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): January 11, 2021

Akero Therapeutics, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation) 001-38944 (Commission File Number) 81-5266573 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

601 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 350 South San Francisco, CA (Address of principal executive offices)

94080 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (650) 487-6488

Not Applicable (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))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

	Trading	
Title of each class	symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share	AKRO	The Nasdaq Global Select Market

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§ 230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§ 240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company ⊠

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. \Box

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

The Company from time to time presents or distributes to the investment community at various industry and other conferences slide presentations to provide updates and summaries of its business. A copy of its current corporate slide presentation is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K. The Company undertakes no obligation to update, supplement or amend the materials attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

The information under this Item 7.01, including Exhibit 99.1 hereto, is being furnished herewith and shall not be deemed "filed" for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall such information be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Statements contained under this Item 7.01, including Exhibit 99.1, regarding matters that are not historical facts are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Because such statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description
<u>99.1</u>	Corporate slide presentation of Akero Therapeutics, Inc.

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.

Date: January 11, 2021

AKERO THERAPEUTICS, INC.

By: /s/ Andrew Cheng

Andrew Cheng, M.D., Ph.D. President and Chief Executive Officer





A Global Disease, A Pioneering Treatment

Akero Therapeutics, Inc. Corporate Presentation

January 2021



This presentation may contain "forward-looking statements" of Akero Therapeutics, Inc. ("we," "us," "our," "Akero" or the "Company") within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 relating to our business, operations, and financial conditions, including but not limited to current beliefs, expectations and assumptions regarding: the future of our business; future plans and strategies, including our expectations around the therapeutic potential and clinical benefits of Efruxifermin; our development plans for Efruxifermin, including our belief in the unique potential of Efruxifermin as a foundational NASH therapy; our preclinical and clinical results, including our top-line safety/tolerability, laboratory measures and paired biopsy data from our Phase 2a BALANCED study; the potential benefits resulting from the PRIME designation of EFX; expectations regarding the design, implementation, timing and success of the Phase 2b study and its results; the timing of Phase 3 and its results; the expected timing to complete Cohort C and the collection of voluntary end-of-treatment biopsies; risks related to the competitive landscape; and the potential impact of COVID-19 on strategy, our employees, supply chain, future operations and clinical trials. Words such as, but not limited to, "look forward to," "believe," "expect," "anticipate; "estimate," "intend," "plan," "would," "should" and "could," and similar expressions or words, identify forward-looking statements. New risks and uncertainties may emerge from time to time, and it is not possible to predict all risks and uncertainties. Except as required by law, we assume no obligation to update these forward looking statements publicly, or to update the reasons actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in the forward-looking statements, even if new information becomes available in the future. For a discussion of these and other risks and uncertainties, and other important factors, any of which could cause our actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements, see the section entitled "Risk Factors" in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as well as discussions of potential risks, uncertainties, and other important factors in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. All information in this presentation is as of the date hereof, and we undertake no duty to update this information unless required by law.

Certain information contained in this presentation relates to or is based on studies, publications, surveys and other data obtained from third-party sources and the Company's own internal estimates and research. While the Company believes these third-party sources to be reliable as of the date of this presentation, it has not independently verified, and makes no representation as to the adequacy, fairness, accuracy or completeness of, any information obtained from third-party sources. In addition, all of the market data included in this presentation involves a number of assumptions and limitations, and there can be no guarantee as to the accuracy or reliability of such assumptions. Finally, while we believe our own internal research is reliable, such research has not been verified by any independent source.

