

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF
SECURITIES

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| OMB APPROVAL | |
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Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

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| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>EMIGH JAMES F</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O ACURA PHARMACUTICALS, INC.</u> <u>616 N. NORTH COURT, SUITE 120</u> (Street) <u>PALATINE IL 60067</u> (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>10/25/2007</u> | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC</u> [<u>ACUR.OB</u>] | |
| | | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>VP Marketing & Administration</u> | |
| | | 5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | |
| | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | |

| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
| <u>Common Stock</u> ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ | <u>1,420,000</u> | <u>D</u> | |

| Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | |
| <u>Employee Stock Options</u> | <u>(3)</u> | <u>03/08/2009</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>16,000</u> | <u>1.125</u> | <u>D</u> | |
| <u>Employee Stock Options</u> | <u>(3)</u> | <u>11/15/2011</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>25,000</u> | <u>2.46</u> | <u>D</u> | |
| <u>Employee Stock Options</u> | <u>(3)</u> | <u>02/17/2010</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>50,000</u> | <u>1.875</u> | <u>D</u> | |
| <u>Employee Stock Options</u> | <u>(3)</u> | <u>05/29/2008</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>10,000</u> | <u>2.5</u> | <u>D</u> | |
| <u>Employee Stock Options</u> | <u>(3)</u> | <u>06/29/2010</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>40,000</u> | <u>1.1125</u> | <u>D</u> | |
| <u>Employee Stock Options</u> | <u>(4)</u> | <u>03/09/2014</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>249,000</u> | <u>0.13</u> | <u>D</u> | |
| <u>Employee Stock Options</u> | <u>(3)</u> | <u>10/13/2008</u> | <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>10,000</u> | <u>1.5</u> | <u>D</u> | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Holdings listed include 45,000 shares of common stock and 1,375,000 Restricted Stock Units. Restricted Stock Units represent rights to an equivalent number of shares of common stock of the Issuer. Upon receipt of Common Stock under the Restricted Stock Units, holders of Restricted Stock Units must pay par value (\$.01) for each share acquired.
2. Restricted Stock Units vest as follows: 458,333 of such units vested upon issuance on 12/22/2005 (the grant date) and approximately 38197.5 (2.7778%) of such units vest on each of the first 24 monthly anniversaries of the grant date. Absent a change of control, 343,750 shares of common stock will be distributed under the Restricted Stock Units (after payment of \$.01 par value per share par value) on January 1st of each of 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. If a change of control occurs (whether prior to or after 2011), one share common stock will be distributed for each outstanding Restricted Stock Unit (after payment of \$.01 per share par value) at or about the time of the change of control.
3. Options are currently exercisable
4. Options vest with respect to 25% of the underlying shares on March 9th of each of 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, and upon the occurrence of certain events. Vested options are exercisable on the earliest of termination of employment, January 1, 2011 and a change of control.

Remarks:

/s/ James Emigh 10/25/2007
** 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 5 (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 Number.