

OMB APPROVAL	
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**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

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Howarth Alex G.</u> <hr/> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O AKCEA THERAPEUTICS, INC.</u> <u>22 BOSTON WHARF ROAD, 9TH FLOOR</u> <hr/> (Street) <u>BOSTON MA 02210</u> <hr/> (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) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Chief Operating Officer</u>		
			3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>03/19/2020</u>			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		
			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	03/19/2020		A		16,800 <sup>(1)</sup>	A	\$0.00	66,800	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					
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$12.76	03/19/2020		A		34,200		(2)	03/18/2030	Common Stock	34,200	34,200	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- Represents restricted stock unit award granted under the Issuer's 2015 Equity Incentive Plan.
- The shares vest as follows: 1/4th of the shares vest one year after March 19, 2020; 1/48th of the shares vest monthly thereafter over the next three years.

**Remarks:**

/s/ Joshua F. Patterson, 03/23/2020  
Attorney-in-Fact  
 \*\* 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.