

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

August 5, 2021

James E. Brown Chief Executive Officer DURECT Corp. 10260 Bubb Road Cupertino, CA 95014

Re: DURECT Corp.

Registration Statement on Form S-3

Filed July 30, 2021

File No. 333-258333

Dear Mr. Brown:

This is to advise you that we have not reviewed and will not review your registration statement.

Please refer to Rules 460 and 461 regarding requests for acceleration. We remind you that the company and its management are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of their disclosures, notwithstanding any review, comments, action or absence of action by the staff.

Please contact Christine Westbrook at 202-551-5019 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Division of Corporation Finance Office of Life Sciences

cc: Stephen B. Thau, Esq.