

# ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC

Reported by  
**WESSEL THOMAS**

## FORM 3

(Initial Statement of Beneficial Ownership)

Filed 02/12/09 for the Period Ending 02/11/09

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Address     | 420 SAW MILL RIVER ROAD<br>ARDSLEY, NY 10502             |
| Telephone   | 914-347-4300   |
| CIK         | 0001008848   |
| Symbol      | ACOR   |
| SIC Code    | 2836 - Biological Products, Except Diagnostic Substances |
| Industry    | Biotechnology & Drugs                                    |
| Sector      | Healthcare   |
| Fiscal Year | 12/31  |

# FORM 3

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

OMB APPROVAL  
OMB Number: 3235-0104  
Expires: February 28, 2011  
Estimated average burden  
hours per response... 0.5

## INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *<br><b>Wessel Thomas</b> | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement<br>(MM/DD/YYYY)<br><b>2/11/2009</b>   | 3. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><b>ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC [ACOR]</b>  |
| (Last) (First) (Middle)<br><b>15 SKYLINE DRIVE</b>                | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)<br><b>Chief Medical Officer /</b> |  |
| (Street)<br><b>HAWTHORNE, NY 10532</b>                            | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed<br>(MM/DD/YYYY)   | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)<br><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br><input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
| (City) (State) (Zip)  |  |  |

### Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security<br>(Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned<br>(Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership<br>(Instr. 5) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Common Stock (1)</b>            | <b>25000</b>   | <b>D</b>  |  |

### Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned ( e.g. , puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivate Security<br>(Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date<br>(MM/DD/YYYY) |                  | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security<br>(Instr. 4) |                            | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 5) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership<br>(Instr. 5) |
|---|---|------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--|--|
|   | Date Exercisable  | Expiration Date  | Title  | Amount or Number of Shares |  |  |  |
| <b>Employee Stock Option (right to buy)</b> | <b>11/3/2009</b>  | <b>11/3/2018</b> | <b>Common Stock (2)</b>  | <b>50000</b>               | <b>\$21.42</b>   | <b>D</b>   |  |

#### Explanation of Responses:

(1) Restricted Shares issued under the Company's 2006 Employee Incentive Plan

(2) Twenty-five percent of the options will vest after the first year and quarterly thereafter for three years.

#### Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|                                | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
|                                |               |           |         |       |

|   |  |  |                              |  |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Wessel Thomas</b><br><b>15 SKYLINE DRIVE</b><br><b>HAWTHORNE, NY 10532</b> |  |  | <b>Chief Medical Officer</b> |  |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|--|

**Signatures**

/s/ Thomas Wessel

2/12/2009

\*\* 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 5(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 control number.

**LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR  
SECTION 16 REPORTING OBLIGATIONS**

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

**For Executing Forms 3, 4 and 5**

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints each of Ron Cohen, Jane Wasman, David Lawrence, and Jennifer Burstein, or any of them acting singly, and with full power of substitution, the undersigned's true and lawful attorney-in-fact to:

1. prepare, execute in the undersigned's name and on the undersigned's behalf, and submit to the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), a Form ID, including any amendments thereto, and any other documents necessary or appropriate to obtain codes and passwords enabling the undersigned to make electronic filings with the SEC of reports required by Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or any rule or regulation of the SEC;
2. prepare, execute in the undersigned's name and on the undersigned's behalf, and submit to the SEC, Forms 3, 4 and 5, and any amendments thereto, in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules thereunder;
3. do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Form 3, 4 or 5, complete and execute any amendment or amendments thereto, and file such form with the SEC and any stock exchange or similar authority; and
4. take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the interest of, or legally required by, the undersigned, it being understood that the documents executed by such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Power of Attorney shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as such attorney-in-fact may approve in his/her discretion.

The undersigned hereby grants to each attorney-in- fact full power and authority to do and perform all and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary and proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorney-in-fact, or his/her substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this power of attorney and the rights and powers herein granted. The undersigned acknowledges that the foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, are not assuming, nor is Acorda Therapeutics, Inc. assuming, any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4 and 5 with respect to the undersigned's holdings of and transactions in securities issued by Acorda Therapeutics, Inc., unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to the foregoing attorneys-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 13th day of February 2009.

*/s/ Thomas Wessel*

*Thomas Wessel*