Morrison Jodie Pope Form 4 December 13, 2018

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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OMB APPROVAL

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obligations

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 may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Add Morrison Jodie	•	ng Person *	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Akebia Therapeutics, Inc. [AKBA]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer			
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction	(Check all applicable)			
C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS, INC., 245 FIRST ST.		UTICS,	(Month/Day/Year) 12/12/2018	XDirector10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)			
(Street) CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142			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 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person			
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acq	quired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned			

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1.Title of	2. Transaction Date	2A. Deemed	3.	4. Securiti	es Acq	uired	5. Amount of	6. Ownership	7. Nature of
Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transactio	n(A) or Dis	posed o	of	Securities	Form: Direct	Indirect
(Instr. 3)		any	Code	(D)			Beneficially	(D) or	Beneficial
		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	(Instr. 3, 4	and 5)		Owned	Indirect (I)	Ownership
							Following	(Instr. 4)	(Instr. 4)
					(4)		Reported		
					(A)		Transaction(s)		
			Code V	Amount	or (D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)		
Common Stock	12/12/2018		A	44,919	A	(1)	44,919	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. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of or 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)		} : (
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Stock Option (Right to buy)	\$ 16.17	12/12/2018		A	18,716	(2)	06/21/2026	Common Stock	18,716	
Stock Option (Right to buy)	\$ 17.53	12/12/2018		A	11,229	(2)	06/09/2027	Common Stock	11,229	
Stock Option (Right to buy)	\$ 10.05	12/12/2018		A	11,229	(2)	06/30/2028	Common Stock	11,229	
Stock Option (Right to buy)	\$ 8.94	12/12/2018		A	25,000	<u>(4)</u>	12/12/2028	Common Stock	25,000	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
reporting of the Function	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
Morrison Jodie Pope C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS, INC. 245 FIRST ST. CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142	X					

Signatures

/s/ Nicole R. Hadas, Attorney-in-fact for Jodie Pope Morrison

12/13/2018 Date

**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) Pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of June 28, 2018 (as amended, the "Merger Agreement"), each share of common stock of Keryx Biopharmaceuticals, Inc. ("Keryx") owned by the Reporting Person at the effective time of the transactions contemplated

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by the Merger Agreement (the "Effective Time") was automatically converted into 0.37433 shares of the Issuer's common stock (the "Exchange Multiplier").

- (2) The option is fully vested and currently exercisable.
 - Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, each option to purchase Keryx common stock (a "Keryx Option"), whether vested or unvested, that was outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time, was converted into an option to acquire the number of shares of common stock of the Issuer (an "Issuer Option") equal to the product of (i) the number of shares subject to such Keryx Option as of immediately prior to
- the Effective Time, multiplied by (ii) the Exchange Multiplier, rounded down to the nearest whole number of shares of the Issuer's common stock, at an exercise price per share equal to the quotient obtained by dividing the per share exercise price of the Keryx Option by the Exchange Multiplier, rounded up to the nearest whole cent.
- (4) 25% of 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.