

PROSPECTUS

Acurx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

2,627,224 Shares of Common Stock

The selling stockholders of Acurx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“Acurx,” “we,” “us” or the “Company”) listed beginning on page 13 of this prospectus may offer and resell under this prospectus (i) up to 1,289,980 shares of our common stock, par value \$0.001 per share (the “common stock”), issuable upon exercise of series A warrants (the “series A warrants”) acquired by certain of the selling stockholders under the Purchase Agreements (defined below), (ii) up to 1,289,980 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of series B warrants (the “series B warrants”) acquired by certain of the selling stockholders under the Purchase Agreements, and (iii) up to 47,264 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of placement agent warrants (the “placement agent warrants” and, together with the series A warrants and the Series B warrants, the “warrants”) acquired by certain of the selling stockholders under the Placement Agent Agreement (defined below). The selling stockholders acquired the warrants from us pursuant to securities purchase agreements (the “Purchase Agreements”), dated July 25, 2022, by and between the Company and each of the purchasers named therein and the co-placement agency agreement, dated July 25, 2022, by and among the Company, A.G.P./Alliance Global Partners and Maxim Group LLC (the “Placement Agent Agreement”).

We are registering the resale of the shares of common stock covered by this prospectus as required by the Purchase Agreements. The selling stockholders will receive all of the proceeds from any sales of the shares of common stock offered hereby. We will not receive any of the proceeds, but we will incur expenses in connection with the offering. To the extent the warrants are exercised for cash, if at all, we will receive the exercise price of the warrants.

The selling stockholders may sell these shares through public or private transactions at market prices prevailing at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. The timing and amount of any sale are within the sole discretion of the selling stockholders. Our registration of the shares of common Stock covered by this prospectus does not mean that the selling stockholders will offer or sell any of the shares. For further information regarding the possible methods by which the shares may be distributed, see “Plan of Distribution” beginning on page 16 of this prospectus.

Our common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol “ACXP.” The last reported sale price of our common stock on September 13, 2022 was \$4.45 per share.

We are an “emerging growth company” under applicable Securities and Exchange Commission rules and, as such, we are subject to reduced public company reporting requirements.

**Investing in our common stock is highly speculative and involves a significant degree of risk. Please consider carefully the specific factors set forth under “Risk Factors” beginning on page 7 of this prospectus and in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

The date of this prospectus is September 22, 2022.

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## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

The registration statement we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) includes exhibits that provide more detail of the matters discussed in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, the related exhibits filed with the SEC, and the documents incorporated by reference herein before making your investment decision. You should rely only on the information provided in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein or any amendment thereto. In addition, this prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed, will be filed or will be incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.”

The selling stockholders named in this prospectus may sell up to 2,627,224 shares of our common stock previously issued and issuable upon exercise of warrants to purchase shares of our common stock from time to time. This prospectus also covers any shares of common stock that may become issuable as a result of share splits, share dividends, or similar transactions. We have agreed to pay the expenses incurred in registering these shares, including legal and accounting fees.

We have not, and the selling stockholders have not, authorized anyone to provide any information or to make any representations other than those contained in this prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference herein or in any free writing prospectuses prepared by or on behalf of us or to which we have referred you. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. The information contained in this prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference herein or in any applicable free writing prospectus is current only as of its date, regardless of its time of delivery or any sale of our securities. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

The selling stockholders are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, shares of our common stock only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The selling stockholders are not making an offer to sell these securities in any state or jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Unless the context otherwise requires, “Acurx,” “ACXP,” “the Company,” “we,” “us,” “our” and similar terms refer to Acurx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

### Industry and Market Data

This prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference herein includes statistical and other industry and market data that we obtained from industry publications and research, surveys and studies conducted by third parties. Industry publications and third-party research, surveys and studies generally indicate that their information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, although they do not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of such information.

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## PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

*The following is a summary of what we believe to be the most important aspects of our business and the offering of our securities under this prospectus. We urge you to read this entire prospectus, including the more detailed consolidated financial statements, notes to the consolidated financial statements and other information incorporated by reference from our other filings with the SEC or included in any applicable prospectus supplement. Investing in our securities involves risks. Therefore, carefully consider the risk factors set forth in any prospectus supplements and in our most recent annual and quarterly filings with the SEC, as well as other information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplements and the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein, before purchasing our securities. Each of the risk factors could adversely affect our business, operating results and financial condition, as well as adversely affect the value of an investment in our securities.*

### Overview

We are a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company developing a new class of antibiotics for infections caused by bacteria listed as priority pathogens by the World Health Organization (“WHO”), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”). Priority pathogens are those which require new antibiotics to address the worldwide crisis of antimicrobial resistance (“AMR”) as identified by the WHO, CDC and FDA. The CDC estimates that, in the U.S., antibiotic-resistant pathogens infect one individual every 11 seconds and result in one death every 15 minutes. The WHO recently stated that growing antimicrobial resistance is equally as dangerous as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, threatens to unwind a century of medical progress and may leave us defenseless against infections that today can be treated easily. According to the WHO, the current clinical development pipeline remains insufficient to tackle the challenge of the increasing emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance.

Our approach is to develop a new class of antibiotic candidates that block the DNA polymerase III enzyme (“Pol III”). We believe we are developing the first Pol III inhibitor to enter clinical trials and have clinically validated the efficacy of our lead antibiotic candidate in a Phase 2a clinical trial. We are currently enrolling patients in a Phase 2b clinical trial. Pol III is the primary catalyst for DNA replication of several Gram-positive bacterial cells. Our research and development pipeline includes clinical stage and early-stage antibiotic candidates that target Gram-positive bacteria for oral and/or parenteral treatment of infections caused by *Clostridium difficile* (“*C. difficile*”), *Enterococcus* (including vancomycin-resistant strains (“VRE”)), *Staphylococcus* (including methicillin resistant strains), and *Streptococcus* (including antibiotic resistant strains).

Pol III is required for the replication of DNA in certain Gram-positive bacterial species. By blocking this enzyme, our antibiotic candidates are believed to be bactericidal and inhibit proliferation of several common gram-positive bacterial pathogens, including *C. difficile*, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (“MRSA”), vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus*, penicillin-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (“DRSP”) and other resistant bacteria.

We intend to “de-risk” this new class of antibiotics through our drug development activities and potentially partner with a fully-integrated pharmaceutical company for late-stage clinical trials and/or commercialization.

