

ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC

Reported by
SEISER ROBERT A

FORM 4

(Statement of Changes in Beneficial Ownership)

Filed 02/08/17 for the Period Ending 02/07/17

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|-------------|---|
| Address | 616 N. NORTH COURT, SUITE 120 PALATINE, IL 60067 |
| Telephone | 847-705-7709 |
| CIK | 0000786947 |
| Symbol | ACUR |
| SIC Code | 2834 - Pharmaceutical Preparations |
| Industry | Biotechnology & Medical Research |
| Sector | Healthcare |
| Fiscal Year | 12/31 |

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN 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

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person - Seiser Robert A | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC [ACUR] | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) VP, Controller & Treasurer | |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., 616 N. NORTH COURT SUITE 120 | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) 2/7/2017 | | | |
| (Street) PALATINE, IL 60067 | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY) | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | |
| (City) (State) (Zip) | | | | | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Trans. Date | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 3. Trans. 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 | 2/7/2017 | | M | | 1166 | A | \$0.915 | 23311 | D | |
| Common Stock | 2/7/2017 | | F | | 821 (1) | D | \$1.30 | 22490 | D | |

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g. , puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Trans. Date | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Trans. 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 | | 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 of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|-----|---|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |
| Stock Options | \$0.915 (2) | 2/7/2017 | | M | | 1166 | | (3) | 12/7/2026 | Common Stock | 1166 | (4) | 12384 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) Represents payment for exercise price
- (2) Exercise price is closing price of Issuer's common stock on December 8, 2016.
- (3) one-twenty-fourth of shares underlying options vest and are exercisable on the last day of each month commencing December 31, 2016 and ending on November 30, 2018. Option vesting and exercisability is accelerated upon a qualifying change of control.
- (4) Not Applicable.

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Seiser Robert A C/O ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. 616 N. NORTH COURT SUITE 120 PALATINE, IL 60067 | | | VP, Controller & Treasurer | |

Signatures

/s/ Robert A. Seiser

2/8/2017

**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.

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