Renaud Ronald C JR Form 4 June 15, 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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may continue.

Check this box

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 See Instruction

1(b).

(Last)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Renaud Ronald C JR

(First)

(Street)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Akebia Therapeutics, Inc. [AKBA]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

Director

below)

10% Owner

Other (specify

C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS.

INC., 245 FIRST STREET

4. If Amendment, Date Original

(Instr. 8)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

(Month/Day/Year)

06/14/2018

Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person

Officer (give title

Form filed by More than One Reporting

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 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned

Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial

(I) Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

(A) or Code V Amount (D) Price

(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

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)

1. Title of Derivative Conversion Security or Exercise

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if any

4. 5. Number of **Transaction**Derivative Code Securities

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amount of **Underlying Securities** (Instr. 3 and 4)

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(Instr. 3) Price of (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Acquired (A) Derivative or Disposed of Security (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) Code V (A) (D) Date Expiration Title Amount Exercisable Date or Number of Shares Stock Option 12,500 Common 06/14/2019 06/14/2028 \$ 11.14 06/14/2018 A 12,500 (1) (Right to Stock buy)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Renaud Ronald C JR C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS, INC. 245 FIRST STREET CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142

Signatures

Nicole R. Hadas, Attorney-in-Fact for Ronald C. Renaud, Jr.

06/15/2018

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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).

Represents an option to purchase shares of Akebia Therapeutics, Inc.'s (the "Company's") common stock granted by the Company (1) pursuant to the Company's 2014 Incentive Plan (the "Stock Option"). 100% of the Stock Option will vest and become exercisable on the first anniversary of the grant date, subject to the Reporting Person's continued service to the Company.

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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