

OMB APPROVAL	
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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>CLEMENS PETER A</u> _____ (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.</u> <u>616 N. NORTH COURT, SUITE 120</u> _____ (Street) <u>PALATINE IL 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 _____ Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) _____ <b>Senior VP &amp; CFO</b>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>02/24/2021</u>	
4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		

**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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	02/24/2021		M		40,000	A	\$0.151	431,197	D	
Common Stock	02/24/2021		F		15,100 <sup>(1)</sup>	D	\$0.4	416,097	D	

**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
Stock options <sup>(3)</sup>	\$0.151 <sup>(2)</sup>	02/24/2021		M			40,000	12/11/2019 <sup>(4)</sup>	12/11/2023	Common Stock	40,000	<sup>(5)</sup>	0	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- Represents payment for exercise price.
- Exercise price is closing price of Issuer's common stock on December 11, 2018.
- Awarded under the Acura Pharmaceuticals Inc. 2016 Stock Option Plan
- 100% of the shares underlying the options vest and are exercisable after one year on December 11, 2019
- Not Applicable.

/s/ Peter A. Clemens

02/25/2021

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

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.