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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**SCHEDULE 13D**

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. 1)\*

**Aerpio Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**

(Name of Issuer)

**Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share**  
(Title of Class of Securities)

**00810B105**  
(CUSIP Number)

**Bart Dzikowski**  
**Secretary of the Board**  
**Novartis Bioventures Ltd.**  
**Lichtstrasse 35**  
**CH-4056 Basel, Switzerland**  
**+41 61 324 3714**

(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person  
Authorized to Receive Notices and Communications)

**June 28, 2018**  
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition that is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of §§240.13d-1(e), 240.13d-1(f) or 240.13d-1(g), check the following box.

\* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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<b>1</b>	<b>NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS</b> Novartis Bioventures Ltd.	
<b>2</b>	<b>CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP</b> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>3</b>	<b>SEC USE ONLY</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)</b> WC	
<b>5</b>	<b>CHECK IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(D) OR 2(E)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>6</b>	<b>CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION</b> Switzerland	
<b>NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>SOLE VOTING POWER</b> 0
	<b>8</b>	<b>SHARED VOTING POWER</b> 5,805,550
	<b>9</b>	<b>SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER</b> 0
	<b>10</b>	<b>SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER</b> 5,805,550
<b>11</b>	<b>AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON</b> 5,805,550	
<b>12</b>	<b>CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>13</b>	<b>PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)</b> 14.95% (1)	
<b>14</b>	<b>TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)</b> CO	

(1) Based upon 38,834,099 outstanding shares of common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, of Aerpio Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (the "Issuer"), as set forth in the Issuer's Prospectus Supplement (which assumes no exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on June 26, 2018 pursuant to SEC Rule 424(b)(5).

<b>1</b>	<b>NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS</b> Novartis AG	
<b>2</b>	<b>CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP</b> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>3</b>	<b>SEC USE ONLY</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)</b> WC	
<b>5</b>	<b>CHECK IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(D) OR 2(E)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>6</b>	<b>CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION</b> Switzerland	
<b>NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>SOLE VOTING POWER</b> 0
	<b>8</b>	<b>SHARED VOTING POWER</b> 5,805,550
	<b>9</b>	<b>SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER</b> 0
	<b>10</b>	<b>SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER</b> 5,805,550
<b>11</b>	<b>AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON</b> 5,805,550	
<b>12</b>	<b>CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>13</b>	<b>PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)</b> 14.95% (1)	
<b>14</b>	<b>TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)</b> CO	

(1) Based upon 38,834,099 outstanding shares of common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, of the Issuer, as set forth in the Issuer's Prospectus Supplement (which assumes no exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares), filed with the SEC on June 26, 2018 pursuant to SEC Rule 424(b)(5).

**Item 1. Security and Issuer.**

This Amendment No. 1 (the "Amendment") to the statement on Schedule 13D amends the Schedule 13D filed with the SEC on March 27, 2017 (the "Original Schedule 13D") and relates to the common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share (the "Common Stock"), of Aerpio Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Issuer"). The address of the Issuer's principal executive office is 9987 Carver Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242.

On June 26, 2018, the Issuer filed a Prospectus Supplement with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") pursuant to SEC Rule 424(b)(5), in which it reported that it anticipated having 38,834,099 shares of Common Stock outstanding (which assumes no exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares) following completion of the offering, which closed on June 28, 2018. As a result of the reported increase in the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding, the percentage of outstanding shares of Common Stock that the Reporting Persons may be deemed to beneficially own was reduced by more than one percent of the Issuer's shares of Common Stock outstanding since the filing of the Original Schedule 13D.

Except as otherwise described herein, the information contained in the Original Schedule 13D remains in effect. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Amendment shall have the respective meanings set forth with respect thereto in the Original Schedule 13D.

**Item 2. Identity and Background.**

No changes except as described below.

(a) – (c) and (f) The name, business address, present principal occupation or employment and citizenship of the executive officers and members of the Board of Directors of each of the Reporting Persons is set forth on Schedule I hereto and is incorporated herein by reference.

(d) - (e) Neither the Reporting Persons nor, to the best knowledge of each of them, any of the executive officers and members of the Board of Directors of each of the Reporting Persons set forth on Schedule I hereto during the last five years, (i) has been convicted in a criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations or similar misdemeanors) or (ii) was a party to a civil proceeding of a judicial or administrative body of competent jurisdiction and as a result of such proceeding was or is subject to a judgment, decree or final order enjoining future violations of, or prohibiting or mandating activities subject to, federal or state securities laws or finding any violation with respect to such laws.

