

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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

OMB Number: 3235-0287

Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5

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 * <u>Boehm Garth</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.</u> <u>616 N NORTH COURT</u> (Street) <u>PALATINE</u> <u>IL</u> <u>60067</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC [</u> <u>ACUR]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>VP Mod. Rel. Dosage Form Dev.</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>05/11/2009</u>	
	4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person 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			
<u>Common Stock</u> ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	<u>05/11/2009</u>		<u>A</u>		<u>24,000</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>24,000</u>	<u>D</u>	

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)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
<u>Stock Options</u>	<u>\$7.1</u> ⁽³⁾	<u>05/11/2009</u>		<u>A</u>		<u>96,000</u>		<u>(4)</u>	<u>05/10/2019</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>96,000</u>	<u>(5)</u>	<u>96,000</u>	<u>D</u>	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Grant is a grant of Restricted Stock Units. Restricted Stock Units represent rights to an equivalent number of shares of Common Stock of the Issuer. Upon issuance of Common Stock under the Restricted Stock Units, holders of Restricted Stock Units must pay par value (\$.01) for each share acquired.
2. Restricted Stock Units vest in 24 equal monthly installments (1,000 Restricted Stock Units per installment) on the eleventh day of each calendar month commencing on June 11, 2009. Absent a change of control, 6,000 shares of common stock will be distributed under the Restricted Stock Units (after payment of \$.01 par value per share) on January 1st of each of 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. If a change of control occurs (whether prior to or after 2011), one share common stock will be distributed for each outstanding Restricted Stock Unit (after payment of \$.01 per share par value) at or about the time of the change of control.
3. Exercise price per share is equal to the closing price of the Issuer's common stock on May 8, 2009, the trading day immediately preceding the May 11, 2009 commencement date of Reporting Person's employment.
4. Option vests and is exercisable in 24 equal monthly installments (at the rate of 4,000 underlying shares per installment) on the eleventh day of each calendar month beginning June 11, 2009.
5. Not Applicable.

Remarks:

/s/ Garth Boehm
** Signature of Reporting Person

05/12/2009
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.