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

SCHEDULE 13G

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

**Pliant Therapeutics, Inc.**

(Name of Issuer)

**Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share**

(Title of Class of Securities)

**729139 105**

(CUSIP Number)

**August 8, 2022**

(Date of Event which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- Rule 13d-1(b)  
 Rule 13d-1(c)  
 Rule 13d-1(d)

\* 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 ("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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1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS  Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Inc.	
2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (see instructions) (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. SEC USE ONLY	
4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  Delaware	
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	5. SOLE VOTING POWER  0
	6. SHARED VOTING POWER  2,153,526
	7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  0
	8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  2,153,526
9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON  2,153,526	
10. CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (see instructions) <input type="checkbox"/>	
11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)  4.4% (1)	
12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (see instructions)  CO	

(1) Percentage based on 48,681,962 Shares outstanding on August 5, 2022, as reported by the Issuer in its Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on August 8, 2022.

(The terms used above are defined in the Explanatory Note of this Schedule 13G Amendment)

1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS  Novartis AG	
2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (see instructions) (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. SEC USE ONLY	
4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  Switzerland	
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	5. SOLE VOTING POWER  0
	6. SHARED VOTING POWER  2,153,526
	7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  0
	8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  2,153,526
9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON  2,153,526	
10. CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (see instructions) <input type="checkbox"/>	
11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)  4.4% (1)	
12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (see instructions)  CO, HC	

(1) Percentage based on 48,681,962 Shares outstanding on August 5, 2022, as reported by the Issuer in its Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on August 8, 2022.

(The terms used above are defined in the Explanatory Note of this Schedule 13G Amendment)

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This Amendment No. 1 (this "Schedule 13G Amendment") to the Schedule 13G filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on June 15, 2020 is being filed on behalf of Novartis AG, a Swiss corporation ("Novartis AG"), and its wholly owned subsidiary Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("NIBRI", and together with Novartis AG, the "Reporting Persons"), with respect to the common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share (the "Shares"), of Pliant Therapeutics, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Issuer").

Capitalized terms used in this Schedule 13G Amendment which are not defined herein have the meanings given to them in the original Schedule 13G.

**Item 1.****(a) Name of Issuer**

Pliant Therapeutics, Inc.

**(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices**

260 Littlefield Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080

**Item 2.****(a) Name of Person Filing**

This statement is filed on behalf of the following persons with respect to Shares of the Issuer:

(i) NIBRI, a Delaware corporation, with respect to shares held by it; and

(ii) Novartis AG, a Swiss corporation, as the publicly owned parent of NIBRI, with respect to the shares held by NIBRI.

**(b) Address of the Principal Office or, if none, residence**

The address of the principal business office of NIBRI is 250 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139.

The address of the principal business office of Novartis AG is Lichtstrasse 35, 4056 Basel, Switzerland.

**(c) Citizenship**

NIBRI is a corporation organized under the laws of Delaware and is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Novartis AG.

Novartis AG is a corporation organized under the laws of Switzerland and is the publicly owned parent of NIBRI.

**(d) Title of Class of Securities**

Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share.

**(e) CUSIP Number**

729139 105

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**Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to §§240.13d-1(b), or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:**

Not applicable.

**Item 4. Ownership.**

The information required by Items 4(a)-(c) is set forth in Rows 5-11 of the cover pages hereto for each Reporting Person and is incorporated herein by reference for each Reporting Person.

**Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.**

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than 5 percent of the class of securities, check the following .

**Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.**

Not Applicable.

**Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company or Control Person.**

Not Applicable.

**Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.**

Not Applicable.

**Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.**

Not Applicable.

**Item 10. Certification.**

By signing below each party certifies that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

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**SIGNATURES**

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

Dated: August 31, 2022

**NOVARTIS INSTITUTES FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH, INC.**

By: /s/ Scott Brown

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Scott Brown

Title: Vice President, Global Head of NIBR Legal

**NOVARTIS AG**

By: /s/ Charlotte Retzler

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Name: Charlotte Retzler

Title: Authorized Signatory

By: /s/ Theo Straumann

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Name: Theo Straumann

Title: Authorized Signatory

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

Exhibit Number

Exhibit Description

[99.2](#)

[Evidence of Signatory Authority](#)

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**EXHIBIT 99.2**

**EVIDENCE OF SIGNATORY AUTHORITY**

Excerpt from Commercial Register of Novartis AG

Identification number	Legal status	Entry	Cancelled		<b>1</b>
<b>CHE-103.867.266</b>	<b>Limited or Corporation</b>	01.03.1996			

All data

In	Ca	Business name	Ref	Legal seat
1		<b>Novartis AG</b>	1	Basel
1		(Novartis SA) (Novartis Inc.)		

<b>CHE-103.867.266</b>	<b>Novartis AG</b>	<b>Basel</b>	<b>1</b>
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All data

In	Mo	Ca	Personal Data	Function	Signature
8			Retzler, Dr. Charlotte, deutsche Staatsangehörige, in Lörrach (DE)		joint signature at two

<b>CHE-103.867.266</b>	<b>Novartis AG</b>	<b>Basel</b>	<b>1</b>
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All data

In	Mo	Ca	Personal Data	Function	Signature
1			Straumann, Theo, von Seewen, in Seewen		joint signature at two