



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

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

March 13, 2013

Via E-mail

Peter A. Clemens  
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary  
Acura Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
616 N. North Court  
Suite 120  
Palatine, IL 60067

**Re: Acura Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Registration Statement on Form S-3  
Filed March 6, 2013  
File No. 333-187075**

Dear Mr. Clemens:

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

If 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.

1. We note that you incorporate by reference your annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012. However, the 10-K incorporates information from the company's proxy statement which has not yet been filed. Please note that we will not be in a position to declare your filing effective until such time as the complete disclosure required by Form 10-K has been filed. Thus, please either amend the 10-K to include Part III information or file the proxy statement. We refer you to Question 123.01 of the Securities Act Forms Compliance and Disclosure Interpretations for more information.

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 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 comments, 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:

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- 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 Austin Stephenson at (202) 551-3192, Daniel Greenspan at (202) 551-3623, or me at (202) 551-3715 with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel Greenspan for

Jeffrey P. Riedler  
Assistant Director

cc: Via E-mail  
John P. Reilly, Esq.  
LeClairRyan