

Edgar Filing: Aclaris Therapeutics, Inc. - Form SC 13G/A

Aclaris Therapeutics, Inc.  
Form SC 13G/A  
January 25, 2019

CUSIP NO. 00461U105  
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13G

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. 4) \*

ACLARIS THERAPEUTICS, INC.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, \$0.00001 par value

(Title of Class of Securities)

00461U105

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2018

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(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

☒ Rule 13d 1(b)

☐ Rule 13d 1(c)

☐ Rule 13d 1(d)

\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial

filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any

subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in

a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be

"filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or

otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to

all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS.

Franklin Resources, Inc.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)

(b) X

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

(See Item 4)

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

(See Item 4)

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

(See Item 4)

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

(See Item 4)

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

3,986,422

10. CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES

CERTAIN SHARES [ ]

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

9.7%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

HC, CO (See Item 4)

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1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS.

Charles B. Johnson

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)

(b) X

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

USA

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

(See Item 4)

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

(See Item 4)

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

(See Item 4)

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

(See Item 4)

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

3,986,422

10. CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES

CERTAIN SHARES [ ]

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

9.7%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

HC, IN (See Item 4)

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1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS.

Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)

(b) X

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

USA

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

(See Item 4)

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

(See Item 4)

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

(See Item 4)

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

(See Item 4)

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

3,986,422

10. CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES

CERTAIN SHARES [ ]

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

9.7%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

HC, IN (See Item 4)

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1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS.

Franklin Advisers, Inc.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)

(b) X

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

California

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

3,953,203

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

0

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

3,953,203

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

0

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

3,953,203

10. CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES

CERTAIN SHARES [ ]

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

9.7%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

IA, CO (See Item 4)

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Item 1.

(a) Name of Issuer

ACLARIS THERAPEUTICS, INC.

(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices

640 Lee Road, Suite 200  
Wayne, PA 19087

Item 2.

(a) Name of Person Filing

(i): Franklin Resources, Inc.

(ii): Charles B. Johnson

(iii): Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.

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(iv): Franklin Advisers, Inc.

(b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence

(i), (ii), and (iii):

One Franklin Parkway

San Mateo, CA 94403 1906

(iv): One Franklin Parkway

San Mateo, CA 94403 1906

(c) Citizenship

(i): Delaware

(ii) and (iii): USA

(iv): California

(d) Title of Class of Securities

Common Stock, \$0.00001 par value

(e) CUSIP Number



00461U105

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Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to §§240.13d 1(b) or 240.13d 2(b) or (c),

check whether the person filing is a:

(a) ☐ Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o).

(b) ☐ Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).

(c) ☐ Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C.

78c).

(d) ☐ Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company

Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a 8).

(e) ☒ An investment adviser in accordance with §240.13d 1(b)(1)(ii)(E);

(f) ☐ An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with §240.13d 1(b)(1)(ii)(F);

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(g) ☒ A parent holding company or control person in accordance with  
§240.13d 1(b) (1) (ii) (G);

(h) ☐ A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the  
Federal Deposit  
Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);

(i) ☐ A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an  
investment  
company under section 3(c) (14) of the Investment Company Act  
of 1940 (15  
U.S.C. 80a 3);

(j) ☐ A non U.S. institution in accordance with §240.13d 1(b) (ii) (J);

(k) ☐ Group, in accordance with §240.13d 1(b) (1) (ii) (K).

