

ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC

Reported by
EMIGH JAMES F

FORM 4

(Statement of Changes in Beneficial Ownership)

Filed 12/12/16 for the Period Ending 12/08/16

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 *		2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)	
EMIGH JAMES F		ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC [ACUR]		<input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) VP Corporate Development	
(Last) (First) (Middle) C/O ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., 616 N. NORTH COURT, SUITE 120		3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) 12/8/2016			
(Street) PALATINE, IL 60067		4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY)		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)	
(City) (State) (Zip)				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person	

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			

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				
Stock Options	\$0.915 (1)	12/8/2016		A		14000	(2)	12/7/2026	Common Stock	14000	(3)	14000	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) Exercise price is closing price of Issuer's common stock on December 8, 2016.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Not Applicable.

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
EMIGH JAMES F C/O ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. 616 N. NORTH COURT, SUITE 120 PALATINE, IL 60067			VP Corporate Development	

Signatures

/s/ James F. Emigh 12/9/2016

**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.

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 control number.