

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) <u>C/O AKCEA THERAPEUTICS, INC.</u> <u>22 BOSTON WHARF ROAD, 9TH FLOOR</u> (Street) <u>BOSTON MA 02210</u> (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) <u>Chief Executive Officer</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>04/05/2019</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	04/05/2019		M		30,000	A	\$6.48	30,000	D	
Common Stock	04/05/2019		S ⁽¹⁾		30,000	D	\$32.11	0	D	
Common Stock	04/08/2019		M		1,787	A	\$6.48	1,787	D	
Common Stock	04/08/2019		S ⁽¹⁾		1,787	D	\$32.1658 ⁽²⁾	0	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		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$6.48	04/05/2019		M		30,000	(3)	12/15/2025	Common Stock	30,000	\$0.00	1,712,866	D	
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$6.48	04/08/2019		M		1,787	(3)	12/15/2025	Common Stock	1,787	\$0.00	1,711,079	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- The sales reported in this Form 4 were effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person.
- The weighted average sale price for the transaction reported was \$32.1658, and the range of prices were between \$32.11 and \$32.20. Upon request by the SEC staff, the issuer, or any security holder of the issuer, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price will be provided.
- 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.

Remarks:

/s/ Paula Soteropoulos 04/09/2019
 ** 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.

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 Number.