If filing as a non U.S. institution in accordance with  
§240.13d 1(b) (1) (ii) (J).

please specify the type of institution:

Item 4. Ownership

The securities reported herein are beneficially owned by one or more open  
or

closed end investment companies or other managed accounts that are  
investment

management clients of investment managers that are direct and indirect  
subsidiaries

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(each, an "Investment Management Subsidiary" and, collectively, the "Investment

Management Subsidiaries") of Franklin Resources Inc. ("FRI"), including the Investment

Management Subsidiaries listed in this Item 4. When an investment management contract

(including a sub advisory agreement) delegates to an Investment Management Subsidiary

investment discretion or voting power over the securities held in the investment

advisory accounts that are subject to that agreement, FRI treats the Investment

Management Subsidiary as having sole investment discretion or voting authority, as the

case may be, unless the agreement specifies otherwise. Accordingly, each Investment

Management Subsidiary reports on Schedule 13G that it has sole investment discretion

and voting authority over the securities covered by any such investment management

agreement, unless otherwise noted in this Item 4. As a result, for purposes of Rule

13d 3 under the Act, the Investment Management Subsidiaries listed in this Item 4 may

be deemed to be the beneficial owners of the securities reported in this Schedule 13G.

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Beneficial ownership by Investment Management Subsidiaries and other FRI affiliates is

being reported in conformity with the guidelines articulated by the SEC staff in

Release No. 34 39538 (January 12, 1998) relating to organizations, such as FRI, where

related entities exercise voting and investment powers over the securities being

reported independently from each other. The voting and investment powers held by

Franklin Mutual Advisers, LLC ("FMA"), an indirect wholly owned Investment Management

Subsidiary, are exercised independently from FRI and from all other Investment

Management Subsidiaries (FRI, its affiliates and the Investment Management

Subsidiaries other than FMA are collectively, "FRI affiliates"). Furthermore, internal

policies and procedures of FMA and FRI establish informational barriers that prevent

the flow between FMA and the FRI affiliates of information that relates to the voting

and investment powers over the securities owned by their respective management

clients. Consequently, FMA and FRI affiliates report the securities over which they

hold investment and voting power separately from each other for purposes of Section 13

of the Act.

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Charles B. Johnson and Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. (the "Principal Shareholders") each own

in excess of 10% of the outstanding common stock of FRI and are the principal

stockholders of FRI. FRI and the Principal Shareholders may be deemed to be, for

purposes of Rule 13d 3 under the Act, the beneficial owners of securities held by

persons and entities for whom or for which FRI subsidiaries provide investment

management services. The number of shares that may be deemed to be beneficially owned

and the percentage of the class of which such shares are a part are reported in Items

9 and 11 of the cover pages for FRI and each of the Principal Shareholders. FRI, the

Principal Shareholders and each of the Investment Management Subsidiaries disclaim any

pecuniary interest in any of the such securities. In addition, the filing of this

Schedule 13G on behalf of the Principal Shareholders, FRI and the FRI affiliates, as

applicable, should not be construed as an admission that any of them is, and each of

them disclaims that it is, the beneficial owner, as defined in Rule 13d 3, of any of

the securities reported in this Schedule 13G.

FRI, the Principal Shareholders, and each of the Investment Management Subsidiaries

believe that they are not a "group" within the meaning of Rule 13d 5 under the Act and

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that they are not otherwise required to attribute to each other the beneficial

ownership of the securities held by any of them or by any persons or entities for whom

or for which the Investment Management Subsidiaries provide investment management

services.

(a) Amount beneficially owned:

3,986,422

(b) Percent of class:

9.7%

(c) Number of shares as to which the person has:

(i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote

|       |                     |   |
|-------|---------------------|---|
| Inc.: | Franklin Resources, | 0 |
|-------|---------------------|---|

|          |            |   |
|----------|------------|---|
| Johnson: | Charles B. | 0 |
|----------|------------|---|

|      |                    |   |
|------|--------------------|---|
| Jr.: | Rupert H. Johnson, | 0 |
|------|--------------------|---|

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Fiduciary Trust Company

International: 33,219

Franklin Advisers, Inc.:

3,953,203

(ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote

0

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(iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of

Inc.: Franklin Resources, 0

Johnson: Charles B. 0

Jr.: Rupert H. Johnson, 0

3,953,203 Franklin Advisers, Inc.:

International: Fiduciary Trust Company 33,219

(iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of

0

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class

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If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date  
hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner  
of more  
than five percent of the class of securities, check the following  
[ ].

