

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

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

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

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Cotreau Violetta</u> | | | 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) Director _____ 10% Owner _____ X Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) _____ <u>SVP, Chief Accounting Officer</u> | | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>02/26/2021</u> | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | |
| C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS, INC. 245 FIRST STREET | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | |
| (Street) CAMBRIDGE MA 02142 | | | | | | | | |
| (City) (State) (Zip) | | | | | | | | |

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 | 02/26/2021 | | A | | 26,000 ⁽¹⁾ | A | \$0.00 | 38,900 | D | |

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 |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to buy) | \$3.46 | 02/26/2021 | | A | | 44,200 | | (2) | 02/26/2031 | Common Stock | 44,200 | \$0.00 | 44,200 | 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, subject to the reporting person's continued service with the Issuer on each vesting date.
- The options were granted by the Issuer pursuant to its 2014 Incentive Plan, as amended. The options will vest over four years: 25% of the options will vest on the first anniversary of the grant date with the remaining 75% vesting in equal quarterly installments thereafter, subject to the reporting person's continued service with the Issuer on each vesting date.

Remarks:

/s/ Andrea J. Paul, attorney-in-fact for Violetta Cotreau 03/02/2021

** 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.