

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

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

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>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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Senior VP and CFO</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>01/25/2011</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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	01/25/2011		M		9,375	A	\$1.3	437,187 <sup>(1)</sup>	D	
Common Stock								2,522	I	by daughter
Common Stock	01/26/2011		P		350	A	\$2.98	2,605	I	by son

**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 Option	\$1.3	01/25/2011		M		9,375		01/01/2011 <sup>(2)</sup>	03/09/2014 <sup>(2)</sup>	Common Stock	9,375	<sup>(3)</sup>	28,125	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- Amount of securities include 352,500 Restricted Stock Units held by Reporting Person. Absent a change of control, shares of common stock will be distributed in exchange for Restricted Stock Units (after payment of \$.01 par value per share) in three equal installments on January 1st of each of 2012, 2013 and 2014.
- Option is exercisable with respect to 9,375 shares commencing January 1, 2011. Remaining portion of option is exercisable (absent a change of control) in three equal installments commencing on January 1 of each of 2012, 2013 and 2014, and each installment must be exercised in year in which it first becomes exercisable.
- Not Applicable

**Remarks:**

/s/ Peter A. Clemens 01/26/2011  
 \*\* 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.

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