**Item 3. Source and Amounts of Funds or Other Consideration.**

No changes.

**Item 4. Purpose of Transaction.**

No changes.

**Item 5. Interest in Securities of the Issuer.**

No changes except as described below.

(a) Based on 38,834,099 shares of Common Stock outstanding (which assumes no exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares), as reported in the Issuer's Prospectus Supplement filed with the SEC on June 26, 2018 pursuant to SEC Rule 424(b)(5), the Common Stock held by the Reporting Persons constitutes 14.95% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock of the Issuer.

(b) With respect to the number of shares of Common Stock as to which each Reporting Person has:

(i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote with respect to such shares of Common Stock, please see row 7 of the applicable cover sheet to this Amendment for such Reporting Person;

(ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote with respect to such shares of Common Stock, please see row 8 of the applicable cover sheet to this Amendment for such Reporting Person;

(iii) sole power to dispose or direct the disposition of such shares of Common Stock, please see row 9 of the applicable cover sheet to this Amendment for such Reporting Person; and

(iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of such shares of Common Stock, please see row 10 of the applicable cover sheet to this Amendment for such Reporting Person.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) Not applicable.

**Item 6. Contracts, Arrangements, Understandings or Relationships With Respect to Securities of the Issuer.**

No changes.

**Item 7. Material to be Filed as Exhibits.**

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
<a href="#">99.1</a>	Agreement regarding joint filing of Schedule 13D

## Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief, the undersigned hereby certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: July 9, 2018

NOVARTIS BIOVENTURES LTD.

By: /s/ Bart Dzikowski

Name: Bart Dzikowski

Title: Secretary of the Board

By: /s/ Stephan Sandmeier

Name: Stephan Sandmeier

Title: Authorized Signatory

NOVARTIS AG

By: /s/ Bart Dzikowski

Name: Bart Dzikowski

Title: Authorized Signatory

By: /s/ Campbell Murray

Name: Campbell Murray

Title: Authorized Signatory

SCHEDULE I**DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF  
NOVARTIS AG AND NOVARTIS BIOVENTURES LTD.**Directors and Executive Officers of Novartis AG

The name, function, citizenship and present principal occupation or employment of each of the directors and executive officers of Novartis AG are set forth below. Unless otherwise indicated below, (i) each occupation set forth opposite an individual's name refers to employment with Novartis AG and (ii) the business address of each director and executive officer of Novartis AG is Novartis Campus, Lichtstrasse 35, CH-4056, Basel, Switzerland.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship to Novartis AG</b>	<b>Present Principal Occupation</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
Joerg Reinhardt, Ph.D.	Chairman of the Board of Directors	Chairman of the Board of Directors	German
Enrico Vanni, Ph.D.	Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors	Independent Consultant	Swiss
Nancy C. Andrews, M.D., Ph.D.	Director	Dean Emerita of the Duke University School of Medicine and Vice Chancellor Emerita for Academic Affairs at Duke University; Professor of Pediatrics, Pharmacology and Cancer Biology at Duke University	American
Dimitri Azar, M.D., MBA	Director	Senior Director of Ophthalmological Innovation at Verily Life Sciences; Dean of the College of Medicine and Professor of Ophthalmology, Bioengineering and Pharmacology at the University of Illinois	American
Ton Buechner	Director	Member of the Supervisory Board of Voith GmbH; Former CEO and Chairman of the executive board of AkzoNobel	Dutch
Srikant Datar, Ph.D.	Director	Arthur Lowes Dickinson Professor at the Graduate School of Business Administration at Harvard University	American
Elizabeth (Liz) Doherty	Director	Non-executive director and chairman of the audit committee of Dunelm Group plc; Member of the Supervisory Board and Audit Committee of Corbion NV	British

