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): March 20, 2017

CERULEAN PHARMA INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

following provisions (see General Instructions A.2. below):

001-36395 (Commission File Number) 20-4139823 (IRS Employer Identification No.)

35 Gatehouse Drive Waltham, MA (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

02451 (Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: (781) 996-4300

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

□ 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)

Dere-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Dere-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 8.01. Other Events

On March 20, 2017, Cerulean Pharma Inc., a Delaware corporation ("Cerulean" or the "Company") issued a joint press release with Daré Bioscience, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("Daré"), announcing that the companies will hold a joint conference call to discuss the definitive share purchase agreement under which the stockholders of Daré will become the majority owners of Cerulean.

The conference call will take place at 9:00 a.m. ET on Thursday, March 23, 2017. This call can be accessed by dialing 443-637-1284 or 844-831-3031 prior to the start of the call and referencing conference ID 91378612. To listen to the conference call via the Internet, please visit the investor relations section of Daré's website.

A copy of the joint press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated by reference herein. The information contained on the websites referenced in the press release is not incorporated herein.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

See the Exhibit Index attached hereto.

Additional Information about the Proposed Transactions and Where to Find It

In connection with the proposed Daré transaction, Cerulean intends to file relevant materials with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including a definitive proxy statement on Schedule 14A (the "Proxy Statement"). The Proxy Statement will be sent to stockholders of Cerulean seeking their approval of the proposed transaction and related matters. Investors and stockholders of Cerulean are urged to read these materials when they become available because they will contain important information about the proposed transaction and the parties to the proposed transaction. The Proxy Statement, any amendments or supplements thereto (when they become available) and other documents filed by Cerulean with the SEC may be obtained free of charge through the SEC web site at www.sec.gov. They may also be obtained for free by directing a written request to: Cerulean Pharma Inc., 35 Gatehouse Drive, Waltham, MA, Attention: Corporate Secretary.

This communication shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities, nor shall there be any sale of securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under or applicable exemption from the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.

Participants in the Solicitation

Cerulean, Daré and each of their respective directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the stockholders of Cerulean in connection with the proposed Daré transaction. Information regarding the interests of these directors and executive officers in the proposed transaction described herein will be included in the Proxy Statement described above. Additional information regarding the directors and executive officers of Cerulean is included in its proxy statement for its 2016 annual meeting of stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on April 28, 2016, and is supplemented by other public filings made, and to be made, with the SEC by Cerulean.

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: March 21, 2017

CERULEAN PHARMA INC.

By: <u>/s/ Christopher D.T.</u> Guiffre

Christopher D.T. Guiffre President and Chief Executive Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit <u>Number</u> <u>Description</u>

99.1 Joint Press Release dated March 20, 2017.



Cerulean and Daré to Host Conference Call on Proposed Transaction on March 23

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., March 20, 2017 – <u>Cerulean Pharma Inc.</u> (NASDAQ:CERU), today announced jointly with Daré Bioscience that the companies will hold a joint conference call to discuss the definitive share purchase agreement under which the stockholders of Daré Bioscience will become the majority owners of Cerulean.

The conference call will take place at 9:00 a.m. ET on Thursday, March 23, 2017. This call can be accessed by dialing 443-637-1284 or 844-831-3031 prior to the start of the call and referencing conference ID 91378612.

The conference call also will be webcast live over the Internet and can be accessed on the "Investors" section of the Cerulean website, <u>www.ceruleanrx.com</u>. The webcast will be archived on the Company's website until March 31, 2017.

About Daré Bioscience

Daré Bioscience is a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company focusing on the development and commercialization of products for women's reproductive health. Daré is committed to advancing novel clinical-stage candidates in women's reproductive health to expand options and improve outcomes. Product development in women's reproductive health is fragmented creating a potential opportunity for Daré. Our goal is to fill the gap by taking products from innovation through development – the Daré team is well-suited to ensure these products advance and are one day commercially available. The founders bring experience in global women's healthcare as well as success in prior ventures in funding, achieving regulatory approvals, partnering, and launching a number of products, including devices, therapeutics and diagnostics. For more information on the company, please visit <u>www.darebioscience.com</u>.

About Cerulean Pharma

Cerulean is a company focused on applying the Dynamic Tumor Targeting[™] Platform to create nanoparticle-drug conjugates (NDCs) designed to selectively attack tumor cells, reduce toxicity by sparing the body's normal cells, and enable therapeutic combinations.

Additional Information about the Proposed Transaction and Where to Find It

In connection with the proposed Daré transaction, Cerulean intends to file relevant materials with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including a definitive proxy statement on Schedule 14A (the "Proxy Statement"). The Proxy Statement will be sent or given to the stockholders of Cerulean and will contain important information about the proposed transaction and related matters. BEFORE MAKING ANY VOTING DECISION, CERULEAN'S STOCKHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT AND THOSE OTHER MATERIALS (INCLUDING ANY AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS

THERETO) CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION AND THE PARTIES TO THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION. The Proxy Statement and other relevant materials (when they become available), and any other documents filed by Cerulean with the SEC, may be obtained free of charge at the SEC's website at <u>www.sec.gov</u>. In addition, security holders will be able to obtain free copies of the proxy statement by directing a written request to: Cerulean Pharma Inc., 35 Gatehouse Drive, Waltham, MA, Attention: Corporate Secretary.

Participants in the Solicitation

Cerulean, Daré, and each of their respective directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the stockholders of Cerulean in connection with the proposed transaction described herein. Information regarding the interests of these directors and executive officers in the proposed transaction described herein will be included in the Proxy Statement described above. Additional information regarding the directors and executive officers of Cerulean is included in proxy statement for its 2016 Annual Meeting, which was filed with the SEC on April 28, 2016, and is supplemented by other public filings made, and to be made, with the SEC by Cerulean.

Contacts:

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Sabrina Martucci Johnson Daré 858-769-9145