



## POSITION PROFILE:

# Director, Intellectual Property

Acer Therapeutics Inc.  
(Nasdaq: ACER)  
[www.acertx.com](http://www.acertx.com)

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## **Company Overview**

We are a pharmaceutical company focused on the acquisition, development and commercialization of therapies for serious rare and life-threatening diseases with significant unmet medical needs. Acer was founded in 2013, went public in 2017 and raised \$100 million to date. Acer's pipeline includes four programs: ACER-001 (sodium phenylbutyrate) for the treatment of various inborn errors of metabolism, including urea cycle disorders (UCDs) and Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD); EDSIVO™ (celiprolol) for the treatment of vascular Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (vEDS) in patients with a confirmed type III collagen (COL3A1) mutation; ACER-801 (osanetant) for the treatment of induced Vasomotor Symptoms (iVMS); and ACER-2820 (emetine), a host-directed therapy against a variety of infectious diseases, including COVID-19. Each of Acer's product candidates is believed to present a comparatively de-risked profile, having one or more of a favorable safety profile, clinical proof-of-concept data, mechanistic differentiation and/or accelerated paths for development through specific programs and procedures established by the FDA.

The company is led by a management team experienced in the development and commercialization of rare disease therapeutics. Acer's strategy is predicated upon time and cost-efficient drug development, with the goal of delivering safe and effective therapies to patients with the utmost urgency.

Acer has a strong company culture and is committed to creating and maintaining an environment that values individual rights, hard work, fosters creativity, and promotes success. The Company is growing and is fueled by the talent and expertise of our employees and driven by the commitment to treating patients with significant unmet medical needs.

### **Location – United States**

As a part of the Acer team, you will have the opportunity to work where you're most productive. We have offices in Newton, Massachusetts and Bend, Oregon. Some travel, post COVID-19 pandemic, to our East Coast (Newton, MA) and West Coast (Bend, OR) offices may be required, as well as other US meeting locations.

However, most of us work out of a home office, co-working space, in a rainforest, at the beach, on a train, in a plane, you name it, we're there. We're a talented, unconventional and collaborative team that knows no boundaries who are always looking to work smarter and support one another. In addition to ultimate work flexibility, we also provide world-class benefits to support the ongoing health and wellness of our employees and their families.

## **Reporting Relationship**

The Director, Intellectual Property will report to the CLO.

## **Job description**

Acer is seeking a Director, Intellectual Property to join the Legal team. Key responsibilities include:

- Assist CLO, CBO and executive team to shape and take a lead role in implementing IP strategies for each Acer product in the US and in relevant ex-US territories
- Coordinate closely with outside IP counsel to develop, prosecute and maintain Acer's patent applications
- Collaborate with CBO and Corp. Development team to identify innovative IP in-licensing opportunities to complement current product exclusivities
- Engage with internal project teams and outside counsel to facilitate reporting and applications for new patent applications arising from Acer work
- Identify other exclusivity pathway opportunities (Orphan Drug, Hatch-Waxman) working with VP, Regulatory and others
- Review and analyze intellectual property aspects of programs and relevant publications as well as provide landscape and freedom to operate analyses
- Coordinate appropriate trademark applications for Acer products with outside counsel
- Assist CLO and finance group to develop, manage and track the internal IP budget and billing with outside counsel and vendors

The ideal candidate will be a highly organized individual with strong attention to detail and a superior track record and firm understanding of intellectual property protection issues within the life science field, with an emphasis on small molecule pharmaceuticals. The individual should enjoy working in a fast-paced and rapidly growing environment. This is a hands-on role which will give the candidate visibility to all aspects of the organization.

## **Responsibilities**

- Evaluate medical, scientific and commercial developments to determine appropriate intellectual property protection
- Work closely with outside counsel to draft timely filings and patent applications
- Search, review and provide analysis with respect to scope, validity and/or infringement of other parties or patent applications, as necessary, to determine appropriate course of action

- Maintain U.S. and foreign patent prosecution records internally and with outside counsel when necessary. Make recommendations related to patent strategy and prosecution to CLO and executive team as appropriate
- Coordinate with outside counsel and foreign affiliates in drafting patent applications and preparation of responses, declarations and appeal briefs
- Review manuscripts, abstracts, poster presentations and other documentation intended for public dissemination prior to publication to protect Acer inventions, know-how and trade secrets
- Provide input into research and business planning on an ongoing basis, particularly as it relates to supporting current patent prosecution
- Participate in due diligence reviews of possible license and acquisition candidates, with lead role on IP matters
- Represent Acer with a high level of integrity and professionalism
- Adhere to Acer's policies and ethos
- Provide input and support for management decisions and goals in a positive, professional manner

### **Success Factors**

- Ability to work collaboratively and effectively with others in a remote environment
- Ability to assess priorities and work well under pressure; excellent organizational, problem prevention, problem solving and analytical skills
- Outstanding communication skills, both written and verbal
- Ability to operate strategically while executing on day-to-day priorities
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team; ability to motivate self
- Well organized and detail oriented

### **Job Requirements**

- Must hold a JD received with strong academic credentials and be admitted in good standing to a state bar
- Eight or more years of deep experience in patent and intellectual property law in the biotech/pharmaceutical industry required
- Working knowledge of relevant legal and regulatory requirements
- Working knowledge of data protection, trademark, and related laws, including GDPR
- Experience in licensing diligence and transactions a plus
- Undergraduate degree in science-related discipline preferred

## **Compensation**

Acer seeks an individual of exceptional ability and will offer a competitive compensation package commensurate with candidate's individual skills and experience.

## **The Acer Ethos**

We founded Acer on the fundamental mission that we will invest in developing innovative therapies for people impacted by serious rare diseases with significant unmet medical need and make them broadly accessible. In an era when the pharmaceutical industry is making huge strides in advancing therapeutic options for rare conditions, that may not sound atypical. But we believe we have a better way and it will deliver significant value to patients and their caregivers, healthcare systems and society.

Be led by patients, their caregivers and clinicians.

We don't just put patients first, we are fueled by their resilience to adversity. That's why patients and their caregivers lead us in how to think about shaping our drug development programs so that our products will deliver optimal outcomes and earn the commitment of treating clinicians.

We recognize that drugs can offer tremendous benefit to patients and clinicians alike, but often leave both with an incomplete promise. That's why we engage with patient and clinician communities in our targeted pipeline areas and listen to their needs in order to reflect their inputs early and throughout our drug development.

Indeed, such collaboration enables us to solve challenges and design solutions together.

## **Our Core Principles**

1. Obligation to prioritize the Patient & their Family
2. Be Compassionate
3. Respect other's perspectives
4. Responsibility to do what's right – always!
5. Total Transparency
6. Celebrate Diversity
7. Humility
8. Be Courageous
9. Accountability
10. Be Unconventional



We will be accountable to this Ethos and Core Principles. We encourage open and transparent communication that can help us to drive our mission forward. We may seem impatient, but it is only because we want to get there faster. We are in this, together.

Acer is committed to continuously work to create a diverse and inclusive workplace and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. Our goal is to promote a culture where diversity of thought, backgrounds, gender, gender identity, race, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, genetics, disability age or veteran status, is given equal consideration for employment.