



DIVISION OF
CORPORATION FINANCE

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

June 4, 2014

Via E-mail

Richard A. King
President and Chief Executive Officer
AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
351 Galveston Drive
Redwood City, CA 94063

**Re: AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Registration Statement on Form S-3
Filed May 19, 2014
File No. 333-196089**

Dear Mr. King:

We have limited our review of your registration statement to the issue we have addressed in our comment.

Please respond to this letter by amending your registration statement and providing the requested information. Where you do not believe our comment applies to your facts and circumstances or do not believe an amendment is appropriate, please tell us why in your response.

After reviewing any amendment to your registration statement and the information you provide in response to this comment, we may have additional comments.

Exhibit 5.1

1. We note that page 2 of the legal opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1 indicates that the opinion “as to the Debt Securities and the Warrants constituting valid and legally binding obligations of the Company...” is expressed “solely with respect to the laws of the State of New York.” As highlighted in Section II.B.1.e of the Division of Corporation Finance Staff Legal Bulletin No. 19, counsel must also consider the law of the jurisdiction under which the registrant is organized in order to provide the binding obligation opinion. Please revise your legal opinion to confirm that with respect to whether the Debt Securities and Warrants constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Company, counsel considered the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware in addition to the laws of the State of New York. Please file such revised opinion as an exhibit to an amended registration statement.

We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes the information the Securities Act of 1933 and

Richard A. King
AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
June 4, 2014
Page 2

all applicable Securities Act rules require. Since the company and its management are in possession of all facts relating to a company's disclosure, they are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosures they have made.

Notwithstanding our comment, in the event you request acceleration of the effective date of the pending registration statement please provide a written statement from the company acknowledging that:

- should the Commission or the staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, declare the filing effective, it does not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filing;
- the action of the Commission or the staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, in declaring the filing effective, does not relieve the company from its full responsibility for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filing; and
- the company may not assert staff comments and the declaration of effectiveness as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States.

Please refer to Rules 460 and 461 regarding requests for acceleration. We will consider a written request for acceleration of the effective date of the registration statement as confirmation of the fact that those requesting acceleration are aware of their respective responsibilities under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as they relate to the proposed public offering of the securities specified in the above registration statement. Please allow adequate time for us to review any amendment prior to the requested effective date of the registration statement.

Please contact Christina De Rosa at (202) 551-3577, Bryan Pitko at (202) 551-3203 or me at (202) 551-3715 with any other questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Bryan J. Pitko* for

Jeffrey P. Riedler
Assistant Director

cc: Via E-mail
Mark Weeks
Cooley LLP
3175 Hanover Street
Palo Alto, CA 94304