

Akebia Therapeutics, Inc.
 Form 4
 January 19, 2016

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Butler John P.

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS,
 INC., 245 FIRST STREET, SUITE
 1100

(Street)

CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 Akebia Therapeutics, Inc. [AKBA]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 01/15/2016

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 CEO and President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 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. 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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	01/15/2016			M	25,000	A	\$ 0.47
					225,673 ⁽¹⁾	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. 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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 0.47	01/15/2016		M	25,000	(2) 09/16/2023	Common Stock	25,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Butler John P. C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS, INC. 245 FIRST STREET, SUITE 1100 CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142	X		CEO and President	

Signatures

Nicole R. Hadas, attorney-in-fact for John P. Butler
 Signature: _____ Date: 01/19/2016

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 total amount of beneficial securities owned includes 1,349 shares of stock purchased on June 30, 2015 at \$8.74 per share and 974 shares of stock purchased on December 31, 2015 at \$8.27 per share in connection with the Issuer's Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
 This transaction represents the acquisition of common stock as a result of the exercise and hold of derivative securities reported in Table
- (2) II. This option was granted on September 16, 2013. Twenty-five percent vested on September 16, 2014 with the remaining seventy-five percent vesting in equal monthly installments thereafter until fully vested on September 1, 2017.

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.