

Markham Richard J
 Form 4
 May 11, 2009

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Markham Richard J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC [ACUR]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

47 HULFISH STREET, SUITE 310

05/07/2009

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

PRINCETON, NJ 08542

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | |
| Common Stock | 05/07/2009 | | S | | 12,900 | D | \$ 6.91 | 51,689 I | See footnotes (1) (2) |
| Common Stock | 05/08/2009 | | S | | 10,600 | D | \$ 6.93 | 41,089 I | See footnotes (1) (2) |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Nu |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Markham Richard J 47 HULFISH STREET, SUITE 310 PRINCETON, NJ 08542 | | X | | |

Signatures

/s/ Richard J. Markham 05/11/2009

Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- The reportable securities are owned directly by Care Capital Investments II, L.P. and indirectly by Care Capital II, LLC as general partner of Care Capital Investments II, L.P. The reporting person is a managing member of Care Capital II, LLC. The reporting person is a
- (1) director of the Issuer, but disclaims beneficial ownership of the reportable securities, and this report shall not be deemed an admission that he is the beneficial owner of such securities for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose, except to the extent of its pecuniary interest therein.
 - (2) reporting person is a director of the Issuer, but disclaims beneficial ownership of the reportable securities, and this report shall not be deemed an admission that he is the beneficial owner of such securities for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose, except to the extent of its pecuniary interest therein.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.