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CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS

Efruviformin	 Human FGF21 analog addresses all core aspects of NASH pathology
Potential	 Engineered for optimal activity and convenient once-weekly dosing
Leading NASH Monotherapy	 Phase 2a BALANCED study results among strongest data in field: liver fat reduction coupled with improvements in histology, lipoproteins and glycemic control Generally well-tolerated
Key Support from	 Written guidance from FDA provides that Phase 2b protocol is safe to proceed
Regulators	• EFX designated as a Priority Medicine (PRIME) based on strength of Phase 2a data
Expected 1H'21	 Initiation of Ph2b trial (HARMONY) with 28 and 50mg doses
Milestones	 Readout from BALANCED study cohort in cirrhotic NASH patients
Experienced Team	Involved in 20+ FDA approvals
Experienced ream	 Extensive experience in drug discovery, development and commercialization

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EXTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIALIZATION EXPERIENCE INVOLVED IN 20+ MEDICINE APPROVALS



Andrew Cheng, MD, PhD | President & CEO

· 19 years at Gilead · Chief Medical Officer & HIV Division Head

· Major role in 11 NDA/MAA approvals





Tim Rolph, D.Phil | Founder & CSO Over 30 years at Pfizer & Glaxo

- CSO of Pfizer's cardiovascular and metabolic disease unit
- Head of Groton & UK Discovery Research, Pfizer
- · Major role in discovery and early clinical evaluation of two medicines: Selzentry (HIV) and Steglatro (Diabetes)



Kitty Yale | EVP & Chief Development Officer

 Over 25 years at Gilead, Roche, Pfizer VP, Gilead Worldwide Clinical Operations Major role in 8 global approvals NDA, MAA, JNDA and CFDA



Jonathan Young, PhD, JD | Founder, EVP & COO

- · Over 15 years in biotechnology product development, law and regulatory policy
- · General Counsel and VP Policy, Braeburn
- Partner and General Counsel, FoxKiser



William White | EVP, CFO & Head of Corporate Development

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- 18 years in life sciences investment banking at Goldman Sachs, Citigroup and Deutsche Bank
- Most recently, Head of US Life Sciences Investment Banking at Deutsche Bank
- Advised on more than \$70bn in M&A and \$25bn in financing transactions

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NASH: A SERIOUS AND DEBILITATING MULTI-SYSTEM DISEASE

NASH epidemic fueled by rise in obesity and diabetes No treatments currently available



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EFX ENGINEERING POTENTIALLY OPTIMAL FOR NASH EFFICACY, WITH CONVENIENT ONCE-WEEKLY DOSING



EFX ACTS ON TWO MAJOR SOURCES OF LIVER FAT WITH POTENTIAL FOR OPTIMAL REDUCTION

Sources of Fat Flowing into and Through Liver for NASH Patients



Lambert, JE et al. (2014) Gastroenterology 146(3): 726-35

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Acting on both hepatic and peripheral sources of liver fat is key to optimizing liver fat reduction

Source of Liver Fat	FGF Receptor	EFX Activity
Lipolysis	FGFR1c	*
De Novo Lipogenesis	FGFR2c FGFR3c	*

EFX DIRECT AND INDIRECT ANTI-FIBROTIC EFFECTS



al. (2018) EMBO *Cited literature available al. (2018) PLOS one on company website

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Bao, L et al. (2018) Br J Pharmacol 175:3379-3393; Fisher, FM et al. (2014) Gastroenterology 147:1073-1083.e6; Jimenez, V et al. (2018) EMBO Mol Med 10:e8791; Lee, JH et al. (2016) Am J Transl Res 8:4750-4763; Sanyal, A et al. (2018) Lancet 392:2705-2717; Le, CT et al. (2018) PLOS one 13:e0192146; Xu, P et al. (2016) Toxicol Appl Pharmacol 290:43-53; Yu, Y et al. (2016) Int Immunopharmacol 38:144-152

PHASE 2A TRIAL (BALANCED) DESIGN



BASELINE DEMOGRAPHICS

Parameter Mean	Placebo (N=21)	EFX 28mg (N=19)	EFX 50mg (N=20)	EFX 70mg (N=20)
Age (Years)	52	50	53	53
Sex (Male/Female)	6/15	9/10	10/10	9/11
Weight (kg)	99.6	108.2	103.6	103.1
BMI (kg/m ²)	37.6	38.8	36.7	37.2
Liver Fat Content (% by MRI-PDFF)	19.3	21.4	18.3	19.4
NAFLD Activity Score (NAS)	5.1	5.6	5.1	5.6
Fibrosis Stage (% F2-F3)	62	63	65	65
Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT) (U/L)	50.7	62.5	53.4	56.8
Aspartate Aminotransferase (AST) (U/L)	38.6	41.1	35.4	44.6
% Type 2 Diabetes	67	37	50	50

