

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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:	3235-0104
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>JOHNSON CHAD ALLEN</u> _____ (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>2503 SOUTH LOOP DRIVE</u> <u>SUITE 5100</u> _____ (Street) <u>AMES IA 50010</u> _____ (City) (State) (Zip)			2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>03/19/2018</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>NEWLINK GENETICS CORP [(NLNK)]</u>
4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)		5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date				
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	03/19/2019 ⁽¹⁾	03/18/2028	Common Stock 48,324	7.07	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Grant to the Reporting Person of a nonstatutory stock option under the Issuer's 2009 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan"). One-third of the shares vest on March 19, 2019 and the remaining two-thirds of the shares vest in a series of 24 successive equal monthly installments thereafter, subject to the Reporting Person's continuous service as of such dates. The option expires ten years after the date of grant, unless it expires sooner pursuant to the terms of the Plan.

Remarks:

/s/ Ryan Trytten, attorney-in-fact

03/21/2018

** 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 5 (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.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

(For Executing Form ID and Forms 3, 4 and 5)

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints each of James C.T. Linfield, Kassendra Galindo and Kevin Tsai of Cooley LLP, and

- (1) Prepare, execute in the undersigned's name and on the undersigned's behalf, and submit to the the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") Form ID :
- (2) Do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned that may be necessary or desirable to prepare and execute any such Form ID and Forms
- (3) Take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing that, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the

The undersigned hereby grants to each such attorney in fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the earliest to occur of (a) the undersigned is no longer required to file Form ID or Forms 3,

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of the date written below.

Date: March 8, 2018

By: /s/Chad Allen Johnson
Chad Allen Johnson