Instruction 1(b).

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

| Washington, I | D.C. | 20549 |
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| hours per response. 0.5 | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | or Section 30(n) of the investment Company Act of 1940 | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Dasu Badri N (First) (Addds) | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS INC ACRX | | ationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer k all applicable) Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify below) below) | | |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O ACELRX PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. 351 GALVESTON DRIVE | | , , | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/11/2021 | | Chief Engineering Officer | | |
| (Street) REDWOOD CITY CA 94063 | | 94063 | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | ridual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | | | | | |

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | | Date | (Month/Day/Year) if any | | | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | Benefic | ties cially Following | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | | | | | Code | v | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | Transa | ction(s) 3 and 4) | | (Instr. 4) | |
| Common | Stock | | 02/11/ | 02/11/2021 | | F | | 6,775(1) | D | \$2.63 | 3 144 | 1,757 ⁽²⁾ | D | |
| Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative | 2. Conversion | 3. Transaction Date | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, | 4. Transaction | 5. Number of | 6. Date Expirat | ion Da | te | 7. Title an | of I | 3. Price of Derivative | 9. Number of derivative | of 10. Ownership | 11. Nature of Indirect |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 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. Transa Code (8) | | of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Date Exerc Expiration Da (Month/Day/Y | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | Code | v | | | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | |

- 1. Represents shares surrendered to the Issuer by the Reporting Person to pay required tax withholdings due to the vesting of RSUs.
- 2. Includes previously reported shares of common stock underlying RSUs granted to the Reporting Person, which are subject to certain vesting conditions.

Remarks:

/s/ Martha Adler, Attorney-In-**Fact**

02/12/2021

** Signature of Reporting Person

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.