

OMB APPROVAL	
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**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>Smith Cynthia</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  Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>06/02/2021</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	06/02/2021		A		13,700 <sup>(1)</sup>	A	\$0.00	51,533	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
Stock Option (Right to buy)	\$3.37	06/02/2021		A		20,100 <sup>(2)</sup>		06/02/2022	06/02/2031	Common Stock	20,100	\$0.00	20,100	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- The restricted stock units (the "RSUs") were granted by the Issuer pursuant to its 2014 Incentive Plan, as amended (the "2014 Plan"), as provided by the Issuer's Amended and Restated Non-Employee Director Compensation Program (the "Program"). The RSUs will vest in full (100%) on the first anniversary of the grant date, subject to the Reporting Person's continued service to the Issuer.
- The option to purchase shares of the Issuer's common stock (the "Stock Option") was granted by the Issuer pursuant to the 2014 Plan, as provided by the Program. The Stock Option will vest and become exercisable in full (100%) on the first anniversary of the grant date, subject to the Reporting Person's continued service to the Issuer.

**Remarks:**

/s/ Nicole R. Hadas, attorney-in-fact for Cynthia Smith 06/03/2021

\*\* 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.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all by these present, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints each of John P. Butler, David A. Spellman, Nicole R. Hadas, Kristie Wagner and Andrea J. Paul signing singly, as the undersigned's true and lawful attorney-in-fact to:

(1) prepare, execute in the undersigned's name and on the undersigned's 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 undersigned's 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, or Forms 144 in accordance with Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (Rule 144);

(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 or Form 144, 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-fact's 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 undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Act or Rule 144.

This Power of Attorney supersedes any power of attorney previously executed by the undersigned regarding the purposes outlined in the first paragraph hereof. 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, or Forms 144, with respect to the undersigned's 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 30, 2020.

By:  
/s/ Cynthia Smith

Name:  
Cynthia Smith