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Source Data: Full Analysis Set





SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS IN LIVER FAT AT WEEK 12 ACROSS ALL DOSE GROUPS





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* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001 versus placebo (ANCOVA)

Source Data: Full Analysis Set

MAGNITUDE OF LIVER FAT REDUCTION

Endpoint	Placebo ¹ (N=20)	28mg (N=16)	50mg (N=17)	70mg (N=15)	
Relative Reduction in Liver Fat					
≥30%	10%	100%**	100%***	100%***	
≥50%	5%	69%**	100%***	93%***	
≥70%	5%	50%*	53%**	80%***	
Normalization of Liver Fat Content					
≤5%	5%	25%*	53%**	67%***	

Proportion of Patients Achieving Fat Reduction Thresholds at Week 12

¹A single placebo responder lost 25 pounds over 16 weeks (11% weight reduction)

* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001 versus placebo (ANCOVA) Source Data: MRI-PDFF Evaluable Analysis Set

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SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS IN MARKERS OF LIVER INJURY AFTER 16 WEEKS OF TREATMENT



** p<0.01, *** p<0.001, versus placebo (MMRM)

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Source Data: Full Analysis Set

HIGH RESPONSE RATES ON NASH RESOLUTION AFTER 16 WEEKS ACROSS ALL DOSE GROUPS



Biopsy Reading

- All baseline and end-of-treatment biopsies were centrally read by a single NASH-CRN pathologist
- Baseline biopsies were not re-read with end-of-treatment biopsies
- All biopsies were read blinded to both treatment assignment and patient

¹NAS score of 0 or 1 for lobular inflammation and a score of 0 for ballooning

² Secondary and exploratory histological endpoints were not powered for statistical significance

* A single placebo responder lost 25 pounds over 16 weeks (11% weight reduction)

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Source Data: Liver Biopsy Evaluable Analysis Set

HIGH RATES OF FIBROSIS IMPROVEMENT AFTER 16 WEEKS ACROSS ALL TREATED PATIENTS



¹ Improvement in liver fibrosis greater than or equal to one stage and no worsening of NASH (defined as no increase in NAS for ballooning, inflammation, or steatosis)

² Secondary and exploratory histological endpoints were not powered for statistical significance Source Data: Liver Biopsy Evaluable Analysis Set

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RAPID IMPROVEMENTS IN FIBROSIS BIOMARKERS CONSISTENT WITH HISTOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS



*** p<0.001, versus placebo (MMRM)

Pro-C3,	LS	Mean	(ug/L)

Dose Group	Baseline	Δ Week 12
Placebo	16.1	-1.5
28mg	19.2	-6.1***
50mg	16.2	-5.9***
70mg	17.2	-6.7***

Enhanced Liver Fibrosis (ELF) Score, LS Mean

Dose Group	Baseline	Δ Week 12
Placebo	9.4	0.0
28mg	9.5	-0.7***
50mg	9.5	-0.8***
70mg	9.6	-0.4

* p<0.05, *** p<0.001 versus placebo (ANCOVA)

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Source Data: Full Analysis Set

FIBROSIS IMPROVEMENT IN F2-F3 PATIENTS: HALF OF PATIENTS IMPROVED 2 STAGES



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Source Data: Liver Biopsy Evaluable Analysis Set







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Source Data: Full Analysis Set

IMPROVED LIPOPROTEIN PROFILE

50%

40%

30%

20%

10%

0%

+4

HDL Cholesterol

Placebo 28mg 50mg 70mg



LS Mean Change From Baseline to Week 16 (%)





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* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001 versus placebo (ANCOVA) Source Data: Full Analysis Set

CLINICALLY MEANINGFUL IMPROVEMENTS IN GLYCEMIC CONTROL **AFTER 16 WEEKS**



LS Mean Change From Baseline to Week 16 (%)

