O<br>S Fe<br>Illy D<br>oi<br>(!)             | 0.<br>wnership<br>orm:<br>irect (D)<br>r Indirect<br>) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|  |   |  |  |         | Code                                    | v   | (A)   | (D)     | Date<br>Exercisable                     |        | Expiration<br>Date   | Title           | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares  |   |   |  |   |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(Right to   | \$2.1   | 01/14/2014                                 |  |         | M                                       |   |   | 18,664  | 06/01/2008 <sup>(4)</sup>               |        | 05/12/2019   | Common<br>Stock | 18,664  | \$0 290                                     |   | 74   | D   |  |

#### **Explanation of Responses:**

- $1. \ The sales reported in this Form 4 were effected pursuant to a 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the Reporting Person on 10/28/2013.$
- 2. Includes 15,000 restricted stock units ("RSUs") previously reported as holdings of the Reporting Person granted under the Issuer's 2009 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan"). The RSUs will vest, and shares will be delivered to the Reporting Person in a series of four successive annual installments beginning on January 2, 2015, provided in each case that the Reporting Person's continuous service to the Issuer has not been terminated as defined in or as determined under the Plan.
- 3. The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$26.32 to \$26.90, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to the issuer, any security holder of issuer, or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each price within the ranges set forth in footnote 3 to this Form 4.
- 4. Grant to the Reporting Person of a stock option under the Plan. The option vests over a five-year period, with 20% of such option vesting on the one-year anniversary of the vesting commencement date and the remaining 80% of such option vesting in equal monthly installments over the next 48 months, provided that at the relevant vesting dates the Reporting Person's continuous service to the Issuer has not been terminated as defined in or as determined under the Plan. The option expires ten years after the date of grant.

### Remarks:

/s/ Gordon Link, by power of <u>attorney</u>

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

01/15/2014

Date

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

- \* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.