Our lead antibiotic candidate, ibezapolstat (formerly named ACX-362E), has a novel mechanism of action that targets Pol III a previously unexploited scientific target. Phase 2a clinical data validate the efficacy of our lead antibiotic candidate as well as Pol III as an appropriate bacterial target.

On December 3, 2021, we commenced enrollment in a Phase 2b 64-patient, randomized (1-to-1), non-inferiority, double-blind trial of oral ibezapolstat compared to oral vancomycin, a standard of care, to treat *C. difficile* infections (“CDI”).

Prior to that, we completed our Phase 2a clinical trial of ibezapolstat to treat patients with CDI and reported the top-line data in November 2020. The Phase 2a clinical trial was terminated early based upon the recommendation of our Scientific Advisory Board (the “SAB”). The SAB reviewed the study data presented by management, including adverse events and efficacy outcomes, and discussed its clinical impressions. The SAB unanimously supported the early termination of the Phase 2a trial after 10 patients were enrolled in the trial instead of 20 patients as originally planned. The early termination was further based on the evidence of meeting the treatment goals of eliminating the infection with an acceptable adverse event profile.

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The SAB noted that 10 out of 10 patients enrolled in the Phase 2a trial reached the Clinical Cure primary endpoint, defined in the study protocol as the resolution of diarrhea in the 24-hour period immediately before the end of treatment that is maintained for 48 hours after end of treatment. Such cure was sustained, meaning that the patients showed no sign of infection recurrence, for 30 days thereafter. This was the secondary endpoint. This outcome constitutes a 100% response rate for the primary and secondary endpoints of the trial. All 10 patients enrolled in the Phase 2a trial met the study's primary and secondary efficacy endpoints, namely, Clinical Cure at end of treatment and Sustained Clinical Cure of no recurrence of CDI at the 28-day follow-up visit. No treatment-related serious adverse events ("SAEs") were reported by the investigators who enrolled patients in the trial. We believe these results represent the first-ever clinical data showing Pol IIC has potential as a therapeutically relevant antibacterial target. Our Phase 2b clinical trial commenced enrollment on December 3, 2021 and we are continuing to enroll patients.

Currently available antibiotics used to treat CDI infections utilize other mechanisms of action. We believe ibezapolstat is the first antibiotic candidate to work by blocking the DNA Pol IIC enzyme in *C. difficile*. This enzyme is necessary for replication of the DNA of certain Gram-positive bacteria, like *C. difficile*.

We also have an early-stage pipeline of antibiotic product candidates with the same previously unexploited mechanism of action which has established proof of concept in animal studies. This pipeline includes ACX-375C, a potential oral and parenteral treatment targeting Gram-positive bacteria, including MRSA, VRE and DRSP.

## Recent Developments

### *Referring Physician Program and Trial Site Expansion*

In July 2022, we launched an innovative patient enrollment acceleration program ("Referring Physician Program") to optimize patient enrollment in our ongoing Ph2b clinical trial of ibezapolstat in patients with CDI. Our newly instituted Referring Physician Program involves principal investigators and study coordinators of our clinical trial sites reaching out to potential Referring Physicians ("RPs") within an approximately twenty-five mile radius of our clinical trial sites. In each case, our scientific team has identified all of these potential RPs as high-prescribing physicians of the most commonly used antibiotics for treatment of *C. difficile* Infection over a recent twelve-month period.

According to the physician prescribing data available to us from an industry-standard source, identified RPs in the aggregate of just fourteen of our currently activated clinical trial sites treated a total of over 30,000 patients in a recent one-year period, suggesting that a substantial number of subjects could potentially be available for referral to one of these fourteen clinical trial sites if the patients qualify. The first tranche of this program has been activated with four of our clinical trial sites and is planned to be followed up later this year with a second tranche of twelve to twenty clinical trial sites as we expand our participating sites from sixteen up to thirty.

We believe the Referring Physician Program, which has a number of other supportive elements, will enhance the rate of enrollment potentially mitigating or partially mitigating the countervailing enrollment disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, in July 2022, we increased the target number of clinical trial sites participating in our Phase 2b clinical trial from a targeted twenty-four clinical trial sites up to thirty clinical trial sites. With sixteen clinical trial sites active and eight more clinical trial sites currently onboarding, our scientific team will target six additional clinical trial sites to participate in the Phase 2b clinical trial.

### *Registered Direct Offering and Concurrent Private Placement*

On July 25, 2022, we entered into securities purchase agreements (the "Purchase Agreements") with David P. Luci, our President and Chief Executive Officer, Robert J. DeLuccia, our Executive Chairman, Carl V. Sailer, a member of our board of directors (collectively, the "Affiliate Investors"), and a single healthcare-focused U.S. institutional investor (the "Investor") pursuant to which we issued and sold in a registered direct offering an aggregate of 1,159,211 shares of our common stock and pre-funded warrants to purchase an aggregate of 130,769 shares of our common stock (the "Registered Direct Offering"). The Affiliate Investors purchased an aggregate of 59,211 shares of common stock at a purchase price of \$3.80 per share. The Investor purchased an aggregate of 1,100,000 shares of common stock at a purchase price of \$3.25 per share and an aggregate of 130,769 pre-funded warrants at a purchase price of \$3.2499 per pre-funded warrant. The pre-funded warrants sold to the Investor have an exercise price of \$0.0001, were immediately exercisable and may be exercised at any time until fully exercised. These securities were offered pursuant to an effective shelf registration statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-265956) previously filed with the SEC on July 1, 2022, and which was declared effective by the SEC on July 11, 2022.

In a concurrent private placement (the "Private Placement" and, together with the Registered Direct Offering, the "Offerings"), we issued to the Affiliate Investors and Investor (i) series A warrants exercisable for an aggregate of 1,289,980 shares of common stock (consisting of series A warrants to purchase up to 1,230,769 shares of common stock for the Investor (the "Investor Series A Warrants") and series A warrants to purchase up to 59,211 shares of common stock for the Affiliate Investors (the "Affiliate Series A Warrants")) at an exercise price of \$3.25 per share for the Investor Series A Warrants and \$3.55 per share for the Affiliate Series A Warrants and (ii) series B warrants exercisable for an aggregate of 1,289,980 shares of common stock (consisting of series B warrants to purchase up to 1,230,769 shares of common stock for the Investor (the "Investor Series B Warrants") and Series B Warrants to purchase up to an aggregate of 59,211 shares of common stock for the Affiliate Investors (the "Affiliate Series B Warrants")) at an exercise price of \$3.25 per share for the Investor Series B Warrants and \$3.55 per share for the Affiliate Series B Warrants. These securities were offered pursuant to the exemption provided in Section 4(a)(2) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and Rule 506(b) promulgated thereunder.

