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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act Of 1934

MARCH 30, 2016
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

State of New York	**1-10113**	**11-0853640**
(State of Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

616 N. North Court, Suite 120
Palatine, Illinois 60067
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(847) 705-7709
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17CFR 240.14a-12)

☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17CFR240.14d- 2(b))

☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17CFR 240.13e- 4(c))

Item 8.01 Other Events

On March 30, 2016, the Company announced that its universal shelf registration statement on Form S-3 was declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The universal shelf registration statement permits the Company to offer and sell, from time to time, on a continuous or delayed basis in the future, up to $63.8 million of equity, debt or other types of securities described in the shelf registration statement, or any combination of such securities, in one or more future public offerings. The shelf registration statement replaces the existing shelf registration statement on Form S-3 which was declared effective on March 15, 2013 and which has expired.

The Company believes that the shelf registration statement provides it with continued financial flexibility pursuant to the sale of the registered securities, from time to time. If and when the Company offers any securities under the registration statement, the Company will prepare and make available a prospectus supplement that includes the specific terms of the securities being offered, the use of proceeds and other terms of the offering.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

Exhibit Number	**Description**
99.1	Press Release dated March 30, 2016

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.

ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

By: /s/ Peter A. Clemens
Peter A. Clemens
Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

Date: March 30, 2016

Exhibit Index

Exhibit Number	Description
99.1	Press Release dated March 30, 2016

Exhibit 99.1

ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS'
UNIVERSAL SHELF REGISTRATION STATEMENT DECLARED EFFECTIVE

PALATINE, ILLINOIS, March 30, 2016 – Acura Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NASDAQ: ACUR) today announced that its universal shelf registration statement on Form S-3, as amended, was declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) today.

The universal shelf registration statement permits the Company to offer and sell, from time to time, on a continuous or delayed basis in the future, up to $63.8 million of equity, debt or other types of securities described in the shelf registration statement, or any combination of such securities, in one or more future public offerings. The shelf registration statement replaces the Company's shelf registration statement that was declared effective on March 15, 2013 and which has expired.

"We believe the shelf registration statement provides us with a potential source of capital for corporate purposes, such as for working capital and acquisitions," said Bob Jones, President and Chief Executive Officer of Acura.

If and when the Company offers any securities under the shelf registration statement, the Company will prepare and make available a prospectus supplement that includes the specific terms of the securities being offered, the use of proceeds and other terms of the offering.

This press release does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any of these securities in any state in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities law of any such state.

About Acura Pharmaceuticals
Acura Pharmaceuticals is a specialty pharmaceutical company engaged in the research, development and commercialization of product candidates intended to address medication abuse and misuse, utilizing its proprietary LIMITX™, AVERSION® and IMPEDE® Technologies. LIMITX contains ingredients that are intended to reduce or limit the rate or extent of opioid release when multiple tablets are ingested. AVERSION contains polymers that cause the drug to gel when dissolved; it also contains compounds that irritate the nasal passages if the product is snorted. IMPEDE is designed to disrupt the processing of pseudoephedrine from tablets into methamphetamine.

In June 2011, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved OXAYDO (oxycodone HCl immediate-release tablets) which incorporates the AVERSION technology. On January 7, 2015, we entered into a Collaboration and License Agreement with Egalet Corporation pursuant to which we exclusively licensed to Egalet worldwide rights to manufacture and commercialize OXAYDO. Acura markets NEXAFED® and NEXAFED® Sinus, which are pseudoephedrine containing products that utilize the IMPEDE Technology.

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements in this press release constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements may include, but are not limited to:

- our ability to fund or obtain funding for our continuing operations, including the development of our products utilizing our Limitx™ and Impede® technologies;
- our and our licensee’s ability to successfully launch and commercialize our products and technologies, including Oxaydo® Tablets and our Nexafed® products;
- the pricing and price discounting that may be offered by Egalet for Oxaydo;
- whether we can successfully develop a product under our agreement with Bayer;
- the results of our development of our Limitx™ technology;
- our and our licensee’s ability to obtain necessary regulatory approvals and commercialize products utilizing our technologies;
- the market acceptance of, timing of commercial launch and competitive environment for any of our products;
- the willingness of pharmacies to stock our Nexafed products;
- expectations regarding potential market share for our products;
- our ability to develop and enter into additional license agreements for our product candidates using our technologies;
- our exposure to product liability and other lawsuits in connection with the commercialization of our products;
- the increasing cost of insurance and the availability of product liability insurance coverage;
- the ability to avoid infringement of patents, trademarks and other proprietary rights of third parties;
- the ability of our patents to protect our products from generic competition and our ability to protect and enforce our patent rights in any paragraph IV patent infringement litigation;
- the ability to fulfill the FDA requirements for approving our product candidates for commercial manufacturing and distribution in the United States, including, without limitation, the adequacy of the results of the laboratory and clinical studies completed to date, the results of laboratory and clinical studies we may complete in the future to support FDA approval of our product candidates and the sufficiency of our development process to meet over-the-counter (“OTC”) Monograph standards, as applicable;
- the adequacy of the development program for our product candidates, including whether additional clinical studies will be required to support FDA approval of our product candidates;
- changes in regulatory requirements;
- adverse safety findings relating to our commercialized products or product candidates in development;
- whether the FDA will agree with our analysis of our clinical and laboratory studies;

- whether further studies of our product candidates will be required to support FDA approval;
- whether or when we are able to obtain FDA approval of labeling for our product candidates for the proposed indications and will be able to promote the features of our abuse discouraging technologies; and
- whether Oxaydo or our Aversion and Limitx product candidates will ultimately deter abuse in commercial settings and whether our Nexafed products and Impede technology product candidates will disrupt the processing of pseudoephedrine into methamphetamine.

In some cases, you can identify forward- looking statements by terms such as "may," “will”, "should," "could," "would," "expects," "plans," "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," “indicates”, "projects," predicts," "potential" and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are based on assumptions and subject to risks and uncertainties. Given these uncertainties, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. We discuss many of these risks in greater detail in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Contact:
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