FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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

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

OMB APPROVAL								
OMB Number:	3235-0287							
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Hamel Lawrence G			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS INC [ACRX]					
	st) (First) (Middle) D ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, C., 575 CHESAPEAKE DRIVE		3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/07/2012	X	(Check all applicable) Director 10% O Officer (give title below) (specify below) Chief Development Officer			
(Street) REDWOOD CA 94063 (City) (State) (Zip)			4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person				

	Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned											
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date,	3. Transac Code (Instr. 8)		Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			Securities Beneficially Owned	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership		
			Code	V	Amount (A) or (D) F		Price	Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	(Instr. 4)		

	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. Transac Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number Derivated Security Acquires (A) or Dispost of (D) (Instr. 4, and	rative (Month/Day/Year) rities ired osed . 3,		Date Amount of		Amount of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)		Ownership Form of	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	v	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Stock Option (Right to Buy) (1)	\$ 3.39	02/07/2012		A		51,319		02/07/2013 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	02/06/2022	Common Stock	51,319	\$ 0	51,319	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Issued pursuant to the 2011 Equity Incentive Plan.
- 2. The shares subject to the option vest as follows: 25% of the shares subject to the option vest on the 12 month anniversary of the Vesting Commencement Date (February 7, 2012) and the remaining shares subject to the stock option vest on an equal monthly basis over the following 36 months.
- 3. The shares have double-trigger acceleration on a change of control.

/s/ James Welch, Attorneyin-fact 02/09/2012

** 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.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.