

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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* <u>Butler John P.</u> _____ (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS, INC.</u> <u>245 FIRST STREET</u> _____ (Street) <u>CAMBRIDGE MA 02142</u> _____ (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>Akebia Therapeutics, Inc. [AKBA]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>CEO and President</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>02/28/2019</u>	
4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	02/28/2019		A		239,500 ⁽¹⁾	A	\$0.00	614,382 ⁽²⁾	D	
Common Stock								31,047	I	Held by Dorothy Butler 2016 GRAT
Common Stock								27,353	I	Held by Dorothy Butler Revocable Trust November 20, 2007
Common Stock								31,047	I	Held by John Butler 2016 GRAT
Common Stock								27,353	I	Held by John P. Butler Revocable Trust November 20, 2007

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Employee Stock Option (Right to buy)	\$7.28	02/28/2019		A		350,000		(3)	02/28/2029	Common Stock	350,000	\$0.00	350,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- The restricted stock units were granted by the Issuer pursuant to its 2014 Incentive Plan, as amended. One third of the restricted stock units will vest on each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the grant date.
- Includes 265 shares of the Issuer's common stock purchased under the Issuer's 2014 Employee Stock Purchase Plan on December 31, 2018.
- The options were granted by the Issuer pursuant to its 2014 Incentive Plan, as amended. 25% of the options will vest on the first anniversary of the grant date with the remaining 75% vesting in equal quarterly installments thereafter.

Remarks:

/s/ Nicole R. Hadas, attorney-in-fact for John P. Butler 03/05/2019

** 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 4 (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.

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