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

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**FORM 8-K**

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**CURRENT REPORT**

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

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **March 21, 2012**

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**PACIRA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

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**Delaware**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

**001-35060**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**51-0619477**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**5 Sylvan Way, Suite 100, Parsippany, New Jersey**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**07054**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(973) 254-3560**

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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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 (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- 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))
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**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

On March 21, 2012, the Board of Directors of Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the “Company”), appointed Lauren Riker to the position of Principal Accounting Officer of the Company, effective March 21, 2012.

Ms. Riker, 33, has served as our Executive Director, Accounting and Financial Reporting since May 2011. Prior to joining us, Ms. Riker served as Senior Director of Financial Reporting at Ikaria, Inc. (“Ikaria”), a private critical care biopharmaceutical company, from April 2008 to April 2011, where she was responsible for the oversight, monitoring and review of Ikaria’s financial reporting, technical accounting and stock-based compensation program. From December 2004 to February 2008 Ms. Riker served as the Controller and later the Chief Accounting Officer of Bioenvision, Inc., (“Bioenvision”) a publicly traded biotechnology company. Her responsibilities at Bioenvision included preparation of its financial statements and disclosures in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles and the reporting requirements of the SEC and implementation of internal controls and procedures in compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley. From 2000 to 2004, Ms. Riker worked at KPMG in the Information, Communication and Entertainment sector where she held positions of increasing responsibility, including audit manager. Ms. Riker holds a B.S. in accounting from Boston College and an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School.

The Company and Ms. Riker previously entered into an offer letter on March 17, 2011 (the “Offer Letter”). Pursuant to the terms of her Offer Letter, Ms. Riker is eligible to receive benefits consistent with other employees of the Company. The Offer Letter further provides for “at will” employment, which means the Company or Ms. Riker can terminate her employment at any time, with or without cause. In connection with her acceptance of our offer of employment, Ms. Riker received an option to purchase 40,000 shares of the Company’s stock. In connection with an annual increase to her base salary and effective as of January 1, 2012, Ms. Riker’s base salary was increased from \$206,000.08 to \$211,520.

There are no family relationships between Ms. Riker and any directors or executive officers, or persons nominated or chosen to be directors or executive officers, of the Company. Other than compensation solely resulting from her employment by the Company, there have been no transactions since January 1, 2010, or any currently proposed transaction, in which the Company was or is to be a participant, in which Ms. Riker had or will have a direct or indirect material interest.

A copy of the Offer Letter is filed 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***

99.1 Offer Letter, dated as of March 17, 2011, by and between the Company and Ms. Riker

**SIGNATURE**

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.

PACIRA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

Date: March 23, 2012

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ James Scibetta  
**James Scibetta**  
**Chief Financial Officer**

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
99.1	Offer Letter, dated as of March 17, 2011, by and between the Company and Ms. Riker



March 15, 2011

Ms. Lauren Riker  
71 Main Street  
Glen Rock, NJ 07452

**RE: Employment Terms**

Dear Ms. Riker:

Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ("Pacira Pharmaceuticals" or the "Company") is pleased to offer you full-time regular employment. Your employment terms are confirmed in this letter. Your start date will be on or around April 18, 2011.

**Position and Duties.** Should you accept employment, your job position will be Executive Director, Accounting and Financial Reporting. Your work location will be in Parsippany, NJ. You will initially report to Jim Scibetta, Chief Financial Officer. The Company may change positions, duties, and reporting relationships in its discretion.

**Salary.** We are pleased to offer you a biweekly rate of \$ 7,923.08. If annualized, forty hours per week, this would be equal to \$206,000.08 (Two Hundred and Six Thousand Dollars and Eight Cents). Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc.'s payroll is paid every other Friday. In light of your duties and salary, you will be classified as an exempt employee.

**Equity Incentive Plan.** The Company has implemented a 2011 Stock Incentive Plan for the purpose of providing equity compensation to employees from time to time. The Company reserves the right to add to, change, or cancel benefits in its discretion. Should you accept our offer of employment, you will be eligible to receive an option grant of 40,000 options subject to approval of our board of directors.

