ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC

FORM 8-K
(Current report filing)

Filed 07/20/10 for the Period Ending 07/20/10

Address	420 SAW MILL RIVER ROAD
	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

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): **July 20, 2010**

Acorda Therapeutics, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	**000-50513**	**13-3831168**
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

15 Skyline Drive, Hawthorne, NY	**10532**
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(914) 347-4300**

Not Applicable
Former name or former address, if changed since last report

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 8.01 Other Events

On July 20, 2010, Acorda Therapeutics, Inc. ("Registrant") announced that the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has awarded a $1 million Cardiac Translational Research Implementation Program (C-TRIP) grant to support research on Glial Growth Factor 2 (GGF2), a novel investigational agent for the treatment of patients with heart failure under development at Acorda. The grant, supporting both clinical and laboratory studies, was awarded jointly to Acorda and Vanderbilt University Heart and Vascular Institute, which are collaborating on research of GGF2 in heart failure. The first clinical study for GGF2 in patients with heart failure is expected to begin in mid-2010.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

99.1 Press Release dated July 20, 2010

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Acorda
Therapeutics, Inc.

July 20, 2010

By: /s/ David Lawrence
Name: David Lawrence
Title: Chief Financial Officer

Exhibit Index

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press Release dated July 20, 2010

CONTACT:

Jeff Macdonald
Acorda Therapeutics
(914) 347-4300 ext. 232
jmacdonald@acorda.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Acorda Therapeutics Announces Receipt of NIH Grant for Development of GGF2 in Heart Failure

HAWTHORNE, N.Y., July 20, 2010 – Acorda Therapeutics, Inc. (Nasdaq: ACOR) today announced the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has awarded a $1 million Cardiac Translational Research Implementation Program (C-TRIP) grant to support research on Glial Growth Factor 2 (GGF2), a novel investigational agent for the treatment of patients with heart failure under development at Acorda. The grant, supporting both clinical and laboratory studies, was awarded jointly to Acorda and Vanderbilt University Heart and Vascular Institute, which are collaborating on research of GGF2 in heart failure. The first clinical study for GGF2 in patients with heart failure is expected to begin in mid-2010.

“Collaboration is often critical to important scientific advances, and we are excited to be working with Vanderbilt University Heart and Vascular Institute, a leading cardiac treatment and research center, to explore the use of GGF2 in heart failure,” said Anthony Caggiano, M.D., Ph.D., Vice President of Preclinical Development at Acorda.

NHLBI, a division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), provides C-TRIP grants in order to advance research on promising new therapeutics that address unmet medical needs in cardiovascular diseases. The grant will support early phase GGF2 clinical studies. If these studies are successful, Acorda and Vanderbilt will be eligible to apply for a second phase C-TRIP grant of at least $7.5 million.

GGF2, which is one of a family of proteins known as neuregulins, has demonstrated therapeutic effect in a number of preclinical models of cardiovascular and central nervous system conditions. GGF2 acts directly on heart muscle cells, or cardiomyocytes, and is believed to promote the repair of tissue damage resulting from heart disease or injury, improving the heart's ability to contract. It has been shown to improve heart function and survival in preclinical models of heart damage and failure. Currently, damaged heart muscle cells cannot be repaired, so that GGF2 represents a novel approach to treating heart failure.

“Vanderbilt has world-recognized cardiac expertise; Acorda has extensive experience in the development of the neuregulins and in all aspects of drug development. Collaborating under this C-TRIP grant will allow us to leverage our complementary skills toward a common goal of advancing the care of patients with heart failure,” said Doug Sawyer, M.D., Ph.D., Lisa M. Jacobson Professor of Medicine, Vanderbilt University Heart and Vascular Institute.

Dr. Sawyer is the lead primary investigator on the C-TRIP grant; Dr. Caggiano is the co-primary investigator.

About Acorda Therapeutics
Acorda Therapeutics is a biotechnology company developing therapies for multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury and other nervous system disorders. The Company's marketed products include AMPYRA ® (dalfampridine) Extended Release Tablets, 10 mg, a potassium channel blocker approved as a treatment to improve walking in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS); this was demonstrated by an improvement in walking speed; and ZANAFLEX CAPSULES ®(tizanidine hydrochloride), a short-acting drug for the management of spasticity. Because of the short duration of effect, treatment with ZANAFLEX CAPSULES should be reserved for those daily activities and times when relief of spasticity is most important. The Company's pipeline includes a number of products in development for the treatment, regeneration and repair of the spinal cord and brain.

Forward-Looking Statements
This press release includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, regarding management's expectations, beliefs, goals, plans or prospects should be considered forward-looking. These statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially, including Acorda Therapeutics' ability to successfully market and sell Ampyra in the United States and to successfully market Zanaflex Capsules, the risk of unfavorable results from future studies of Ampyra, the occurrence of adverse safety events with our products, delays in obtaining or failure to obtain regulatory approval of Ampyra outside of the United States and our dependence on our collaboration partner Biogen Idec in connection therewith, competition, failure to protect Acorda Therapeutics’ intellectual property or to defend against the intellectual property claims of others, the ability to obtain additional financing to support Acorda Therapeutics' operations, and unfavorable results from our preclinical programs. These and other risks are described in greater detail in

Acorda Therapeutics' filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Acorda Therapeutics may not actually achieve the goals or plans described in its forward-looking statements, and investors should not place undue reliance on these statements. Acorda Therapeutics disclaims any intent or obligation to update any forward-looking statements as a result of developments occurring after the date of this press release.