
**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**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): June 16, 2009

SYNTA PHARMACEUTICALS CORP.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-33277
(Commission File Number)

04-3508648
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**45 Hartwell Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421**
(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(781) 274-8200**

(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))
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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.

(b): On June 16, 2009, Eric W. Jacobson, M.D., Senior Vice President, Clinical Research and Regulatory Affairs, and Chief Medical Officer of Synta Pharmaceuticals Corp. ("Synta") informed Synta of his intention to resign. The effective date of Dr. Jacobson's resignation will be July 10, 2009.

Vojo Vukovic, M.D., Ph.D., Synta's current Vice President, Clinical Research, will become the new Senior Vice President, Clinical Research and Regulatory Affairs, and Chief Medical Officer at Synta, effective July 13, 2009.

A copy of the press release announcing the resignation of Dr. Jacobson and the appointment of Dr. Vukovic as issued on June 19, 2009 is filed as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) The following exhibit is filed with this report:

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release issued on June 19, 2009

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.

SYNTA PHARMACEUTICALS CORP.

Dated: June 19, 2009

/s/ Keith S. Ehrlich
Keith S. Ehrlich
Vice President, Finance and Administration
Chief Financial Officer



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**Synta Pharmaceuticals Names Vojo Vukovic, M.D., Ph.D. Senior Vice President
and Chief Medical Officer**

*Brings 17 years oncology drug development experience
in over 100 clinical trials in multiple tumor indications to role of CMO*

LEXINGTON, MA — June 19, 2009 — Synta Pharmaceuticals Corp. (NASDAQ: SNTA), a biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering, developing, and commercializing small molecule drugs to treat severe medical conditions, today announced that Vojo Vukovic, M.D., Ph.D. has been appointed Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Synta Pharmaceuticals. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Vukovic was Vice President, Clinical Research at Synta, a position he has held since January, 2009. Eric Jacobson, M.D., recently announced his resignation as Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, and will be leaving Synta after a brief transition period.

“Vojo’s experience in all stages of clinical development in a wide range of cancer indications will be invaluable to Synta as we advance STA-9090 in the clinic and as we complete our analyses for elesclomol,” said Safi Bahcall, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, Synta. “In addition to his clinical experience, Vojo’s research background in tumor biology will be an important advantage in advancing the translational science aspects of each of our programs. Vojo has demonstrated strong leadership working on our Hsp90 program to date, and I expect a smooth transition in his new role.”

In addition to the on-going trials of STA-9090, Synta will be initiating a second, once-weekly dosing Phase 2 trial in hematologic cancers in the second half of the year, and expects to initiate several new Phase 2 clinical trials in solid tumors in 2009 and early 2010. More details regarding these trials will be announced later this year. Trials of elesclomol are currently on hold pending the completion of analyses of the results of the Phase 3 SYMMETRY trial in metastatic melanoma.

Dr. Bahcall thanked Dr. Jacobson for his contributions to Synta over the past four years. “Eric has been a strong leader for our clinical team who has earned the respect and admiration of all of us at Synta as well as the many clinicians with whom he has worked on a variety of clinical trials in oncology and inflammatory disease. He will be missed by all of us at Synta and we wish him well in his future endeavors.”

Dr. Vukovic joined Synta as Vice President, Clinical Research with 17 years experience in oncology drug development. Prior to Synta, he was Global Medical Lead for Sutent® and axitinib in a number of cancer indications at Pfizer. Prior to Pfizer, he served in key medical and regulatory roles at Aventis Pasteur, Ortho Biotech, ILEX Oncology, and BioNumerik Pharmaceuticals. Over the course of his career, Dr. Vukovic has been responsible for over 100 Phase 1 to Phase 4 clinical studies in cancer indications including melanoma, tumors of the lung, pancreas, breast, colorectal, ovarian, brain, as well as NHL and certain leukemias. Prior

to his industry career, Dr. Vukovic was a post-doctoral fellow at the Ontario Cancer Institute, Toronto in Ontario and Institute for Cell Biology in Essen, Germany where he conducted basic and translational research in solid tumor microenvironments and oxidative stress.

About Synta Pharmaceuticals

Synta Pharmaceuticals Corp. is a biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering, developing, and commercializing small molecule drugs to extend and enhance the lives of patients with severe medical conditions, including cancer and chronic inflammatory diseases. Synta has a unique chemical compound library, an integrated discovery engine, and a diverse pipeline of clinical- and preclinical-stage drug candidates with distinct mechanisms of action and novel chemical structures. All Synta drug candidates were invented by Synta scientists using our compound library and discovery capabilities. For more information, please visit www.syntapharma.com.

Safe Harbor Statement

This media release may contain forward-looking statements about Synta Pharmaceuticals Corp. Such forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as “will”, “would”, “should”, “expects”, “anticipates”, “intends”, “plans”, “believes”, “may”, “estimates”, “predicts”, “projects”, or similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. Such statements, including statements relating to the timing, developments and progress of our clinical and preclinical programs, reflect our current views with respect to future events and are based on assumptions and subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements, including those described in “Risk Factors” of our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Synta undertakes no obligation to publicly update forward-looking statements, whether because of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

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