<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship to Novartis AG</b>	<b>Present Principal Occupation</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
Ann Fudge	Director	Vice Chairman and Senior Independent Director of Unilever NV; Chair of the United States Program Advisory Panel of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Director of Northrop Grumman Corporation	American
Franz van Houten	Director	CEO and Chairman of the Executive Committee and the Board of Management of Royal Philips; Vice-Chairman and Member of the Supervisory Board of Philips Lighting	Dutch
Andreas von Planta, Ph.D.	Director	Board member of Helvetia Holding AG; Chairman of the Regulatory Board of the SIX Swiss Exchange AG	Swiss
Charles L. Sawyers, M.D.	Director	Chair of the Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Professor of Medicine and of Cell and Developmental Biology at the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences; Investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute	American
William T. Winters	Director	CEO and a board member of Standard Chartered	British
Vasant (Vas) Narasimhan, M.D.	Member of the Executive Committee; Chief Executive Officer	Member of the Executive Committee, Chief Executive Officer	American
Steven Baert	Member of the Executive Committee; Head of Human Resources	Member of the Executive Committee, Head of Human Resources	Belgian
Elizabeth (Liz) Barrett	Member of the Executive Committee; CEO, Novartis Oncology	Member of the Executive Committee; CEO, Novartis Oncology	American
Bertrand Bodson	Member of the Executive Committee; Chief Digital Officer	Member of the Executive Committee; Chief Digital Officer	Belgian



<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship to Novartis AG</b>	<b>Present Principal Occupation</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
James (Jay) Bradner, M.D.	Member of the Executive Committee; President, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research	Member of the Executive Committee; President, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research; 250 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA	American
Richard Francis	Member of the Executive Committee; CEO, Sandoz	Member of the Executive Committee; CEO, Sandoz	British
Paul Hudson	Member of the Executive Committee; CEO, Novartis Pharmaceuticals	Member of the Executive Committee; CEO, Novartis Pharmaceuticals	British
Harry Kirsch	Member of the Executive Committee; Chief Financial Officer	Member of the Executive Committee; Chief Financial Officer	German
Shannon Thyme Klinger	Member of the Executive Committee; Group General Counsel	Member of the Executive Committee; Group General Counsel	American
Steffen Lang, Ph.D.	Member of the Executive Committee; Global Head of Novartis Technical Operations	Member of the Executive Committee; Global Head of Novartis Technical Operations	German
John Tsai, M.D.	Member of the Executive Committee; Head of Global Drug Development and Chief Medical Officer	Member of the Executive Committee; Head of Global Drug Development and Chief Medical Officer	American
Robert Weltevreden	Member of the Executive Committee; Head of Novartis Business Services	Member of the Executive Committee; Head of Novartis Business Services	Dutch

Directors and Officers of Novartis Bioventures Ltd.

The name, address, citizenship and present principal occupation or employment of each of the directors and executive officers of Novartis Bioventures Ltd. are set forth below. Unless otherwise indicated below, (i) each occupation set forth opposite an individual's name refers to employment with Novartis Bioventures Ltd. and (ii) the business address of each director and executive officer of Novartis Bioventures Ltd. is Novartis Campus, Lichtstrasse 35, CH-4056, Basel, Switzerland.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship to Novartis Bioventures Ltd.</b>	<b>Present Principal Occupation</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
Prof. Dr. Patrick Aebischer	Chairman of the Board of Directors	President emeritus of the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL); Member of the Board of Directors at Lonza AG, Nestlé S.A. and Logitech International S.A.	Swiss
Dr. Paul Herrling	Director	Vice-President of the Board of the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology (ETH Rat); Professor for Drug Discovery Science at the University of Basel	Swiss
Harry Kirsch	Director	Member of the Executive Committee of Novartis; Chief Financial Officer at Novartis	German
Prof. Dr. Christoph Meier	Director	Chief Medical Officer at the University Hospital Basel; Professor at the Medical Faculty of the University of Geneva	Swiss
Dr. Raj Parekh	Director	General Partner at Advent Life Sciences	British

**Joint Filing Agreement**

In accordance with Rule 13d-1(k)(1) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the undersigned hereby agree to the joint filing with each other on behalf of each of them of such a statement on Schedule 13D (including amendments thereto) with respect to the Common Stock beneficially owned by each of them of Aerpio Pharmaceuticals, Inc. This Joint Filing Agreement shall be included as an Exhibit to such Schedule 13D.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned hereby execute this Joint Filing Agreement as of the 9th day of July, 2018.

NOVARTIS BIOVENTURES LTD.

By: /s/ Bart Dzikowski  
Name: Bart Dzikowski  
Title: Secretary of the Board

By: /s/ Stephan Sandmeier  
Name: Stephan Sandmeier  
Title: Authorized Signatory

NOVARTIS AG

By: /s/ Bart Dzikowski  
Name: Bart Dzikowski  
Title: Authorized Signatory

By: /s/ Campbell Murray  
Name: Campbell Murray  
Title: Authorized Signatory

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