

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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

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

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5

<div>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*</div> <div>WESSON BRUCE F</div> <div>(Last) (First) (Middle)</div> <div>C/O ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.</div> <div>616 N. NORTH COURT, SUITE 120</div> <div>(Street)</div> <div>PALATINE IL 60067</div> <div>(City) (State) (Zip)</div>	<div>2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</div> <div>ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC [ACUR]</div>	<div>5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner</div> <div>Officer (give title below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)</div> <div>Director Emeritus</div>	
	<div>3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)</div> <div>01/02/2024</div>		<div>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person</div> <div>Form filed by More than One Reporting Person</div>
	<div>4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)</div>	<div>Rule 10b5-1(c) Transaction Indication</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10.</div>	

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			
Common Stock	01/02/2024		M ⁽¹⁾		37,500	A	⁽²⁾	829,548 ⁽³⁾	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	Amount or Number of Shares				
Restricted Stock Units (2021 Plan)	⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	01/02/2024		M			37,500	⁽⁵⁾	⁽⁵⁾	Common Stock	37,500	⁽⁶⁾	12,500	D	
Restricted Stock Units (2021 Plan)	⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	01/02/2024		D			12,500	⁽⁷⁾	⁽⁷⁾	Common Stock	0	⁽⁶⁾	0	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Represents exchange of restricted stock units.
2. Par value of \$.01 per share must be paid by Reporting Person upon exchange of Restricted Stock Units for stock
3. Does not include Restricted Stock Units.
4. 1 - for - 1
5. 50,000 Restricted Stock Units were granted on January 3, 2023. 25% of Restricted Stock Units vested on the last day of each of March, June, and September 2023. Restricted Stock Units are being exchanged on a one for one basis for common stock, in each case upon payment of par value.
6. N/A
7. 25% of the 50,000 Restricted Stock Units granted on January 3, 2023 did not vest and were forfeited due to the departure of the Director in September 2023.

/s/ Bruce Wesson

01/02/2024

** 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.