¹Absolute change from baseline, %



² Relative percent change from baseline

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* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, versus placebo (ANCOVA) Source Data: Full Analysis Set

DRUG-RELATED TREATMENT-EMERGENT ADVERSE EVENTS (TEAE)

Most Common (>10%) Drug-Related AEs [*]	Placebo (N=21)	All EFX (N=58)	EFX 28mg (N=19)	EFX 50mg (N=19)	EFX 70mg (N=20)
Diarrhea	2 (10%)	21 (36%)	5 (26%)	10 (53%)	6 (30%)
Nausea	0 (0%)	20 (34%)	6 (32%)	4 (21%)	10 (50%)
Increased appetite	1 (5%)	13 (22%)	4 (21%)	4 (21%)	5 (25%)
Vomiting	0 (0%)	9 (16%)	5 (26%)	2 (11%)	2 (10%)
Frequent bowel movements	0 (0%)	8 (14%)	3 (16%)	2 (11%)	3 (15%)
Abdominal pain	0 (0%)	7 (12%)	1 (5%)	3 (16%)	3 (15%)
Injection site erythema	0 (0%)	7 (12%)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	5 (25%)
Injection site reaction	0 (0%)	6 (10%)	2 (11%)	1 (5%)	3 (15%)
Fatigue	2 (10%)	6 (10%)	0 (0%)	1 (5%)	5 (25%)
TEAE/SAE Disposition	Placebo	All EFX	28mg	50mg	70mg
TEAE Leading to Death	0	0	0	0	0
TEAE Leading to Discontinuation	1 ^a	6	2 ^b	0	4°
Serious Adverse Event (SAE)	0	2	1 ^d	0	1

*Across EFX dose groups

^a Muscular Weakness & Myalgia; ^b Nausea, Vomiting & Dysgeusia; Panic Attack and Anxiety-Linked Tremor; ^c Dysphagia (Not Drug Related); Acute Pancreatitis (also an SAE); Vomiting; Fatigue & Nausea; ^d Related to pre-dosing liver biopsy

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Source Data: Safety Set

NASH DEVELOPMENT LANDSCAPE: FIBROSIS IMPROVEMENT

Proportion of Subjects with ≥1 Stage Improvement in Fibrosis and No Worsening of NAS¹





¹ FDA Guidance for Industry: Noncirrhotic Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis With Liver Fibrosis: Developing Drugs for Treatment (2018)

NASH DEVELOPMENT LANDSCAPE: NASH RESOLUTION



FGF21 DEVELOPMENT LANDSCAPE

Noninvasive Measures: Percent Change From Baseline to End of Study	A	kero (EF) 16 weeks	()	BMS (Pegbelfermin) 16 weeks		89Bio (BIO89-100) 12 weeks)	
Dose	pbo	28 QW	50 QW	pbo	20 QW	10 QD	pbo	18 QW	27 QW	36 Q2W
Patient Population	Biopsy	-confirmed	NASH	Biopsy	-confirmed	NASH	80% NAF	80% NAFLD; 20% biopsy-confirmed NASH*		
≥1 Stage Fibrosis Improvement and No Worsening of NASH, % of Subjects	0%	46%	62%	No en	d-of-study l	biopsy		No end-of-	study biops	y
MRI-PDFF, % relative reduction	0	-63	-71	-6	-26	-38	+10	-36	-60	-50
ALT	0	-41	-51	-5	-22	-33	-4	-27	-44	-40
Triglycerides	+6	-39	-48	0	-5	-5	-2	-18	-28	-21
HDL-C	+4	+34	+39	-2	+12	+13	+2	+9	+3	+10
LDL-C	0	-16	-2	+1	+1	-11	+1	+3	-16	-4
Adiponectin	-8	+65	+80	-4	+16	+15	-4	+29	+61	+24
% HbA1c, absolute change	+0.1	-0.1	-0.4		NR		0	+0.1	-0.3	+0.5

 Note: These data are derived from different clinical trials at different points in time, with differences
 NR, not reported
 Sanyal et al (2019) Lancet;

 in trial design and patient populations. No head-to-head clinical trials have been conducted.
 SBBio October 5 Corporate Presentation



* Subjects with biopsy-confirmed NASH were present only in the 18mg QW & 18 Q2W cohorts (Loomba et al., 2020 AASLD Poster #LP34)

PERIPHERAL FGFR1c ACTIVATION



Note: These data are derived from different clinical trials at different points in time, with differences in trial design and patient populations. No head-to-head clinical trials have been conducted.

