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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

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**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): **June 4, 2018**

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**ACCELERON PHARMA INC.**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**001-36065**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**27-0072226**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

**128 Sidney Street**  
**Cambridge, MA**  
(Address of principal  
executive offices)

**02139**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(617) 649-9200**

**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))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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**Item 8.01 Other Events.**

On June 4, 2018, Acceleron Pharma Inc. issued a press release titled "Acceleron Announces Updated Results from Ongoing Phase 2 Trials of Luspatercept in Myelodysplastic Syndromes at the ASCO 2018 Annual Meeting."

A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

**(d) Exhibits.**

Exhibit Number	Description of Exhibit
99.1	<a href="#">Press release of Acceleron Pharma Inc. dated June 4, 2018</a>

**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.

**ACCELERON PHARMA INC.**

By: /s/ John D. Quisel, J.D., Ph.D.

John D. Quisel, J.D., Ph.D.

Executive Vice President and Chief Business Officer

Date: June 5, 2018



**Acceleron Announces Updated Results from Ongoing Phase 2 Trials of Luspatercept in Myelodysplastic Syndromes at the ASCO 2018 Annual Meeting**

- *Multiple patients continue on treatment with clinically meaningful increases in hemoglobin and reduction in red blood cell transfusions surpassing 3 years –*
- *Top-line results from the MEDALIST Phase 3 trial are on track for the middle of 2018 –*
- *COMMANDS Phase 3 trial in first-line, lower-risk MDS to be initiated in Q3 2018 –*

**CAMBRIDGE, MA – June 4, 2018** – Acceleron Pharma Inc. (Nasdaq:XLRN), a leading biopharmaceutical company in the discovery and development of TGF-beta therapeutics to treat serious and rare diseases, today announced updated results from the Phase 2 trials of luspatercept in patients with lower-risk myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2018 Annual Meeting in Chicago. Luspatercept is being developed as part of a global collaboration between Acceleron and Celgene.

“The ongoing Phase 2 trials continue to provide important insights into luspatercept’s potential to deliver long-term benefit to thousands of patients with lower-risk MDS,” said Habib Dable, President and Chief Executive Officer of Acceleron. “With multiple patients on treatment for more than three years, we are increasingly confident in luspatercept’s novel mechanism as an erythroid maturation agent to address a significant unmet medical need in lower-risk MDS. We look forward to sharing top-line results from the MEDALIST Phase 3 trial over the next few months.”

Patients with MDS suffer from insufficient production of red blood cells, resulting in chronic anemia that can lead to debilitating fatigue, diminished quality of life and increased mortality. Because MDS-related chronic anemia often fails to respond to unapproved therapies which include erythropoiesis-stimulating agents, many patients require frequent red blood cell transfusions.

**Phase 2 Results**

A total of 101 patients with lower-risk MDS have been treated with luspatercept (dose levels  $\geq 0.75$  mg/kg) in the Phase 2 trials.

- 55% (55 of 101 patients) achieved a clinically meaningful erythroid improvement (IWG HI-E criteria).
- 44% (30 of 68 patients) with a red blood cell (RBC) transfusion burden at baseline achieved RBC transfusion independence (RBC-TI) for at least 8 weeks.
  - The mean duration of treatment for RBC-TI responders was 18.3 months (n=30, ongoing).
- Multiple patients continue on treatment through 40 months, and continue to sustain a clinically meaningful increase in hemoglobin and reduction in transfusion burden.

**Phase 2 Safety Summary**

The majority of adverse events (AEs) were Grade 1 or 2. Grade 3 non-serious AEs possibly related to study drug were ascites, blood bilirubin increase, bone pain, hypertension, mucosal inflammation, platelet count increase, and transformation to AML (previously reported as a blast cell count increase). The Grade 3 non-serious AEs occurred in one patient each, with the exception of hypertension in 2 patients.

