

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

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

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

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * <u>Vahanian Nicholas N.</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O NEWLINK GENETICS CORP.</u> <u>2503 SOUTH LOOP DR., SUITE 5100</u>  (Street) <u>AMES IA 50010</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>NEWLINK GENETICS CORP [ NLNK ]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Pres and Chief Medical Officer</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>07/26/2012</u>	
4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		

**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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	07/26/2012		M		17,623	A	\$4.2	136,372	D	
Common Stock	07/26/2012		M		12,772	A	\$2.1	149,144	D	
Common Stock								52,856	I	By Spouse

**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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$4.2	07/26/2012		M			17,623	(1)	05/12/2019	Common Stock	17,623	\$0	0	D	
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$2.1	07/26/2012		M			12,772	(2)	07/15/2018	Common Stock	12,772	\$0	0	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- 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.
- Grant to the Reporting Person of a stock option under the Issuer's 2009 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan"). The option is fully vested.

/s/ Gordon Link, by power of attorney 07/30/2012

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person 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.