

**FORM 3****UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940**OMB APPROVAL**OMB Number: 3235-0104  
Estimated average burden  
hours per response: 0.5

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * <u>Patel Ronil A.</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O OCUPHIRE PHARMA, INC.</u> <u>37000 GRAND RIVER AVE, SUITE 120</u>  (Street) <u>FARMINGTON MI 48335</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>04/24/2023</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>Ocuphire Pharma, Inc. [ OCUP ]</u>	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>SVP, Operations &amp; Bus. Dev.</u>	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)  6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>22,304</u>	<u>D</u>	

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
<u>Employee Stock Option (right to buy)</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>03/24/2031</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>18,000</u>	<u>6.04</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Employee Stock Option (right to buy)</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>06/30/2031</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>5.37</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Employee Stock Option (right to buy)</u>	<u>(3)</u>	<u>01/27/2032</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>18,800</u>	<u>2.9</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Employee Stock Option (right to buy)</u>	<u>(4)</u>	<u>08/31/2032</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>2.24</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Employee Stock Option (right to buy)</u>	<u>(5)</u>	<u>01/09/2033</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>25,956</u>	<u>3.5</u>	<u>D</u>	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- The option vests in twenty-four (24) equal monthly increments of 750 shares on the last day of each month from April 2021 through March 2023.
- 5,000 shares vested on June 30, 2022, then 416 shares vest at the end of each month from July 2022 through May 2025, and 440 shares vest at the end of June 2025.
- The option vested with respect to 4,700 shares on January 28, 2023, and then with respect to 391 shares on the last day of each month from February 2023 through December 2025 and with respect to 415 shares at the end of January 2026.
- The option vests with respect to 3,750 shares on September 1, 2023, and then with respect to 312 shares on the last day of each month from September 2023 through July 2026 and with respect to 330 shares at the end of August 2026.
- 25% of the shares subject to the option vest on the first anniversary of the grant date, with the balance vesting quarterly in 12 equal installments thereafter.

**Remarks:**

Exhibit 24, Power of Attorney, is attached.

/s/ Emily J. Johns, by Power of Attorney04/26/2023

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

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**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

The undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints each of Amy Rabourn, Emily J. Johns, Lauren Legner, and Stephanie Swan signing singly, his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact to:

1. execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, with respect to the undersigned's position as a director and/or officer of Ocuphire Pharma, Inc. (the "Company"), Form ID and Forms 3, 4 and 5 (and any amendments thereto) in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules thereunder;
2. do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Form ID or Forms 3, 4 or 5, complete and execute any amendment or amendments thereto, and timely file such form with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and any stock exchange, stock market or similar authority; and
3. take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, and in the best interest of, or legally required by, the undersigned, it being understood that the documents executed by such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Power of Attorney shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as such attorney-in-fact may approve in such attorney-in-fact's discretion.

The undersigned hereby grants to each such attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary, or proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorney-in-fact, or such attorney-in-fact's substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this power of attorney and the rights and powers herein granted. The undersigned acknowledges that the foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4 and 5 with respect to the undersigned's holdings of and transactions in securities issued by the Company, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to the foregoing attorneys-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of April 20, 2023.

/s/ Ronil Patel

Ronil A. Patel

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