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Serious AEs (SAEs) possibly related to study drug were general physical health deterioration, muscular weakness, musculoskeletal pain, and myalgia. The four SAEs occurred in three individual patients.

The ASCO MDS poster presentation is available under the Science page of the Company's website at [www.acceleronpharma.com](http://www.acceleronpharma.com).

Luspatercept is an investigational product that is not approved for any use in any country.

### **About the Ongoing MDS Phase 2 Trials**

Data from two Phase 2 trials were presented at the 2018 ASCO Annual Meeting: the base study in which patients with lower-risk MDS received treatment with luspatercept for three months and the long-term extension study in which patients who completed the base study may receive treatment with luspatercept for up to an additional five years.

### **About Luspatercept**

Luspatercept is a first-in-class erythroid maturation agent (EMA) that regulates late-stage red blood cell maturation. Acceleron and Celgene are jointly developing luspatercept as part of a global collaboration. Phase 3 clinical trials are underway to evaluate the safety and efficacy of luspatercept in patients with MDS (the MEDALIST trial) and in patients with beta-thalassemia (the BELIEVE trial). A Phase 3 trial is being planned in first-line, lower-risk, MDS patients (the COMMANDS trial). The BEYOND Phase 2 trial in non-transfusion-dependent beta-thalassemia and a Phase 2 trial in myelofibrosis are ongoing. For more information, please visit [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov).

### **About Acceleron**

Acceleron is a Cambridge-based, clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the discovery, development, and commercialization of therapeutics to treat serious and rare diseases. The Company's leadership in the understanding of TGF-beta biology and protein engineering generates innovative compounds that engage the body's ability to regulate cellular growth and repair.

Acceleron focuses its research and development efforts in hematologic, neuromuscular, and pulmonary diseases. In hematology, the Company and its global collaboration partner, Celgene, are developing luspatercept for the treatment of chronic anemia in myelodysplastic syndromes, beta-thalassemia, and myelofibrosis. Acceleron is also advancing its neuromuscular franchise with two distinct Myostatin+ agents, ACE-083 and ACE-2494, and a pulmonary program with sotatercept in pulmonary arterial hypertension.

For more information, please visit [www.acceleronpharma.com](http://www.acceleronpharma.com). Follow Acceleron on Social Media: [@AcceleronPharma](https://twitter.com/AcceleronPharma) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/acceleron-pharma).

### **Forward-Looking Statements**

This press release contains forward-looking statements about the Company's strategy, future plans and prospects, including statements regarding the development of the Company's compounds, the timeline for clinical development and regulatory approval of the Company's compounds and the expected timing for reporting of data from ongoing clinical trials. The words "anticipate," "believe," "could," "estimate," "expect," "goal," "intend," "may," "plan," "potential," "project," "should," "target," "will," "would," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words.

Actual results could differ materially from those included in the forward-looking statements due to various risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, that preclinical testing of the Company's compounds and

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data from clinical trials may not be predictive of the results or success of ongoing or later clinical trials, that the development of the Company's compounds will take longer and/or cost more than planned, that the Company or its collaboration partner, Celgene, will be unable to successfully complete the clinical development of the Company's compounds, that the Company or Celgene may be delayed in initiating, enrolling or completing any clinical trials, and that the Company's compounds will not receive regulatory approval or become commercially successful products. These and other risks and uncertainties are identified under the heading "Risk Factors" included in the Company's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, and other filings that the Company has made and may make with the SEC in the future.

The forward-looking statements contained in this press release are based on management's current views, plans, estimates, assumptions and projections with respect to future events, and the Company does not undertake and specifically disclaims any obligation to update any forward-looking statements.

**Contacts:**

Acceleron Pharma Inc.

Todd James, IRC, (617) 649-9393

Vice President, Investor Relations and Corporate Communications

or

Candice Ellis, 617-649-9226

Manager, Investor Relations and Corporate Communications

or

Media:

Matt Fearer, 617-301-9557

Director, Corporate Communications

Source: Acceleron Pharma

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