
**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): **December 20, 2013**

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 8.01 Other Events.

On December 20, 2013, Synta Pharmaceuticals Corp. issued a press release announcing the appointment of Steven Bernitz as Senior Vice President, Corporate Development. A copy of the press release 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.

Exhibit Number	Description
99.1	Press Release, dated December 20, 2013

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: December 20, 2013

/s/ Keith S. Ehrlich

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

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press Release, dated December 20, 2013



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45 Hartwell Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421

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www.syntapharma.com

Synta Announces Appointment of Steven Bernitz as Senior Vice President, Corporate Development

LEXINGTON, MA — December 20, 2013 — Synta Pharmaceuticals Corp. (NASDAQ: SNTA) today announced the appointment of Steven Bernitz as Senior Vice President, Corporate Development.

Prior to Synta, Mr. Bernitz was a General Partner and Head of the BioPharma Practice at Extera Partners, a business development advisory firm. At Extera, he led numerous business development and strategy initiatives for development stage companies and their investors, principally in oncology, autoimmune and orphan diseases.

Prior to joining Extera in 2010, Mr. Bernitz was Chief Business Officer at Concert Pharmaceuticals where he led Concert's \$1 billion deal with GlaxoSmithKline, and prior to Concert he was Senior Vice President, Business and Product Development at Coley Pharmaceutical Group, where he led numerous transactions including Coley's \$600 million oncology deal with Pfizer. Mr. Bernitz has also been CEO of Histogenics and Organogenesis, both cell therapy companies, and earlier in his career was with Merck Vaccines and McKinsey & Co.

"Steve has tremendous deal experience, as is clear from his track record. He will be a great addition to us as we ramp up our growing pipeline," said Safi Bahcall, President and CEO, Synta. "He will also be a terrific addition to the Executive Team — adding a wealth of diverse business experiences and insights that will help us drive our strategy and operational plans."

"Synta has the potential to make a huge difference in the lives of cancer patients," said Mr. Bernitz. "Both ganetespib and the HDC platform represent enormous opportunities for improving cancer therapy and creating shareholder value, and I am excited to help this become a reality."

Mr. Bernitz earned his MBA from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University where he was an Austin Scholar, and his B.S. *summa cum laude* from Tufts University where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

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

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