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person

The clients of the Investment Management Subsidiaries, including  
investment  
companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and  
other  
managed accounts, have the right to receive or power to direct the  
receipt of  
dividends from, and the proceeds from the sale of, the securities  
reported  
herein.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which  
Acquired the

Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company

See Attached Exhibit C

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

Not Applicable

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

Not Applicable

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Item 10. Certification

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief,  
the

securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary  
course of

business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with  
the effect

of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and  
were not

acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any  
transaction

having that purpose or effect.

This report shall not be construed as an admission by the persons filing  
the report

that they are the beneficial owner of any securities covered by this  
report.

Exhibits.

Exhibit A Joint Filing Agreement

Exhibit B Limited Powers of Attorney for Section 13 Reporting  
Obligations

Exhibit C Item 7 Identification and Classification of Subsidiaries

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I  
certify that

the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: January 22, 2019

Franklin Resources, Inc.

Charles B. Johnson

Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.

Franklin Advisers, Inc.

By: /s/VIRGINIA ROSAS

Virginia Rosas

Assistant Secretary of Franklin Resources, Inc.

Attorney in Fact for Charles B. Johnson pursuant to Power of Attorney  
attached

to this Schedule 13G

Attorney in Fact for Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. pursuant to Power of  
Attorney

attached to this Schedule 13G

Assistant Secretary of Franklin Advisers, Inc.

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EXHIBIT A

JOINT FILING AGREEMENT

In accordance with Rule 13d 1(k) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  
as

amended, the undersigned hereby agree to the joint filing with each other  
of the

attached statement on Schedule 13G and to all amendments to such statement  
and that

such statement and all amendments to such statement are made on behalf of  
each of

them.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this agreement on  
January 22, 2019.

Franklin Resources, Inc.

Charles B. Johnson

Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.

Franklin Advisers, Inc.

By: /s/VIRGINIA ROSAS

Virginia Rosas

Assistant Secretary of Franklin Resources, Inc.

attached Attorney in Fact for Charles B. Johnson pursuant to Power of Attorney  
to this Schedule 13G

Attorney in Fact for Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. pursuant to Power of  
attached to this Schedule 13G

Assistant Secretary of Franklin Advisers, Inc.





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EXHIBIT B

LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY

FOR SECTION 13 AND 16 REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby makes, constitutes and appoints each of Alison E. Baur, Maria Gray, Steven J. Gray, Kimberly H. Novotny, Virginia E. Rosas, Navid J. Tofigh and Lori A. Weber each acting individually, as the undersigned's true and lawful attorney-in-fact, with full power and authority as hereinafter described on behalf of and in the name, place and stead of the undersigned to:

1. prepare, execute, acknowledge, deliver and file Forms ID, Schedules 13D and 13G, and Forms 3, 4 and 5 (including any amendments thereto and any related documentation) with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and any national securities exchanges relating to Franklin Resources, Inc. ("FRI") and/or any registered closed-end company to which an affiliate of FRI is an investment adviser (each, a "Reporting Entity"), as considered necessary or advisable under Regulation S-T and Sections 13(d) and 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended from time to time (the "Exchange Act"); and

2. seek or obtain, as the undersigned's representative and on the undersigned's behalf, information on transactions in the securities of any Reporting Entity from any person, including brokers, employee benefit plan administrators and trustees, and the undersigned hereby authorizes any such person to release any such information to the undersigned and approves and ratifies any such release of information; and

3. perform any and all other acts which in the discretion of such attorney-in-fact are necessary or desirable for and on behalf of the undersigned in connection with the foregoing.

