

Akebia Therapeutics, Inc.
 Form 4
 June 20, 2016

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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 *
GOWEN MAXINE

(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)
06/16/2016

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)

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 Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Code | V | Amount | (D) | Price |

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

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 control number.

SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

| 1. Title of Derivative | 2. Conversion | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if | 4. Transaction | 5. Number of Derivative | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|

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| Security (Instr. 3) | or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | any (Month/Day/Year) | Code (Instr. 8) | Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 3 and 4) | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|---|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | | | Code V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Stock Option (Right to buy) | \$ 8.56 | 06/16/2016 | A | 12,500 | | 06/16/2017 ⁽¹⁾ | 06/16/2026 | Common Stock | 12,500 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| GOWEN MAXINE C/O AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS, INC. 245 FIRST STREET, SUITE 1100 CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142 | | | | |

Signatures

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Nicole R. Hadas, Attorney-in-Fact for Maxine Gowen | 06/20/2016 |
| <small>**Signature of Reporting Person</small> | <small>Date</small> |

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).
- 100% of the option shares vest on the earlier of June 16, 2017 or the date immediately prior to the next annual meeting of the Issuer after the grant date (the "Vesting Date"), provided that the Reporting Person remains in continuous service as a member of the Issuer's Board of Directors through the applicable Vesting Date, and provided further that the options held by the Reporting Person shall be eligible for vesting acceleration upon a "Change in Control" as defined and provided for in the Issuer's Non-Employee Director Stock Option Award Agreement.

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.