

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

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)*

ACCESS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
(Name of Issuer)

COMMON STOCK
(Title of Class of Securities)

00431M209
(CUSIP Number)

(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).

Page 1 of 6 pages

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NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

1 I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS

HEARTLAND ADVISORS, INC.
#39-1078128

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

2 (a)
(b)

SEC USE ONLY

3

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

4

WISCONSIN, U.S.A.

SOLE VOTING POWER

5

NUMBER OF None
SHARES -----

SHARED VOTING POWER
BENEFICIALLY 6
OWNED BY None

EACH 7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
REPORTING 1,350,000
PERSON -----

SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
WITH 8 None

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON
9 1,350,000

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

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)
11 10.5%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON
12 IA

CUSIP No. 00431M209 13G Page 3 of 6 Pages

NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS
1 I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOs. OF ABOVE PERSONS

WILLIAM J. NASGOVITZ ###-##-####

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP
2 (a)
(b)

SEC USE ONLY
3

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION
4 U.S.A.

SOLE VOTING POWER
5
NUMBER OF 1,350,000
SHARES -----

SHARED VOTING POWER
BENEFICIALLY 6
OWNED BY None

EACH 7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
REPORTING None
PERSON -----

SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
WITH 8
None

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON
9 1,350,000

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

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

11
10.5%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

12
IN

CUSIP NUMBER 00431M209

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Item 1.

(a) Name of Issuer: Access Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

2600 Stemmons Freeway, Suite 176
Dallas, TX 75207

Item 2.

(a) Name of Person Filing: (1) Heartland Advisors, Inc. (2) William J. Nasgovitz

(b) Address of Principal Business Office:

(1) 789 North Water Street (2) 789 North Water Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202 Milwaukee, WI 53202

(c) Citizenship: Heartland Advisors is a Wisconsin corporation.
----- William J. Nasgovitz - U.S.A

(d) Title of Class of Securities: Common Stock

(e) CUSIP Number: 00431M209

Item 3. The persons filing this Schedule 13G are Heartland Advisors, Inc., an investment adviser registered with the SEC, and William J. Nasgovitz, President and principal shareholder of Heartland Advisors, Inc. Mr. Nasgovitz joins in this filing pursuant to SEC staff positions authorizing certain individuals in similar situations to join in a filing with a controlled entity eligible to file on Schedule 13G. The reporting persons do not admit that they constitute a group.

Item 4. Ownership.

(a) Amount beneficially owned:

1,350,000 shares may be deemed beneficially owned within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by (1) Heartland Advisors, Inc. by virtue of its investment discretion and in some cases voting power over client securities, which may be revoked; and (2) William J. Nasgovitz, as a result of his position with and stock ownership of Heartland which could be deemed to confer upon him voting and/or investment power over the shares Heartland beneficially owns. Of these 1,350,000 shares, 1,350,000 shares also may be deemed beneficially owned within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by Mr. Nasgovitz as a result of his position as an officer and director of Heartland Group, Inc. which could be deemed to confer upon him voting power over the shares Heartland Group beneficially owns.

(b) Percent of Class:

10.5%

(c) For information on voting and dispositive power with respect to the above listed shares, see Items 5-8 of the Cover Page.

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

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 shares of common stock to which this Schedule relates are held in investment advisory accounts of Heartland Advisors, Inc. As a result, various persons have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, the securities. The interests of one such account, Heartland Value Fund, a series of Heartland Group, Inc., a registered investment company, relates to more than 5% of the class.

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

Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company.

Not Applicable.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not Applicable.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not Applicable.

Item 10. Certification.

By signing below, the undersigned certify that, to the best of their 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.

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.

DATE: October 5, 2001

WILLIAM J. NASGOVITZ

HEARTLAND ADVISORS, INC.

By: /s/ PAUL T. BESTE

By: /s/ PAUL T. BESTE

Paul T. Beste
As Attorney in Fact for
William J. Nasgovitz

Paul T. Beste
Chief Operating Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit 1 Joint Filing Agreement

Joint Filing Agreement

The undersigned persons agree and consent to the joint filing on their behalf of this Schedule 13G in connection with their beneficial ownership of Access Pharmaceuticals, Inc. at September 30, 2001.

WILLIAM J. NASGOVITZ

By: /s/ PAUL T. BESTE

Paul T. Beste

As Attorney in Fact for William J. Nasgovitz

HEARTLAND ADVISORS, INC.

By: /s/ PAUL T. BESTE

Paul T. Beste

Chief Operating Officer