UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 8-K

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

March 9, 2021

Date of Report

(Date of earliest event reported)

DURECT CORPORATION

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) 000-31615 (Commission File Number) 94-3297098 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

10260 Bubb Road Cupertino, CA 95014 (Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

(408) 777-1417

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

□ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of Each Class</u> Common Stock \$0.0001 par value per share Preferred Share Purchase Rights

Trading Symbol DRRX Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (The Nasdaq Capital Market) Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§ 230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§ 240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company \Box

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

Item 8.01 Other Events

On March 9, 2021, DURECT Corporation issued a press release announcing the publication of a peer-reviewed research paper describing the binding sites and proposed mechanism of action of its lead drug candidate, an endogenous sulfated oxysterol and epigenetic regulator, DUR-928, in The Journal of Lipid Research. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Form 8-K and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

- 99.1 Press Release of DURECT Corporation dated March 9, 2021
- 104 Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: March 9, 2021

DURECT Corporation

By: /s/ James E. Brown

James E. Brown President and Chief Executive Officer

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