

ACCELERON PHARMA INC  
Form S-8  
August 20, 2014

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 20, 2014  
Registration No. 333-

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

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
under the  
SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

ACCELERON PHARMA INC.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation or organization)

27-0072226  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

128 Sidney Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139  
(617) 649-9200  
(Address, including Zip Code, of Principal Executive Offices)

Acceleron Pharma Inc. 2013 Employee Stock Purchase Plan  
Acceleron Pharma Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan  
(Full title of the plan)

John L. Knopf, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer and President  
128 Sidney Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139  
(617) 649-9200  
(Name, address and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

with copies to:  
Marc Rubenstein, Esq.  
Ropes & Gray LLP  
Prudential Tower  
800 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02199

John D. Quisel, Ph.D., Esq.  
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary  
Acceleron Pharma Inc.  
128 Sidney Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

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(617) 951-7000

(617) 649-9200

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer” and “smaller reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered (1)	Proposed maximum offering price per share (2)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price (2)	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share	1,408,945	\$ 29.55	\$ 41,634,324.75	\$ 5,362.50

(1) The number of shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share (“Common Stock”), of Acceleron Pharma Inc. (the “Registrant”) stated above consists of (a) 275,000 shares of Common Stock reserved under the Registrant’s 2013 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the “ESPP”); and (b) 1,133,945 additional shares of Common Stock reserved under the Registrant’s 2013 Equity Incentive Plan (the “Option Plan” and together with the ESPP, the “Plans”) as a result of the automatic increase in shares reserved thereunder on January 1, 2014 pursuant to the terms of the Option Plan. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), this Registration Statement covers, in addition to the number of shares stated above, an indeterminate number of shares which may be subject to grant or otherwise issuable after the operation of certain anti-dilution and other provisions of the Plans.

(2) Pursuant to Rules 457(c) and 457(h) of the Securities Act, the proposed maximum offering price is estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee and is based on the average of the high and low market prices for the Common Stock reported on the NASDAQ Global Market as of a date (August 18, 2014) within five business days prior to filing this Registration Statement.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

This Registration Statement registers additional securities of the same class as other securities for which the registration statement filed on Form S-8 (SEC File No. 333-192789) of the Registrant is effective. The information contained in the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-8 (SEC File No. 333-192789) is hereby incorporated by reference pursuant to General Instruction E.

In addition, information required by Part I to be contained in the Section 10(a) prospectus is omitted from this Registration Statement in accordance with Rule 428 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and the Note to Part I of Form S-8.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents filed by the Registrant with the Commission are incorporated herein by reference:

- (1) The Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December, 31, 2013;
- (2) The Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2014;
- (3) The Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, as amended, for the period ended June 30, 2014;
- (4) The Registrant's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on March 4, 2014, April 2, 2014, April 16, 2014, May 5, 2014, June 24, 2014, July 15, 2014 and July 25, 2014; and
- (5) The description of the Registrant's Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share, contained in the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the Commission pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), on September 13, 2013, and any other amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description (File No. 001-36065).

All reports and other documents filed by the Registrant after the date hereof pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and to be part hereof from the date of filing of such reports and documents. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for the purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 145 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware provides as follows:

A corporation shall have the power to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful.

A corporation shall have the power to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and except that no indemnification shall be made with respect to any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent

that the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper.

As permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Registrant's Restated Certificate of Incorporation includes a provision to eliminate the personal liability of its directors for monetary damages for breach of their fiduciary duties as directors, subject to certain exceptions. In addition, the Registrant's Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws provide that the Registrant is required to indemnify its officers and directors under certain circumstances, including those circumstances in which indemnification would otherwise be discretionary, and the Registrant is required to advance expenses to its officers and directors as incurred in connection with proceedings against such officers and directors for which they may be indemnified.

The Registrant has entered into indemnification agreements with its directors and officers. These agreements provide broader indemnity rights than those provided under the Delaware General Corporation Law and under the Registrant's restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws. The indemnification agreements are not intended to deny or otherwise limit third-party or derivative suits against the Registrant or its directors or officers, but to the extent a director or officer were entitled to indemnity or contribution under the indemnification agreement, the financial burden of a third-party suit would be borne by the Registrant, and the Registrant would not benefit from derivative recoveries against the director or officer. Such recoveries would accrue to the Registrant's benefit but would be offset by its obligations to the director or officer under the indemnification agreement.

The Registrant maintains directors' and officers' liability insurance for the benefit of its directors and officers.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

Exhibit Number	Description
4.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Acceleron Pharma Inc. (previously filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the report on Form 8-K filed September 24, 2013 (File No. 001-36065) and incorporated herein by reference)
4.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Acceleron Pharma Inc. (previously filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the report on Form 8-K filed September 24, 2013 (File No. 001-36065) and incorporated herein by reference)
4.3	Form of Common Stock Certificate, \$0.001 par value per share (previously filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the registration statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-190417) and incorporated herein by reference)
4.4	Acceleron Pharma Inc. 2013 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (previously filed as Exhibit 10.20 to the registration statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-190417) and incorporated herein by reference)
4.5	Acceleron Pharma Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan (previously filed as Exhibit 4.4 to the registration statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-192789) and incorporated herein by reference)

- 5.1 Opinion of Ropes & Gray LLP
- 23.1 Consent of Ropes & Gray LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)
- 23.2 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
- 24.1 Power of Attorney (included on the signature page in Part II)

Item 9. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of a prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement; provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) above shall not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Cambridge, Commonwealth of Massachusetts on the 20th day of August, 2014.

ACCELERON PHARMA INC.

By: /s/ John L. Knopf, Ph.D.  
John L. Knopf, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer, President and Director

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints John L. Knopf and Kevin F. McLaughlin, and each of them singly, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution in each of them singly, for him and in his name, place and stead, and in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-8 of Acceleron Pharma Inc., and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting to the attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite or necessary to be done in or about the premises, as full to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that the attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of each of them or their substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ John L. Knopf, Ph.D. John L. Knopf, Ph.D.	Chief Executive Officer, President and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	August 20, 2014
/s/ Kevin F. McLaughlin Kevin F. McLaughlin	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	August 20, 2014
/s/ Jean M. George Jean M. George	Director	August 20, 2014
/s/ George Golumbeski, Ph.D. George Golumbeski, Ph.D.	Director	August 20, 2014
/s/ Edwin M. Kania, Jr. Edwin M. Kania, Jr.	Director	August 20, 2014
/s/ Tom Maniatis, Ph.D. Tom Maniatis, Ph.D.	Director	August 20, 2014



/s/ Terrence C. Kearney Terrence C. Kearney	Director	August 20, 2014
/s/ Terrance G. McGuire Terrance G. McGuire	Director	August 20, 2014
/s/ Richard F. Pops Richard F. Pops	Director	August 20, 2014

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