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The undersigned acknowledges that:

1. this Limited Power of Attorney authorizes, but does not require, each such attorney-in-fact to act in their discretion on information provided to such attorney-in-fact without independent verification of such information;

2. any documents prepared and/or executed by any such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Limited Power of Attorney will be in such form and will contain such information and disclosure as such attorney-in-fact, in his or her discretion, deems necessary or desirable;

3. none of FRI, any Reporting Entity nor any of such attorneys-in-fact assumes (i) any liability for the undersigned's responsibility to comply with the requirements of the Exchange Act, (ii) any liability of the undersigned for any failure to comply with such requirements, or (iii) any obligation or liability of the undersigned for profit disgorgement under Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act; and

4. this Limited Power of Attorney does not relieve the undersigned from responsibility for compliance with the undersigned's obligations under the Exchange Act, including without limitation, the reporting requirements under Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

The undersigned hereby gives and grants each of the foregoing attorneys-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform all and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary or appropriate to be done in and about the foregoing matters as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if present, hereby ratifying all that each such attorney-in-fact of, for and on behalf of the undersigned, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this Limited Power of Attorney, and indemnifies each of the foregoing attorneys-in-fact against any loss of any nature whatsoever arising in connection therewith.

This Limited Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to each such attorney-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Limited Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019.

/s/Charles B. Johnson

Signature

Charles B.

Johnson

Print Name

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LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY

FOR SECTION 13 AND 16 REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby makes, constitutes and appoints each of Alison E. Baur, Maria Gray, Steven J. Gray, Kimberly H. Novotny, Virginia E. Rosas, Navid J. Tofigh and Lori A. Weber each acting individually, as the undersigned's true and lawful attorney-in-fact, with full power and authority as hereinafter described on behalf of and in the name, place and stead of the undersigned to:

1. prepare, execute, acknowledge, deliver and file Forms ID, Schedules 13D and 13G, and Forms 3, 4 and 5 (including any amendments thereto and any related documentation) with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and any national securities exchanges relating to Franklin Resources, Inc. ("FRI") and/or any registered closed-end company to which an affiliate of FRI is an investment adviser (each, a "Reporting Entity"), as considered necessary or advisable under Regulation S-T and Sections 13(d) and 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended from time to time (the "Exchange Act"); and

2. seek or obtain, as the undersigned's representative and on the undersigned's behalf, information on transactions in the securities of any Reporting Entity from any person, including brokers, employee benefit plan administrators and trustees, and the undersigned hereby authorizes any such person to release any such information to the undersigned and approves and ratifies any such release of information; and

3. perform any and all other acts which in the discretion of such attorney-in-fact are necessary or desirable for and on behalf of the undersigned in connection with the foregoing.

The undersigned acknowledges that:

1. this Limited Power of Attorney authorizes, but does not require, each such attorney-in-fact to act in their discretion on information provided to such attorney-in-fact without independent verification of such information;

2. any documents prepared and/or executed by any such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Limited Power of Attorney will be in such form and will contain such information and disclosure as such attorney-in-fact, in his or her discretion, deems necessary or desirable;

3. none of FRI, any Reporting Entity nor any of such attorneys-in-fact assumes (i) any liability for the undersigned's responsibility to comply with the requirements of the Exchange Act, (ii) any liability of the undersigned for any failure to comply with such requirements, or (iii) any obligation or liability of the undersigned for profit disgorgement under Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act; and

4. this Limited Power of Attorney does not relieve the undersigned from responsibility for compliance with the undersigned's obligations under the Exchange Act, including without limitation, the reporting requirements under Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

The undersigned hereby gives and grants each of the foregoing attorneys-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform all and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary or appropriate to be done in and about the foregoing matters as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if present, hereby ratifying all that each such attorney-in-fact of, for and on behalf of the undersigned, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this Limited Power of Attorney, and indemnifies each of the foregoing attorneys-in-fact against any loss of any nature whatsoever arising in connection therewith.

This Limited Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to each such attorney-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Limited Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019.

/s/Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.

Signature

Rupert H. Johnson,

Jr.

Print Name

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EXHIBIT C

Franklin Advisers, Inc.

Item 3

Classification: 3(e)

Fiduciary Trust Company International

Item 3

Classification: 3(b)