In connection with the Offerings, we entered into a Placement Agent Agreement with A.G.P./Alliance Global Partners and Maxim Group LLC (collectively, the "Placement Agents"), pursuant to which the Placement Agents acted as the exclusive placement agents in connection with the Offerings. Pursuant to the Placement Agent Agreement, we agreed to pay the Placement Agents (i) a fee equal to 7.0% of the aggregate gross proceeds from the Offerings to the Investor and (ii) a fee equal to 3.5% of the aggregate gross proceeds from the Offerings to the Affiliate Investors. In addition to the cash fee, we agreed to issue to the Placement Agents warrants to purchase an aggregate of up to (i) 5.0% of the aggregate number of shares of common stock and shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the pre-funded warrants sold to the Investor in the Registered Direct Offering and (ii) 2.5% of the aggregate number of shares of common stock sold to the Affiliate Investors in the Registered Direct Offering. The placement agent warrants are exercisable for a period commencing January 27, 2023 and expiring July 27, 2027, and have an initial exercise price of \$3.60 per share.

The gross proceeds to us from the Offerings were \$4.2 million and net proceeds after deducting the placement agents' fees and other offering expenses payable by us were approximately \$3.7 million.

## Implication of Being an Emerging Growth Company

We are an "emerging growth company" as defined in the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012, as amended (the "JOBS Act"). We will remain an emerging growth company until the earlier of (1) the last day of the fiscal year following the fifth anniversary of the completion of our initial public offering, (2) the last day of the fiscal year in which we have total annual gross revenues of at least \$1.07 billion, (3) the date on which we are deemed to be a "large accelerated filer" as defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), which would occur if the market value of our common stock held by non-

affiliates exceeded \$700.0 million as of the last business day of our most recently completed second fiscal quarter or (4) the date on which we have issued more than \$1.0 billion in non-convertible debt securities during the prior three-year period. An emerging growth company may take advantage of specified reduced reporting requirements and is relieved of certain other significant requirements that are otherwise generally applicable to public companies. As an emerging growth company,

- we may reduce our executive compensation disclosure;
- we may present only two years of audited financial statements, plus unaudited condensed financial statements for any interim period, and related Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in this Prospectus;
- we may avail ourselves of the exemption from the requirement to obtain an attestation and report from our auditors on the assessment of our internal control over financial reporting pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002; and
- we may not require stockholder non-binding advisory votes on executive compensation or golden parachute arrangements.

We have availed ourselves in this Prospectus of the reduced reporting requirements described above with respect to compensation disclosure requirements and selected financial data. As a result, the information that we provide stockholders may be less comprehensive than what you might receive from other public companies. When we are no longer deemed to be an emerging growth company, we will not be entitled to the exemptions provided in the JOBS Act discussed above. We have not elected to avail ourselves of the exemption that allows emerging growth companies to extend the transition period for complying with new or revised financial accounting standards. This election is irrevocable.

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As a company with less than \$1.0 billion in revenue during our last fiscal year, we qualify as an "emerging growth company."

#### **Smaller Reporting Company**

We are also currently a "smaller reporting company," meaning that we are not an investment company, an asset-backed issuer, or a majority-owned subsidiary of a parent company that is not a smaller reporting company, and have a public float of less than \$250 million or annual revenues of less than \$100 million during the most recently completed fiscal year. In the event that we are still considered a "smaller reporting company," at such time as we cease being an "emerging growth company," the disclosure we will be required to provide in our SEC filings will increase, but will still be less than it would be if we were not considered either an "emerging growth company" or a "smaller reporting company." Specifically, similar to "emerging growth companies," "smaller reporting companies" are able to provide simplified executive compensation disclosures in their filings; are exempt from the provisions of Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act requiring that independent registered public accounting firms provide an attestation report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting; and have certain other decreased disclosure obligations in their SEC filings, including, among other things, only being required to provide two years of audited financial statements in annual reports. Decreased disclosures in our SEC filings due to our status as an "emerging growth company" or "smaller reporting company" may make it harder for investors to analyze our results of operations and financial prospects.

#### **Risks Associated with Our Business**

Our business and our ability to implement our business strategy are subject to numerous risks, as more fully described in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in this prospectus and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, incorporated herein by reference. You should read these risks before you invest in our securities. We may be unable, for many reasons, including those that are beyond our control, to implement our business strategy.

#### **Corporate Information and History**

We were organized as a limited liability company in the State of Delaware in July 2017 and we commenced operations in February 2018 upon acquiring the rights to our lead antibiotic product candidate from GLSynthesis, Inc. Our principal executive offices are located at 259 Liberty Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10305 and our telephone number is (917) 533-1469. Our website address is [www.acurxpharma.com](http://www.acurxpharma.com). The information contained on, or that can be accessed through, our website is not a part of this prospectus. We have included our website address in this prospectus solely as an inactive textual reference. On June 23, 2021, we converted from a Delaware limited liability company into a Delaware corporation pursuant to a statutory conversion, and changed our name to Acurx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

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### **THE OFFERING**

#### **Shares of Common Stock that May be Offered by the Selling Stockholders**

Up to 2,627,224 shares of common stock.

#### **Use of Proceeds**

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the common stock by the selling stockholders. However, if all of the warrants were exercised for cash, we would receive gross proceeds of approximately \$8.6 million. See the section entitled "Use of Proceeds" in this prospectus.

#### **Offering Price**

The selling stockholders may sell all or a portion of their shares through public or private transactions at prevailing market prices or at privately negotiated prices.

#### **Nasdaq Capital Market Symbol**

ACXP

#### **Risk Factors**

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. See "Risk Factors" beginning on page 7 of this prospectus, and any other risk factors described in the documents incorporated by reference herein, for a discussion of certain factors to consider carefully before deciding to invest in our common stock.

Throughout this prospectus, when we refer to the shares of our common stock being registered on behalf of the selling stockholders for offer and sale, we are referring to the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants, each as described under "The Private Placement" and "Selling Stockholders." When we refer to the selling stockholders in this prospectus, we are referring to the selling stockholders identified in this prospectus and, as applicable, their donees, pledgees, transferees or other successors-in-interest selling shares of common stock or interests in shares of common stock received after the date of this prospectus from a selling stockholder as a gift, pledge, partnership distribution or other transfer.

