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

December 20, 2004

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.)

10240 Bubb Road

Cupertino, CA 95014

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(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))

Item 8.01 Other Events.

On December 20, 2004, DURECT Corporation, a Delaware corporation (<u>DUREC</u>T), issued a press release announcing the acceptance of the Investigational New Drug Application and clinical protocol by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for a DURIN based leuprolide acetate treatment of Alzheimer's disease under development. A copy of DURECT's press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits

99.1 Press Release of DURECT Corporation dated December 20, 2004

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.

DURECT Corporation

Date: December 22, 2004

By: /s/ James E. Brown

James E. Brown President and Chief Executive Officer

DURECT CORPORATION

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number Description

99.1 Press Release of DURECT Corporation dated December 20, 2004