

---

---

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

September 5, 2018

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

---

**ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

---

State of New York  
(State of Other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

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)

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 (17CFR240.14d- 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.

---

---

**Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.**

On September 13, 2018 we received a \$300,000 loan from John Schutte, which combined with earlier loans, total \$2.2 million in loans from Mr. Schutte. In connection with the \$300,000 loan, we issued a promissory note, or the Schutte Note, in that principal amount to him. The Schutte Note bears interest at prime plus 2%, and matures on January 2, 2020, at which time all principal and interest is due. Events of Default under the Schutte Note include bankruptcy events and failure to pay interest and principal when due. The note is unsecured until our obligations to Oxford Finance, LLC ("Oxford") have been satisfied in full under the Loan and Security Agreement dated as of December 27, 2013, as amended (the "Loan Agreement") between us, our subsidiary Acura Pharmaceutical Technologies, Inc. ("APT") and Oxford, and thereafter will be secured by a security interest in all of our assets. The Schutte Note may be prepaid in whole or part at any time, provided that prior to the satisfaction of our obligations to Oxford, under the Loan Agreement, any prepayment will require Oxford's consent. These terms are the same as the terms for the \$1.9 million loans previously received from Mr. Schutte.

The funding provided by Mr. Schutte enables us to continue operations into early October 2018, by which time we hope to have entered into a licensing agreement or raised additional funds.

There can be no assurance we will be successful entering into such a licensing arrangement or receive additional financing. In the absence of the receipt of additional financing or adequate payments under license or collaborative agreements by the end of September 2018, we will be required to scale back or terminate operations and/or seek protection under applicable bankruptcy laws. This could result in a complete loss of shareholder value in the Company. Even assuming we are successful in securing additional sources of financing to fund continued operations, there can be no assurance that the proceeds of such financing will be sufficient to fund operations until such time, if at all, that we generate sufficient revenue from our products and product candidates to sustain and grow our operation.

Mr. Schutte is our largest shareholder and directly owns approximately 47.5% of our common stock (after giving effect to the exercise of warrants he holds). Mr. Schutte also controls Mainpointe Pharmaceuticals LLC, or MainPointe. In March 2017, we granted MainPointe an exclusive license to our Impede® technology to commercialize our Nexafed® and Nexafed® Sinus Pressure + Pain Products in the United States and Canada. MainPointe also has options to expand the territory and for other covered products for additional sums.

Mr. Schutte and Oxford previously entered into a subordination agreement, approved by us and APT pursuant to which Mr. Schutte subordinated our obligations under the Schutte Note to our obligations to Oxford under the Loan Agreement.

**Item 2.03 Creation of a Direct Financial Obligation or an Obligation under an Off-Balance Sheet Arrangement of a Registrant.**

The contents of Item 1.01 are incorporated herein by reference.

---

**Item 2.04 Triggering Events That Accelerate or Increase a Direct Financial Obligation or an Obligation under an Off-Balance Sheet Arrangement.**

Acura Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and its subsidiary Acura Pharmaceutical Technologies, Inc. (collectively, "Acura") failed to make a required monthly installment payment of approximately \$260,000 due on or about September 4, 2018, under the Loan Agreement. Such failure constitutes an Event of Default under the Loan Agreement and gives Oxford the right to accelerate payment of all principal and interest due thereunder. Currently, approximately \$1,025,000 million of principal and interest is due on the loan (the initial principal amount of the loan was \$10,000,000), plus a balloon interest payment of \$795,000. If payment is accelerated by Oxford, a prepayment penalty of approximately \$10,200 will also be due. Such loan is secured by substantially all of Acura's assets, including the stock of Acura Pharmaceutical Technologies, Inc., and the occurrence of the Event of Default gives Oxford the right to foreclose on the collateral as well as all other remedies specified in the Loan Agreement. As a result of the occurrence of the Event of Default, the interest rate on the loan is automatically increased from 8.35% to 13.35%. The Company is in discussions with Oxford to present a plan to remedy the default and forestall acceleration although there can be no assurance that these discussions will result in a plan satisfactory to Oxford.

**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: September 14, 2018

---