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## RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider and evaluate all of the information contained in this prospectus and in the documents we incorporate by reference into this prospectus before you decide to purchase our securities. In particular, you should carefully consider and evaluate the risks and uncertainties described under the heading “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2021. Any of the risks and uncertainties set forth below and in the Annual Report, as updated by annual, quarterly and other reports and documents that we file with the SEC and incorporate by reference into this prospectus, or any prospectus, could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, which in turn could materially and adversely affect the value of any securities offered by this prospectus. As a result, you could lose all or part of your investment.

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## THE PRIVATE PLACEMENT

On July 25, 2022, we entered into the Purchase Agreements with a single healthcare-focused U.S. institutional investor named therein (the “Investor”), and with each of David P. Luci, our President and Chief Executive Officer, Robert J. DeLuccia, our Executive Chairman, and Carl V. Sailer, a member of our board of directors (collectively, the “Affiliate Investors”) pursuant to which we issued and sold, in a private placement (the “Private Placement”), (i) series A warrants exercisable for an aggregate of 1,289,980 shares of Common Stock (consisting of series A warrants to purchase up to 1,230,769 shares of common stock for the Investor (the “Investor Series A Warrants”) and series A warrants to purchase up to 59,211 shares of common stock for the Affiliate Investors (the “Affiliate Series A Warrants”)) at an exercise price of \$3.25 per share for the Investor Series A Warrants and \$3.55 per share for the Affiliate Series A Warrants and (ii) series B warrants exercisable for an aggregate of 1,289,980 shares of common stock (consisting of series B warrants to purchase up to 1,230,769 shares of common stock for the Investor (the “Investor Series B Warrants”) and Series B Warrants to purchase up to an aggregate of 59,211 shares of common stock for the Affiliate Investors (the “Affiliate Series B Warrants”)) at an exercise price of \$3.25 per share for the Investor Series B Warrants and \$3.55 per share for the Affiliate Series B Warrants. Each series A warrant will be exercisable commencing on January 27, 2023 and will expire five years from the initial exercise date. Each series B warrant will be exercisable commencing on January 27, 2023 and will expire one year from the initial exercise date.

In connection with the Offerings, we entered into a Placement Agent Agreement with the Placement Agents, pursuant to which the Placement Agents acted as the exclusive placement agents in connection with the Offerings. Pursuant to the Placement Agent Agreement, we agreed to pay the Placement Agents (i) a fee equal to 7.0% of the aggregate gross proceeds from the Offerings to the Investor and (ii) a fee equal to 3.5% of the aggregate gross proceeds from the Offerings to the Affiliate Investors. In addition to the cash fee, we agreed to issue to the Placement Agents warrants to purchase an aggregate of up to (i) 5.0% of the aggregate number of shares of common stock and shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the pre-funded warrants sold to the Investor in the Registered Direct Offering and (ii) 2.5% of the aggregate number of shares of common stock sold to the Affiliate Investors in the Registered Direct Offering. The placement agent warrants are exercisable for a period commencing January 27, 2023 and expiring July 27, 2027, and have an initial exercise price of \$3.60 per share.

Pursuant to the terms of the Purchase Agreements, we agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to cause a registration statement on Form S-1 providing for the resale by holders of shares of our common stock issuable upon the exercise of the warrants, to become effective by January 23, 2023 and to keep such registration statement effective at all times.

The foregoing descriptions of the form of Purchase Agreements, the Placement Agent Agreement, the form of series A warrant, the form of series B warrant and the form of placement agent warrant are not complete and are subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the form of Purchase Agreements, the form of Placement Agent Agreement, the form of series A warrant, the form of series B warrant and the form of placement agent warrant, respectively, copies of which are attached as Exhibits 10.1, 1.1, 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4, respectively, to the Current Report on Form 8-K dated July 25, 2022, and are incorporated herein by reference.

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## SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), that relate to future events or our future financial performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to differ materially from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. Words such as, but not limited to, “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “intend,” “may,” “plan,” “potential,” “predict,” “project,” “targets,” “likely,” “will,” “would,” “could,” “should,” “continue,” and similar expressions or phrases, or the negative of those expressions or phrases, are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. Although we believe that we have a reasonable basis for each forward-looking statement contained in this prospectus and incorporated by reference in this prospectus, we caution you that these statements are based on our projections of the future that are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements, to differ. The sections in our periodic reports, including our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as revised or supplemented by our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q or our Current Reports on Form 8-K, entitled “Business,” “Risk Factors,” and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” as well as other sections in this prospectus and the other documents or reports incorporated by reference in this prospectus, discuss some of the factors that could contribute to these differences. These forward-looking statements include, among other things, statements about:

- our ability to obtain and maintain regulatory approval of ibezapolstat and/or our other product candidates;
- our ability to successfully commercialize and market ibezapolstat and/or our other product candidates, if approved;
- our ability to contract with third-party suppliers, manufacturers and other service providers and their ability to perform adequately;
- the potential market size, opportunity and growth potential for ibezapolstat and/or our other product candidates, if approved;
- our ability to build our own sales and marketing capabilities, or seek collaborative partners, to commercialize ibezapolstat and/or our other product candidates, if approved;
- our ability to obtain funding for our operations;
- the initiation, timing, progress and results of our preclinical studies and clinical trials, and our research and development programs;
- the timing of anticipated regulatory filings;
- the timing of availability of data from our clinical trials;
- the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and our response to it;
- the accuracy of our estimates regarding expenses, capital requirements and needs for additional financing;
- our ability to retain the continued service of our key professionals and to identify, hire and retain additional qualified professionals;
- our ability to advance product candidates into, and successfully complete, clinical trials;

- our ability to recruit and enroll suitable patients in our clinical trials and the timing of enrollment;
- the timing or likelihood of the accomplishment of various scientific, clinical, regulatory and other product development objectives;
- the pricing and reimbursement of our product candidates, if approved;
- the rate and degree of market acceptance of our product candidates, if approved;
- the implementation of our business model and strategic plans for our business, product candidates and technology;
- the scope of protection we are able to establish and maintain for intellectual property rights covering our product candidates and technology;
- developments relating to our competitors and our industry;

- the development of major public health concerns, including the novel coronavirus outbreak or other pandemics arising globally, and the future impact of it and COVID-19 on our clinical trials, business operations and funding requirements;
- the volatility of the price of our common stock;
- our financial performance; and
- other factors described from time to time in documents that we file with the SEC.

