

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

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **February 9, 2009**

Acura Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

State of New York
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

1-10113
(Commission File Number)

11-0853640
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

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

60067
(Zip Code)

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

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 (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 8.01. Other Events.

On February 9, 2009 we issued a press release announcing the appointment of Dr. Albert W. Brzezcko as our Vice President of Technical Affairs commencing February 9, 2009. A copy of the press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1.

From 1999 through 2009, Dr. Brzezcko was Vice President, Global Pharma New Product Development and Pharma Technologies for International Specialty Products, Inc., a contract services group specializing in the development of technologies for the bioenhancement of poorly soluble drugs. Prior to 1999, Dr. Brzezcko held various positions of increasing responsibility in pharmaceutical product development with UPM Pharmaceuticals, Banner Pharmacaps, Mylan Laboratories, and DuPont Merck. Dr. Brzezcko received a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry and a Ph.D in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Maryland.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release dated February 9, 2009 Announcing the Appointment of Dr. Albert W. Brzezcko as Vice President of Technical Affairs

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Acura Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Dated: February 9, 2009

By: /s/ PETER A. CLEMENS
Peter A. Clemens

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release dated February 9, 2009 Announcing the Appointment of Dr. Albert W. Brzezczko as Vice President of Technical Affairs

Acura Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Names Albert W. Brzeczko, Ph.D. VP, Technical Affairs

PALATINE, Ill., Feb. 9, 2009 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Acura Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq:ACUR) announced that Albert W. Brzeczko, Ph.D. has been named the Company's Vice President, Technical Affairs effective February 9, 2009. From 1999 through 2009, Dr. Brzeczko was Vice President, Global Pharma New Product Development and Pharma Technologies for International Specialty Products, Inc., a contract services group specializing in the development of technologies for the bioenhancement of poorly soluble drugs. Prior to 1999, Dr. Brzeczko held various positions of increasing responsibility in pharmaceutical product development with UPM Pharmaceuticals, Banner Pharmacaps, Mylan Laboratories, and DuPont Merck. Dr. Brzeczko received a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry and a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Maryland.

About Acura Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Acura Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a specialty pharmaceutical company engaged in research, development and manufacture of innovative Aversion(r) (abuse deterrent) Technology and related product candidates.

The Acura Pharmaceuticals, Inc. logo is available at <http://www.globenewswire.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=4847>

CONTACT: Acura Pharmaceuticals
Peter A. Clemens, SVP Investor Relations & CFO
847-705-7709