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**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): **May 17, 2022**

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**ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.**  
(Exact Name of Registrant as specified in its Charter)

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

**1-10113**  
(Commission File Number)

**11-0853640**  
(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)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of Each Class</u>	<u>Trading Symbol(s)</u>	<u>Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered</u>
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	ACUR	OTC Markets Group – OTC Pink Market

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:

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging Growth Company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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**Item 8.01 Other Events.**

Effective May 17, 2022 our common stock was downgraded from the OTCQB Market to the OTC Pink Market of the OTC Markets Group because we did not file our Annual Report on Form 10-K for 2021 within the applicable grace periods provided by the OTC Markets Group. We have also not filed our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the first quarter ended March 31, 2022. Both of these reports could not be filed within the prescribed time period because of delays in the completion of management's evaluation of the Company's liquidity including the ability to meet day-to-day operation obligations.

We need to raise financing or enter into license or collaboration agreements relating to our technologies and we are working on funding solutions for our working capital requirements to fund continued operations and we will proceed as quickly as possible with filing these reports with the SEC and seek to gain relisting on the OTCQB Market. No assurance can be given that the Company will be successful in obtaining such financing and funding solutions or in securing license or collaboration agreements with third parties on acceptable terms, if at all, or if secured, that such financing or license or collaboration agreements will provide payments to the Company sufficient to fund continued operations. In the absence of such financing or third-party license or collaboration agreements, the Company will be required to scale back or terminate operations and/or seek protection under applicable bankruptcy laws. An extended delay or cessation of the Company's continuing product development efforts will have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition and results of operations.

**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: May 19, 2022