We may not actually achieve the plans, intentions or expectations disclosed in our forward-looking statements, and you should not place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements. Actual results or events could differ materially from the plans, intentions and expectations disclosed in the forward-looking statements we make. We have included important cautionary statements in this prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, particularly in the “Risk Factors” section, that we believe could cause actual results or events to differ materially from the forward-looking statements that we make. For a summary of such factors, please refer to the section entitled “Risk Factors” in this prospectus, as updated and supplemented by the discussion of risks and uncertainties under “Risk Factors” contained in any supplements to this prospectus and in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as revised or supplemented by our subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q or our Current Reports on Form 8-K, as well as any amendments thereto, as filed with the SEC and which are incorporated herein by reference. The information contained in this document is believed to be current as of the date of this document. We do not intend to update any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this document to conform these statements to actual results or to changes in our expectations, except as required by law.

In light of these assumptions, risks and uncertainties, the results and events discussed in the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus or in any document incorporated herein by reference might not occur. Investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus or the date of the document incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We are not under any obligation, and we expressly disclaim any obligation, to update or alter any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. All subsequent forward-looking statements attributable to us or to any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section.

#### USE OF PROCEEDS

We are not selling any shares of our common stock in this offering and we will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares of our common stock by the selling stockholders. The selling stockholders will receive all of the proceeds from any sales of the shares of our common stock offered hereby. However, we will incur expenses in connection with the registration of the shares of our common stock offered hereby.

We will receive the exercise price upon any exercise of the warrants, to the extent exercised on a cash basis. If all the warrants were exercised for cash, we would receive gross proceeds of approximately \$8.6 million. However, the holders of the warrants are not obligated to exercise the warrants, and we cannot predict whether or when, if ever, the holders of the warrants will choose to exercise the warrants, in whole or in part. Accordingly, any proceeds from such exercise will be used for general corporate purposes and working capital.

#### MARKET FOR COMMON STOCK AND DIVIDEND POLICY

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol “ACXP.” The last reported sale price of our common stock on September 13, 2022 on the Nasdaq Capital Market was \$4.45 per share. As of September 13, 2022, there were 357 stockholders of record of our common stock.

We have never declared or paid any cash dividend on our common stock. We intend to retain any future earnings and do not expect to pay dividends in the foreseeable future.

#### SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

The common stock being offered by the selling stockholders are those issuable to the selling stockholders upon exercise of the warrants. For additional information regarding the issuance of the warrants, see “The Private Placement” above. We are registering the shares of common stock in order to permit the selling stockholders to offer the shares for resale from time to time. Except as described below, to our knowledge, none of the selling stockholders has been an officer or director of ours or of our affiliates within the past three years or has any material relationship with us or our affiliates within the past three years. Our knowledge is based on information provided by the selling stockholders in connection with the filing of this prospectus.

The table below lists the selling stockholders and other information regarding the beneficial ownership of the shares of common stock by each of the selling stockholders. The second column lists the number of shares of common stock beneficially owned by each selling stockholder, based on its ownership of the shares of common stock, options to purchase common stock, and warrants, as of September 1, 2022, assuming exercise of the warrants held by the selling stockholders on that date, without regard to any limitations on exercises. The third column lists the maximum number of shares of common stock that may be sold or otherwise disposed of by the selling stockholders pursuant

to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The selling stockholders may sell or otherwise dispose of some, all or none of their shares. Pursuant to Rules 13d-3 and 13d-5 of the Exchange Act, beneficial ownership includes any shares of our common stock as to which a stockholder has sole or shared voting power or investment power, and also any shares of our common stock which the stockholder has the right to acquire within 60 days of September 1, 2022. The percentage of beneficial ownership for the selling stockholders is based on 11,556,609 shares of our common stock outstanding as of September 1, 2022 and the number of shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise or conversion of convertible securities that are currently exercisable or convertible or are exercisable or convertible within 60 days of September 1, 2022 beneficially owned by the applicable selling stockholder. The fourth column assumes the sale of all of the shares of common stock offered by the selling stockholders pursuant to this prospectus.

Under the terms of the warrants, a selling stockholder may not exercise the warrants to the extent such exercise would cause such selling stockholder, together with its affiliates and attribution parties, to beneficially own a number of shares of common stock which would exceed 4.99% (or for certain holders, 9.99%) of our then outstanding common stock following such exercise, excluding for purposes of such determination shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants which have not been exercised. The number of shares in the second column does not reflect this limitation. The selling stockholders may sell all, some or none of their shares in this offering. See “Plan of Distribution.”

Information about the selling stockholders may change over time. Any changed information will be set forth in an amendment to the registration statement or supplement to this prospectus, to the extent required by law. Unless otherwise noted below, the address of each selling stockholder listed on the table is c/o Acurx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 259 Liberty Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10305.

Name of Selling Stockholder	Beneficial Ownership Prior to the Offering(1)		Maximum Number of Shares of Common Stock To Be Sold Pursuant to this Prospectus	Beneficial Ownership After the Offering(2)	
	Number of Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned Prior to the Offering	Percentage of Outstanding Common Stock(2)		Number of Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned After the Offering	Percentage of Outstanding Common Stock(2)
Armistice Capital Master Fund Ltd. (3)	3,570,361	25.5%	2,461,538	1,108,823	7.8
David P. Luci (4)	1,659,892	13.7%	39,474	1,620,418	11.0
Robert J. DeLuccia (5)	1,643,478	13.5%	39,474	1,604,004	10.9
Carl V. Sailer (6)	176,178	1.5%	39,474	136,704	1.0
A.G.P./Alliance Global Partners+ (7)	16,542	*	16,542	—	—
David Bocchi (8)+	7,089	*	7,089	—	—
Chris Pravecsek (9)	8,034	*	8,034	—	—
Kevin Oleskewicz (10)	1,896	*	1,896	—	—
David Birenbaum (11)	472	*	472	—	—
Harry Ioannou (12)	4,490	*	4,490	—	—
George Anagnostou (13)	4,490	*	4,490	—	—
Zachary Grodtko (14)	945	*	945	—	—
James Tang (15)	472	*	472	—	—
Keith Donofrio (16)	1,890	*	1,890	—	—
Jonathan Kurtin (17)	472	*	472	—	—
Thomas Higgins (18)	472	*	472	—	—

+ This selling stockholder is a broker-dealer or is an affiliate of a broker-dealer and has represented to us that it acquired the securities in the ordinary course of business and that, at the time of such acquisition, it did not have any agreements or understandings, directly or indirectly, with any person to dispose of the securities, other than a commitment by us to register the securities pursuant to a registration statement.