**Benefits.** As a full-time regular employee you will be eligible to participate in Company-sponsored benefits, including a discretionary matching 401(k) Salary Savings Plan. The Company reserves the right to add to, change, or cancel benefits in its discretion. Please feel free to speak with Human Resources regarding the specifics of these benefits.

**At-Will Employment.** Your employment with Pacira Pharmaceuticals will be at-will employment, and not for any specified duration. This means that your employment may be terminated by you or by the Company at any time, with or without cause and with or without advance notice. The at-will nature of your employment described in this letter shall constitute

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the entire agreement between you and the Company concerning the duration of your employment and the circumstances under which either you or the Company may terminate the employment relationship. No person affiliated with Pacira Pharmaceuticals has the authority to change the at-will status of employment with Pacira Pharmaceuticals, except in a written agreement, signed by you and the President of Pacira Pharmaceuticals, which expressly states the intention to modify the at-will term of your employment.

By accepting employment, you acknowledge and agree that length of employment, promotions, positive performance reviews, pay increases, bonuses, increases in job duties or responsibilities and other changes during employment while employed by Pacira Pharmaceuticals, will not alter the at-will nature of your employment and will not create any implied agreement requiring cause for termination of employment.

**Employee Confidentiality and Inventions Assignment Agreement.** As a condition of employment, you will be expected to review, sign, and abide by Pacira Pharmaceuticals' Employee Confidentiality and Inventions Assignment Agreement, a copy of which is enclosed with these materials. If you have any questions about this agreement, please contact Human Resources.

**Employment Policies and Procedures.** As an employee of Pacira Pharmaceuticals, you will be expected to comply with all Company policies and procedures as adopted from time to time, including but not limited to such policies as may be adopted in the Company's Employee Handbook.

**Dispute Resolution.** To ensure the rapid and economical resolution of disputes that may arise in connection with your employment, you and the Company agree that any and all disputes, claims, or causes of action, in law or equity, arising from or relating to the enforcement, breach, performance, execution, or interpretation of this Agreement, your employment, or the termination of your employment, shall be resolved, to the fullest extent permitted by law, by final, binding and confidential arbitration in San Diego County, California conducted before a single arbitrator by JAMS, Inc. ("JAMS") or its successor, under the then applicable JAMS rules. By agreeing to this arbitration procedure, both you and the Company waive the right to resolve any such dispute through a trial by jury or judge or by administrative proceeding. The arbitrator shall: (a) have the authority to compel adequate discovery for the resolution of the dispute and to award such relief as would otherwise be permitted by law; and (b) issue a written arbitration decision including the arbitrator's essential findings and conclusions and a statement of the award. The Company shall pay all of JAMS' arbitration fees. Nothing in this letter agreement shall prevent either you or the Company from obtaining injunctive relief in court if necessary to prevent irreparable harm pending the conclusion of any arbitration.

**Future Changes.** We expect that changes and modifications will take place over time in the normal course of business.

**Entire Agreement.** This letter, together with your Employee Confidentiality and Inventions Assignment Agreement, will form the complete and exclusive statement of agreement with Pacira Pharmaceuticals regarding the subject matter hereof. It supersedes any other agreements or promises made to you by anyone, whether oral or written. Any changes in the terms of this

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Agreement, other than changes to at-will employment as specified above, and those changes expressly reserved to the Company's discretion in this letter, require a written modification signed by an officer of Pacira Pharmaceuticals.

If you wish to accept this offer, please sign below and return the fully executed letter to us, along with the enclosed forms. You should keep one copy of this letter for your own records. This offer of employment, if not accepted, will expire immediately.

We are looking forward to having you join us at Pacira Pharmaceuticals. If you have any questions, please call me at (858) 625-2414, extension 3362.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lynette Bowman

Lynette Bowman  
Vice President, Human Resources

Enclosures

I have read the above offer letter, and I hereby accept continued employment under the terms described above.

Dated: 3/17/11

Signature: /s/ Lauren Riker

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