Sanyal et al (2019) Lancet; 89Bio October 5 Corporate Presentation

akero Subjects with biopsy-confirmed NASH were present only in the 18mg QW & 18 Q2W cohorts (Loomba et al., 2020 AASLD Poster #LP34)

FGF21 DEVELOPMENT LANDSCAPE: SUMMARY

Consideration	Fc-FGF21 Fusion Protein (Akero)	Pegylated FGF21 (BMS or 89Bio)
Patient Population: NASH diagnosed only by biopsy; NASH patients have more advanced disease and worse comorbidities	Biopsy-confirmed NASH	BMS: biopsy-confirmed NASH; 89Bio: ~20% biopsy-confirmed NASH*
Histology: Fibrosis only histological endpoint correlated with liver outcomes	Demonstrated fibrosis improvement by histology	BMS: histology data pending 89Bio: no histology data
Liver Fat Reduction: Max reduction requires inhibition of both hepatic fat synthesis and adipose tissue lipolysis	71% (50mg QW)	BMS: 38% (10mg QD) 89Bio: 60% (27mg QW*)
Liver Enzymes (LFTs): Reductions indicate improved liver health	Large reductions in LFTs; Consistent dose response	BMS/89Bio: Smaller effects on LFTs
Lipids: Cardiovascular risk #1 cause of mortality for NASH patients. Reflects liver and adipose effects	Robust and consistent TG and HDL-C effects	BMS/89Bio: Smaller effects on TG and HDL-C
Glycemic Control: Improvement in HbA1c mediated by peripheral insulin sensitization; 50% NASH patients diabetic	Significant decrease in HbA1c	BMS: HbA1c not reported 89Bio: no significant change in HbA1c
Safety & Tolerability: Baseline patient population influences profile; Mild GI events common for FGF21 in NASH patients	In line with FGF21 class	BMS: In line with FGF21 class 89Bio: ~80% NAFLD*

EFX delivered numerically largest effects, a clear dose response, with maximal or near-maximal effect at 50mg QW

akero * Subjects with biopsy-confirmed NASH were present only in the 18mg QW & 18 Q2W cohorts (Loomba et al., 2020 AASLD Poster #LP34)

BALANCED F4 COHORT EXPANSION (COHORT C) TRIAL DESIGN

BALANCED study expanded to include cohort of patients with compensated cirrhosis (F4), Child-Pugh Class A; results expected to inform long-term development in cirrhotic patients





STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION

	COMPLETED UPSIZED FOLLOW-ON OFFERING July 10, 2020	
~\$106M Raised in aggregate gross proceeds	~\$216M Raised in aggregate gross proceeds	^{~\$} 292M

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CONSISTENT RECORD OF MILESTONE DELIVERY



EFRUXIFERMIN AFTER 16 WEEKS: POTENTIALLY FOUNDATIONAL NASH MONOTHERAPY

Improved Non-Invasive Markers

- 63-72% relative reduction in liver fat
- ~40% reduction in liver enzymes
- Reduction in ELF and Pro-C3

Improved NASH Comorbidities

- Improved HbA1c and C-peptide
- · Reduction in triglycerides
- No LDL-C increase
- Weight loss across all dose groups

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Improved Histology

- 48% fibrosis improvement ≥1 stage and no worsening of NASH
- 50% two-stage fibrosis improvement in patients with F2-F3 fibrosis at baseline

Safety & Tolerability

- · Generally well-tolerated
- Transient mild/moderate GI events
- No TEAE discontinuations at 50mg





A Global Disease, A Pioneering Treatment

NASDAQ: AKRO