\* Represents less than 1%.

- (1) Assumes all warrants are exercised.
- (2) Assumes that (i) all of the shares of common stock to be registered by the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part are sold in this offering and (ii) the selling stockholders do not acquire additional shares of our common stock after the date of this prospectus and prior to completion of this offering. The percentage of beneficial ownership after the offering is based on 14,183,833 shares of common stock, consisting of (a) 11,556,609 shares of our common stock outstanding on September 1, 2022, and (b) the 2,627,224 shares of our common stock underlying the warrants offered under this prospectus. The number of shares listed do not take into account any limitations on exercise of the warrants.
- (3) Consists of (i) 1,108,823 shares of common stock and (ii) 2,461,538 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants subject to certain beneficial ownership limitations held by the selling stockholder. The shares are directly held by Armistice Capital Master Fund Ltd., a Cayman Islands exempted company (the “Master Fund”), and may be deemed to be indirectly beneficially owned by: (i) Armistice Capital, LLC (“Armistice Capital”), as the investment manager of the Master Fund; and (ii) Steven Boyd, as the Managing Member of Armistice Capital. Armistice Capital and Steven Boyd disclaim beneficial ownership of the shares except to the extent of their respective pecuniary interests therein. The address of Armistice Capital Master Fund Ltd. is c/o Armistice Capital, LLC, 510 Madison Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10022.
- (4) Consists of (i) 1,028,460 shares of common stock, (ii) 56,349 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants and (iii) 525,000 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options within 60 days of September 1, 2022, held by David P. Luci, our President and Chief Executive Officer, (iv) 15,083 shares of our common stock held by Mr. Luci’s spouse and (v) 35,000 shares of our common stock held by Mr. Luci’s child.

- (5) Consists of (i) 1,051,198 shares of common stock, (ii) 63,433 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants and (iii) 525,000 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options within 60 days of September 1, 2022, held by Robert J. DeLuccia, our Executive Chairman, and (iv) 3,847 shares of our common stock held by Mr. DeLuccia’s spouse.

- (6) Consists of (i) 92,815 shares of common stock, (ii) 56,141 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of warrants and (iii) 22,222 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of stock options within 60 days of September 1, 2022, held by Carl V. Sailer, a member of our board of directors and (iv) 5,000 shares of our common stock held by Mr. Sailer's spouse.
- (7) Consists of 16,542 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the placement agent warrants issued to A.G.P./Alliance Global Partners in connection with its role as placement agent in the Private Placement.
- (8) Consists of 7,089 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the placement agent warrants.
- (9) Consists of 8,034 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the placement agent warrants.
- (10) Consists of 1,896 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the placement agent warrants.
- (11) Consists of 472 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the placement agent warrants.
- (12) Consists of 4,490 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the placement agent warrants.
- (13) Consists of 4,490 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the placement agent warrants.
- (14) Consists of 945 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the placement agent warrants.
- (15) Consists of 472 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the placement agent warrants.
- (16) Consists of 1,890 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the placement agent warrants.
- (17) Consists of 472 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the placement agent warrants.
- (18) Consists of 472 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of the placement agent warrants.

#### **Relationship with Certain Selling Stockholders**

Mr. Luci is our co-founder and currently serves as our President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Luci previously served as managing director immediately prior to our initial public offering. Mr. Luci is one of our principal stockholders and has entered into certain agreements with us. For additional information with respect to Mr. Luci's relationship with us please see the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Mr. DeLuccia is our co-founder and currently serves as our Executive Chairman. Mr. DeLuccia previously served as managing partner and director immediately prior to our initial public offering. Mr. DeLuccia is one of our principal stockholders and has entered into certain agreements with us. For additional information with respect to Mr. DeLuccia's relationship with us please see the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Mr. Sailer currently serves as a member of our board of directors. Mr. Sailer has entered into certain agreements with us. For additional information with respect to Mr. Sailer's relationship with us please see the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

#### **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

Each selling stockholder of the securities and any of their pledgees, assignees and successors-in-interest may, from time to time, sell any or all of their securities covered hereby on The Nasdaq Capital Market or any other stock exchange, market or trading facility on which the securities are traded or in private transactions. These sales may be at fixed or negotiated prices. A selling stockholder may use any one or more of the following methods when selling securities:

- ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which the broker-dealer solicits purchasers;
- block trades in which the broker-dealer will attempt to sell the securities as agent but may position and resell a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction;
- purchases by a broker-dealer as principal and resale by the broker-dealer for its account;
- an exchange distribution in accordance with the rules of the applicable exchange;
- privately negotiated transactions;
- settlement of short sales;
- in transactions through broker-dealers that agree with the selling stockholders to sell a specified number of such securities at a stipulated price per security;
- through the writing or settlement of options or other hedging transactions, whether through an options exchange or otherwise;
- a combination of any such methods of sale; or
- any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law.

The selling stockholders may also sell securities under Rule 144 or any other exemption from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), if available, rather than under this prospectus.

Broker-dealers engaged by the selling stockholders may arrange for other brokers-dealers to participate in sales. Broker-dealers may receive commissions or discounts from the selling stockholders (or, if any broker-dealer acts as agent for the purchaser of securities, from the purchaser) in amounts to be negotiated, but, except as set forth in a supplement to this Prospectus, in the case of an agency transaction not in excess of a customary brokerage commission in compliance with FINRA Rule 2121; and in the case of a principal transaction a markup or markdown in compliance with FINRA Rule 2121.

In connection with the sale of the securities or interests therein, the selling stockholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers or other financial



institutions, which may in turn engage in short sales of the securities in the course of hedging the positions they assume. The selling stockholders may also sell securities short and deliver these securities to close out their short positions, or loan or pledge the securities to broker-dealers that in turn may sell these securities. The selling stockholders may also enter into option or other transactions with broker-dealers or other financial institutions or create one or more derivative securities which require the delivery to such broker-dealer or other financial institution of securities offered by this prospectus, which securities such broker-dealer or other financial institution may resell pursuant to this prospectus (as supplemented or amended to reflect such transaction).

