NOVARTIS AG Form 6-K October 11, 2002

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### 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 for date October 11, 2002

# **Novartis AG**

(Name of Registrant)

Lichtstrasse 35
4056 Basel
Switzerland
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

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

Form 20-F ý Form 40-F o

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 o No ý

**Investor Relations** 

**Novartis International AG** 

CH-4002 Basel Switzerland Karen J Huebscher, PH.D. Tel +41 61 324 8433

Nafida Bendali Tel +41 61 324 3514 Sabine Moravi, MBA

Tel + 41 61 324 8989

Silke Zenter

Tel +41 61 324 8612

Francisco Bouzas Tel +41 61 324 8444

Fax + 41 61 324 8844 Internet Address:

http://www.novartis.com

#### INVITATION FOR MEETING, WEBCAST & TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

#### **R&D Day and Q3 2002 Results Review**

#### Dear Investor

We are pleased to invite you to attend the Novartis R&D Day and review of Q3 2002. You may participate in person, via webcast or by teleconference. Please see the preliminary program on page 2.

Date: October 17, 2002

Time: 09.00 a.m. New York

02.00 p.m. UK 03.00 p.m. Switzerland

If attending in person: registration and coffee begin at 8:30 a.m Webcast or dial-in: test connection 10 minutes before program start

Location The Waldorf Astoria Hotel

301 Park Avenue Grand Ballroom (§ Floor; Lexington Ave entrance)

New York, NY 10022

Phone numbers: Switzerland: +41 91 610 4111

United Kingdom: +44 (0) 207-866-4111

Europe Free-phone +800 2467 8700

US: +1 800 860 2442

Canada: 866-519-5086

You may also access the conference call as a live webcast on the Internet at: http://www.novartis.com/investors (under Upcoming Event). This information will be available for tests and for the submission of questions in advance from October 15, 2002.

#### Preliminary Agenda

### All times Eastern Standard/New York

9:00 AM Introduction and Q3 Results

9:15 AM Review of recent product launches

10:35 AM Q&A (in person or via webcast only)

11:00 AM Break

11:30 AM Development/Functional Genomics/Conclusion

1:30 PM Presentations conclude

#### Poster / booth session & luncheon

2:30 PM Therapeutic area breakout sessions (Oncology, Transplant)

[Programs will be taped and posted to the internet site October 18, 2002.]

3:30 PM End of R&D Day

Program presenters will include Daniel Vasella and others from senior management of Novartis.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Internet playback of presentations and therapeutic area breakout sessions may be viewed from the following times at www.novartis.com

Date: Friday, October 18, 2002

Time: 2:00 p.m. Switzerland

I will attend the New York Presentation

1:00 p.m. UK 8:00 a.m. New York

> If you have not responded yet to attend the presentations in person and would like to do so, the reply form is attached for your use.

> > Novartis
> > Pharmaceutical Research & Development Day

Thursday, October 17 The Waldorf Astoria Hotel Grand Ballroom New York, NY

### **Reply Form**

o I will alle the treatment	
o I will follow th	he presentations on the Internet (a test link will be sent to you prior to the R&D Day)
First Name	
Name	
Company	
Job Title	
Country	
Phone	
Fax	
E mail	

To confirm your attendance, please e-mail or fax this form to Novartis Investor Relations by October 10, 2002.

E-mail: gabriella.gruber@group.novartis.com

Fax: +41 61 324 84 44, Attention: Gabriella Gruber

#### **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 11, 2002 By: /s/ MALCOLM B. CHEETHAM

Name: Malcolm B. Cheetham

Title: Head Group Financial Reporting and Accounting

# QuickLinks

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**SIGNATURES**