

**FORM 3**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

| OMB APPROVAL                                 |           |
|--|-----------|
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**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

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*<br><u>SANDERS JAMES F</u><br><hr/> (Last) (First) (Middle)<br>520 NEWPORT CENTER DR.<br>12TH FLOOR<br><hr/> (Street)<br>NEWPORT CA 92660<br>BEACH<br><hr/> (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)<br>07/18/2017 | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>ACACIA RESEARCH CORP [ ACTG ]</u>   |   |
|  |   | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner<br>Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) | 5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)<br><br>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br>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) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Common Stock                    | 3,000   | D  |   |

**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 |  |  |   |
|  |  |                 |   |                            |  |  |   |

Explanation of Responses:

Remarks:

James F. Sanders

07/20/2017

\*\* 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.