

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**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * <u>Soteropoulos Paula</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O AKCEA THERAPEUTICS, INC. 22 BOSTON WHARF ROAD, 9TH FLOOR  (Street) BOSTON MA 02210  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>AKCEA THERAPEUTICS, INC. [ AKCA ]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <b>Chief Executive Officer</b>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>09/26/2019</u>	
4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		

**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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	09/26/2019		M		1,711,079	A	\$6.48	1,711,079	D	
Common Stock	09/26/2019		F		1,113,492	D	\$16.64	597,587	D	
Common Stock	09/26/2019		M		145,303	A	\$6.48	742,890	D	
Common Stock	09/26/2019		F		95,156	D	\$16.64	647,734	D	
Common Stock	09/26/2019		M		205,479	A	\$12.21	853,213	D	
Common Stock	09/26/2019		F		175,064	D	\$16.64	678,149	D	

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

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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$6.48	09/26/2019		M			1,711,079	(1)	12/15/2025	Common Stock	1,711,079	\$0.00	0	D	
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$6.48	09/26/2019		M			145,303	(2)	02/16/2026	Common Stock	145,303	\$0.00	13,209	D	
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$12.21	09/26/2019		M			205,479	(3)	06/04/2027	Common Stock	205,479	\$0.00	102,740	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- The shares vest as follows: 1/4th of the shares vest one year after January 1, 2015; 1/48th of the shares vest monthly thereafter over the next three years.
- The shares vest as follows: 1/4th of the shares vest one year after January 4, 2016; 1/48th of the shares vest monthly thereafter over the next three years.
- The shares vest as follows: 1/4th of the shares vest one year after January 3, 2017; 1/48th of the shares vest monthly thereafter over the next three years.

**Remarks:**

/s/ Paula Soteropoulos

09/30/2019

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

\* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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