

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*<br><u>Seiser Robert A</u><br><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br><u>C/O ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.</u><br><u>616 N. NORTH COURT SUITE 120</u><br><br>(Street)<br><u>PALATINE</u> <u>IL</u> <u>60067</u><br><br>(City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC [</u><br><u>ACUR ]</u><br><br>3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br><u>08/09/2017</u><br><br>4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)<br><br>Director 10% Owner<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)<br><br><u>VP, Controller &amp; Treasurer</u><br><br>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)<br><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br><br>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. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction 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 Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction 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 (Month/Day/Year) |                 | 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: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |                                      |  |                                |  | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date | Title   | Amount or Number of Shares |  |  |   |  |
| Stock Options                              | \$0.45 <sup>(1)</sup>                                  | 08/09/2017                           |  | A                              | 14,000   | 08/09/2018 <sup>(2)</sup>                                | 08/08/2022      | Common Stock  | 14,000                     | (3)  | 14,000   | D   |  |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Exercise price is closing price of Issuer's common stock on August 9, 2017
2. Option vesting and exercisability is accelerated upon a qualifying change of control.
3. Not Applicable.

Remarks:

/s/ Robert A. Seiser  
\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

08/10/2017  
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 Number.