FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Washington, D.C. 20049 |
|------------------------|
|                        |
|                        |
|                        |

| OMB APPROVAL             |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number:              | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated average burden |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| hours per response:      | 0.5       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*  Burke Steven Keith          |  |                    |  |                              | 2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol Akebia Therapeutics, Inc. [ AKBA ] |  |  |                  |                              |                    |                   |   | (Ch   | eck all ap<br>Dire  | plicable)   |   | suer<br>Owner<br>(specify                                      |                                       |
|---|--|--------------------|--|------------------------------|---|--|--|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS, INC 245 FIRST STREET |  |                    |  |                              |   | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 11/20/2019                              |  |                  |                              |                    |                   |   |   |   | ^ belo  | w) ``   | below<br>Medical Office  | )`` '                                 |
| (Street) CAMBRIDGE MA 02142 (City) (State) (Zip)                      |  |                    |  |                              |   |  | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) |                  |                              |                    |                   |   | Line  | ndividual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable  )  X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |   |   |  |                                       |
|   | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned   |                    |  |                              |   |  |  |                  |                              |                    |                   |   |   |   |   |   |  |                                       |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transa Date (Month/D              |  |                    |  | Execution Date,              |   | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)  4. Securities Acquired (A) Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 2) |  |                  |                              |                    | 5) Secu<br>Bene   | ficially<br>ed Following  | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4)   |   |   |  |                                       |
|   |  |                    |  |                              |   |  |  |                  | Code                         | v                  | Amount (A) or (D) |   | Price   | Trans   | action(s)<br>. 3 and 4)                             |   | (IIISU. 4)   |                                       |
| Common Stock 11/20  |  |                    |  |                              |   | 0/2019   |  | P <sup>(1)</sup> |                              | 27,000 A           |                   | \$3.58  | (2)   | 37,000  |   |   |  |                                       |
|   | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |                    |  |                              |   |  |  |                  |                              |                    |                   |   |   |   |   |   |  |                                       |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)                   | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security  | e (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Dat<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Ye | Date, Transacti<br>Code (Ins |   |  |  |                  | 6. Date<br>Expirat<br>(Month | on Dat             |                   | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instand 4) |   |   | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (Instr. 4) | Ownershi<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirec<br>(I) (Instr. 4 | Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|   | Code V (A  |                    |  |                              |   | (A)  | (D)  | Date<br>Exercis  | able                         | Expiration<br>Date | Title             | or<br>Nu<br>of  | mber<br>ares  |   |   |   |  |                                       |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. The purchase reported in this Form 4 was made on the open market.
- 2. The price reported is a weighted average price. The shares were purchased in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$3.50 to \$3.64, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide Issuer, any security holder of Issuer, or the staff of the Securities Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares purchased at each price within the range set forth in this footnote.

## Remarks:

/s/ Nicole R. Hadas, attorneyin-fact for Steven K. Burke

11/22/2019

\*\* 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.

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.

Know all by these present, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints each of John P. Butler, Jason A. Amello and Nicole R. Hadas signing singly, as the undersigneds true and lawful attorney-in-fact to:

- (1) prepare, execute in the undersigneds name and on the undersigneds behalf, and submit to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) a Form ID, including amendments thereto, and any other documents necessary or appropriate to obtain codes and passwords enabling the undersigned to make electronic filings with the SEC of reports required by Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Act) or any rule or regulation of the SEC;
- (2) execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, in the undersigneds capacity as an officer, director and/or shareholder of Akebia Therapeutics, Inc. (the Company), Forms 3, 4 and 5 in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Act, and the rules thereunder;
- (3) do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned that may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Form 3, 4 or 5 and timely file such form with the SEC and any stock exchange or similar authority; and
- (4) take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing that, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best interest of, or legally required by, the undersigned, it being understood that the documents executed by such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Power of Attorney shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as such attorney-in-fact may approve in such attorney-in-facts discretion.

The undersigned hereby grants to each attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary or proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all the acts such attorney-in-fact shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this Power of Attorney and the rights and powers herein granted. The undersigned acknowledges that each of the foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, is not assuming any of the undersigneds responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Act.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4 and 5 with respect to the undersigneds holdings of and transactions in securities issued by the Company, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to each of the foregoing attorneys-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of July 31, 2019.

By:

/s/ Steven K. Burke

Name:

Steven K. Burke, M.D.