The selling stockholders and any broker-dealers or agents that are involved in selling the securities may be deemed to be “underwriters” within the meaning of the Securities Act in connection with such sales. In such event, any commissions received by such broker-dealers or agents and any profit on the resale of the securities purchased by them may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts under the Securities Act. Each selling stockholder has informed the Company that it does not have any written or oral agreement or understanding, directly or indirectly, with any person to distribute the securities.

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The Company is required to pay certain fees and expenses incurred by the Company incident to the registration of the securities. The Company has agreed to indemnify the selling stockholders against certain losses, claims, damages and liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

We agreed to use commercially reasonable efforts to keep this registration statement effective at all times until the selling stockholders no longer own any Warrants or shares of Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of the Warrants.

Under applicable rules and regulations under the Exchange Act, any person engaged in the distribution of the resale securities may not simultaneously engage in market making activities with respect to the Common Stock for the applicable restricted period, as defined in Regulation M, prior to the commencement of the distribution. In addition, the selling stockholders will be subject to applicable provisions of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, including Regulation M, which may limit the timing of purchases and sales of the Common Stock by the selling stockholders or any other person. We will make copies of this prospectus available to the selling stockholders and have informed them of the need to deliver a copy of this prospectus to each purchaser at or prior to the time of the sale (including by compliance with Rule 172 under the Securities Act).

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## DESCRIPTION OF OUR SECURITIES TO BE REGISTERED

The securities to be registered on this registration statement on Form S-1 include up to an aggregate amount of 2,627,224 shares of common stock, consisting of (i) up to 1,289,980 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of series A warrants acquired by certain of the selling stockholders under the Purchase Agreements, (ii) up to 1,289,980 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of series B warrants acquired by certain of the selling stockholders under the Purchase Agreements and (iii) up to 47,264 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of placement agent warrants acquired by certain of the selling stockholders under the Placement Agent Agreement.

### General

The following is a summary of material characteristics of our capital stock as set forth in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, and certain provisions of Delaware law. The following description does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by, and should be read in conjunction with, our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, each of which are filed as exhibits to this Registration Statement and are incorporated herein by reference. The summaries and descriptions below do not purport to be complete statements of the Delaware General Corporation Law (“DGCL”).

### Authorized Capital Stock

Our certificate of incorporation authorizes us to issue 200,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.001 per share.

### Common Stock

*Voting.* The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters on which the holders are entitled to vote (or consent to).

*Dividends.* The holders of our common stock are entitled to receive, ratably, dividends only if, when and as declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available therefor and after provision is made for each class of capital stock having preference over the common stock.

*Liquidation Rights.* In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, the holders of our common stock may be entitled to share, ratably, in all assets remaining available for distribution after payment or provision for payment of all debts and other liabilities and subject to the rights of each class or series of capital stock having preference over, or right to participate with, the common stock.

*Preemptive and Similar Rights.* The holders of our common stock have no preemptive or similar rights.

### Forum Selection

Our certificate of incorporation and our bylaws provide that the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware is the exclusive forum for any derivative action or proceeding brought on our behalf; any action asserting a breach of fiduciary duty; any action asserting a claim against us arising pursuant to the DGCL, our certificate of incorporation or our bylaws; or any action asserting a claim against us that is governed by the internal affairs doctrine. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the exclusive forum provision does not apply to suits brought to enforce any liability or duty created by the Exchange Act, the Securities Act or any other claim for which the federal courts have exclusive jurisdiction. Unless we consent in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the federal district courts of the United States of America shall, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, be the sole and exclusive forum for the resolution of any complaint asserting a cause of action arising under the Securities Act. The choice of forum provision may limit a stockholder’s ability to bring a claim in a judicial forum that it finds favorable for disputes with us or our directors, officers or other employees, which may discourage such lawsuits against us and our directors, officers and other employees.

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## Anti-Takeover Provisions

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that may delay, defer or discourage another party from acquiring control of us. We expect that these provisions, which are summarized below, will discourage coercive takeover practices or inadequate takeover bids. These provisions are also designed to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of us to first negotiate with our board of directors, which we believe may result in an improvement of the terms of any such acquisition in favor of our stockholders. However, they also give our board of directors the power to discourage acquisitions that some stockholders may favor.

*Authorized but unissued shares.* The authorized but unissued shares of our common stock and our preferred stock are available for future issuance without stockholder approval, subject to the requirements of any national securities exchange on which our common stock is listed, should we so qualify for listing. These additional shares may be used for a variety of corporate finance transactions, acquisitions and employee benefit plans. The existence of authorized but unissued and unreserved common stock and preferred stock could make more difficult or discourage an attempt to obtain control of us by means of a proxy contest, tender offer, merger or otherwise.

*Elimination of Stockholder Action by Written Consent.* Our certificate of incorporation will eliminate the right of stockholders to act by written consent without a meeting.

*Special meetings of stockholders.* Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that, except as otherwise required by law or provided by the resolution or resolutions adopted by our board of directors designating the rights, powers and preferences of any series of preferred stock, special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by (a) our board of directors pursuant to a resolution approved by a majority of the total number of our directors that we would have if there were no vacancies or (b) the chair of our board of directors, and any power of our stockholders to call a special meeting is specifically denied.

*Advance notice requirements for stockholder proposals and director nominations.* Our bylaws provide for an advance notice procedure for stockholder proposals to be brought before an annual meeting of stockholders, including proposed nominations of candidates for election to our board of directors. In order for any matter to be “properly brought” before a meeting, a stockholder must comply with advance notice and duration of ownership requirements and provide us with certain information. Stockholders at an annual meeting may only consider proposals or nominations specified in the notice of meeting or brought before the meeting by or at the direction of our board of directors or by a qualified stockholder of record on the record date for the meeting, who is entitled to vote at the meeting and who has delivered timely written notice in proper form to our secretary of the stockholder’s intention to bring such business before the meeting. These provisions could have the effect of delaying stockholder actions that are favored by the holders of a majority of our outstanding voting securities until the next stockholder meeting.

*Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws.* The DGCL provides generally that the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares entitled to vote on any matter is required to amend a corporation’s certificate of incorporation, unless a corporation’s certificate of incorporation requires a greater percentage. Our certificate of incorporation provides that certain provisions of our certificate of incorporation (namely, those provisions relating to (i) directors; (ii) limitation of director liability, indemnification and advancement of expenses and renunciation of corporate opportunities; (iii) meetings of stockholders; and (iv) certain amendments to our certificate of incorporation and bylaws) may not be altered, amended or repealed in any respect (including by merger, consolidation or otherwise), nor may any provision inconsistent therewith be adopted, unless such alteration, amendment, repeal or adoption is approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least sixty-six and two-thirds percent (66 $\frac{2}{3}$ %) of the voting power of all of our then-outstanding shares then entitled to vote generally in an election of directors, voting together as a single class. Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws also provide that approval of stockholders holding sixty-six and two-thirds percent (66 $\frac{2}{3}$ %) of the voting power of all of our then-outstanding shares entitled to vote generally in an election of directors, voting together as a single class, is required for stockholders to make, alter, amend, or repeal any provision of our bylaws. Our board of directors retains the right to alter, amend or repeal our bylaws.

*Classified Board of Directors.* Our certificate of incorporation provides for a classified board of directors consisting of three classes of approximately equal size, each serving staggered three-year terms. Only the directors in one class will be subject to election by a plurality of the votes cast at each annual meeting of stockholders, with the directors in the other classes continuing for the remainder of their respective three-year terms. Stockholders do not have the ability to cumulate votes for the election of directors.

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## Limitations on Liability and Indemnification of Officers and Directors

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws provides indemnification for our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL. We have entered into Indemnification Agreements with each of our directors that may be, in some cases, broader than the specific indemnification provisions contained under the DGCL. In addition, as permitted by the DGCL, our certificate of incorporation and bylaws includes provisions that eliminate the personal liability of our directors for monetary damages resulting from breaches of certain fiduciary duties as a director. The effect of this provision is to restrict our rights and the rights of our stockholders in derivative suits to recover monetary damages against a director for breach of fiduciary duties as a director. These provisions may be held not to be enforceable for violations of the federal securities laws of the United States.

## Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law

We are subject to the provisions of Section 203 of the DGCL. In general, Section 203 prohibits a publicly-held Delaware corporation from engaging in a “business combination” with an “interested stockholder” for a three-year period following the time that such stockholder becomes an interested stockholder, unless the business combination is approved in a prescribed manner. A “business combination” includes, among other things, a merger, asset or stock sale or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder. An “interested stockholder” is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns, or did own within three years prior to the determination of interested stockholder status, 15% or more of the corporation’s voting stock.

Under Section 203, a business combination between a corporation and an interested stockholder is prohibited unless it satisfies one of the following conditions:

- before the stockholder became interested, the board of directors approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;
- upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the voting stock outstanding, shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers, and employee stock plans, in some instances; or
- at or after the time the stockholder became interested, the business combination was approved by the board of directors of the corporation and authorized at an annual or special meeting of the stockholders by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

A Delaware corporation may “opt out” of these provisions with an express provision in its original certificate of incorporation or an express provision in its amended and restated certificate of incorporation or by-laws resulting from a stockholders’ amendment approved by at least a majority of the outstanding voting shares. We have not opted out of these provisions. As a result, mergers or other takeover or change in control attempts of us may be discouraged or prevented.

## Listing

Our common stock will be listed on The Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol “ACXP.”

## Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar of our common stock is VStock Transfer, LLC. They are located at 18 Lafayette Place, Woodmere, New York 11598. Their telephone number is (212) 828-8436.

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## LEGAL MATTERS

Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C., New York, New York, will pass upon the validity of the issuance of the securities to be offered by this prospectus.

## EXPERTS

The financial statements of Acurx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (formerly Acurx Pharmaceuticals, LLC) appearing in Acurx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2021, have been audited by CohnReznick LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon, included therein, and incorporated by reference herein. Such financial statements are incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed a registration statement on Form S-1 with respect to the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus with the SEC in accordance with the Securities Act and the rules and regulations enacted under its authority. This prospectus, which constitutes a part of the registration statement, does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement and its exhibits and schedules. Any statement made in this prospectus concerning the contents of any contract, agreement or other document is only a summary of the actual contract, agreement or other document. If we have filed or incorporated by reference any contract, agreement or other document as an exhibit to the registration statement, you should read the exhibit for a more complete understanding of the document or matter involved. Each statement regarding a contract, agreement or other document is qualified by reference to the actual document. For further information regarding us and the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus, we refer you to the full registration statement, including its exhibits and schedules, filed under the Securities Act.

The SEC maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. Our registration statement, of which this prospectus constitutes a part, can be downloaded from the SEC's website.

We also file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You can read our SEC filings on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

Our website address is <http://www.acurxpharma.com>. There we make available free of charge, on or through the investor relations section of our website, annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with the SEC. The information contained on, or that can be accessed through, our website is not a part of this prospectus, and our reference to the address for our website is intended to be an inactive textual reference only.

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## INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The rules of the SEC allow us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information we file with the SEC. This means that we are disclosing important information to you by referring to other documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, except for any information superseded by information contained directly in this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below (other than any portions thereof, which under the Exchange Act, and applicable SEC rules, are not deemed "filed" under the Exchange Act):

- [our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, filed with the SEC on March 16, 2022;](#)
- [our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2022, filed with the SEC on May 10, 2022](#) and for the [fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2022, filed with the SEC on August 12, 2022;](#)
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on [June 7, 2022](#) and [July 25, 2022](#) (other than Item 9.01); and
- the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on [Form 8-A initially filed on June 23, 2021](#), including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

The SEC file number for each of the documents listed above is 001-40536.

In addition, all documents subsequently filed by us with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, prior to the termination of the offering, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus; provided, however, that all reports, exhibits and other information that we "furnish" to the SEC will not be considered incorporated by reference into this prospectus. If we have incorporated by reference any statement or information in this prospectus and we subsequently modify that statement or information with information contained in this prospectus, the statement or information previously incorporated in this prospectus is also modified or superseded in the same manner.

You may request, orally or in writing, a copy of any or all of the documents incorporated herein by reference. These documents will be provided to you at no cost, by contacting:

Acurx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
259 Liberty Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10305  
Telephone: (917) 533-1469

You may also access these documents on our website, <http://www.acurxpharma.com>. The information contained on, or that can be accessed through, our website is not a part of this prospectus. We have included our website address in this prospectus solely as an inactive textual reference.

You should rely only on information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We are not making offers to sell the securities in

any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation.