Tubridy Karen L Form 4 March 02, 2018

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

Form 5 obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

SECURITIES Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>*</u> Tubridy Karen L | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Akebia Therapeutics, Inc. [AKBA] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | | |
|--|------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction | (Shork an appheasie) | | | |
| | | | (Month/Day/Year) | Director 10% Owner | | | |
| C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS, | | | 02/28/2018 | Officer (give title Other (speci | | | |
| INC., 245 FIRST STREET | | | 02/20/2010 | below) below) | | | |
| | | | | SVP, Chief Development Officer | | | |
| | (Street) | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check | | | |
| | | | Filed(Month/Day/Year) | Applicable Line) | | | |
| | | | | _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | |
| CAMBRIDO | SE MA 021 | 12 | | Form filed by More than One Reporting | | | |
| CAMBRIDG | JE, MA 021 | 72 | | Person | | | |

| (City) | (State) | Zip) Table | e I - Non-D | erivative S | ecurit | ies Acc | quired, Disposed | of, or Beneficial | lly 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 on(A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following | 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 | Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | ` | |
| Common Stock | 02/28/2018 | | A | 17,500 (1) | A | \$0 | 41,518 (2) | D | |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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

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| 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. Transacti Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of orDerivative 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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to buy) | \$ 14.3 | 02/28/2018 | | A | 25,000 | <u>(3)</u> | 02/28/2028 | Common Stock | 25,000 |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Tubridy Karen L

C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS, INC.

245 FIRST STREET

CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142

SVP, Chief Development Officer

Signatures

Nicole R. Hadas, attorney-in-fact for Karen Tubridy

**Signature of Reporting Person

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- (1) The restricted stock units were granted by the Issuer pursuant to its 2014 Incentive Plan. One hundred percent of the restricted stock units will vest on the third anniversary of the grant date.

03/02/2018

Date

- (2) The total amount of beneficial securities owned includes 591 shares of stock purchased on June 30, 2017 at \$8.92 per share and 427 shares of stock purchased on December 31, 2017 at \$12.39 per share in connection with the Issuer's Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (3) The options were granted by the Issuer pursuant to its 2014 Incentive Plan. 25% of the shares underlying this option will vest on the first anniversary of the grant date with the remaining 75% vesting in equal quarterly installments thereafter.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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