FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Washington, | D.C. | 20549 |
|-------------|------|-------|
|-------------|------|-------|

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

|     | OMB APPROVAL             |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|     | OMB Number:              | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | Estimated average burden |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| - 1 | hours per response:      | 0.5       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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

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*  Watanabe Todd Franklin |   |  |   |                 | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Arcutis Biotherapeutics, Inc. [ ARQT ] |  |  |  |                                    |  |  |   | Check all ap  X Dire                 | ,  | ng Pers                          | son(s) to Iss<br>10% Ov<br>Other (s | vner   |  |
|--|---|--|---|-----------------|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
|  | CUTIS BIO   | irst)<br>THERAPEUTIO<br>E ROAD, SUITE      |   |                 | 3. Date of Earliest Transa<br>03/03/2021   |  |  |  |                                    | action (Month/Day/Year)                  |  |   |                                      |  | Presider                         | nt and                              | below)   | peony  |
| (Street) WESTL   | ( )   | A  | 91361   |                 | 4.1  | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) |  |  |                                    |  |  |   |                                      | Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable ine)  X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |                                  |                                     |  |  |
| (City)   | (S  |  | (Zip)   |                 |  |  |  |  |                                    |  |  |   |                                      |  |                                  |                                     |  |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Trans. Date                  |   |  | active Securities Acquation  2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) |                 | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8)  |  | 4. Securities Acquired (A) of Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 |  | ed (A) or<br>tr. 3, 4 an           | 5. Am<br>Secur<br>Benef<br>Owne<br>Repor | ount of<br>ities<br>icially<br>d Following | Form<br>(D) or  | : Direct<br>r Indirect<br>str. 4)    | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4)  |                                  |                                     |  |  |
| Common   | Stock   |  |   | 03/03           | 1/202°   | 1  |  |  | Code                               | V  | Amount 32,700                              | (D)   | Price<br>\$0.                        | (Instr.  | 3 and 4)<br>8,916 <sup>(2)</sup> | $\vdash$                            | D  |  |
| Common Stock   |   |  | 03/05/2021  |                 | -  |  |  | S <sup>(3)</sup>                       |                                    | 1,750                                    |  | \$30  |                                      | 597,166 <sup>(2)</sup>   |                                  | D                                   |  |  |
| Common Stock   |   |  |   |                 |  |  |  |  |                                    |  |  |   | 4                                    | 49,981   |                                  |                                     | By<br>LLC <sup>(4)</sup>   |  |
| Common Stock   |   |  |   |                 |  |  |  |  |                                    |  |  |   |                                      | 7,850  |                                  |                                     | By<br>Trust <sup>(5)</sup>   |  |
| Common Stock   |   |  |   |                 |  |  |  |  |                                    |  |  |   | 7,850                                |  |                                  | By<br>Trust <sup>(6)</sup>          |  |  |
| Common Stock   |   |  |   |                 |  |  |  |  |                                    |  |  | 1   | 124,956                              |  |                                  | By<br>Trust <sup>(7)</sup>          |  |  |
|  |   | -  | Table II -  |                 |  |  |  |  |                                    |  | osed of,<br>convertil                      |   |                                      | y Owned  |                                  |                                     |  | •  |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)              | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution D<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/                              | ed 4<br>Date, 0 | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code (   | ection   | 5. Numl  | ber<br>ive<br>ies<br>ed<br>ed<br>nstr. | 6. Date E<br>Expiratio<br>(Month/D | xercis                                   | able and                                   | 7. Title an<br>of Securit<br>Underlyin<br>Derivative<br>(Instr. 3 a | d Amour<br>ies<br>g<br>Security      | 8. Price of Derivative Security  |                                  | e<br>s<br>ally<br>g                 | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|  |   |  |   |                 | Code   | v  | (A)  |  | Date<br>Exercisal                  |  | Expiration<br>Date                         | Title   | Amoun<br>or<br>Numbe<br>of<br>Shares | r  |                                  |                                     |  |  |
| Stock<br>Option<br>(Right to<br>Buy)                             | \$32.44   | 03/03/2021                                 |   |                 | A  |  | 99,200   |  | (8)                                |  | 03/03/2031                                 | Common<br>Stock   | 99,20                                | \$0.00   | 99,20                            | 00                                  | D  |  |
| Explanatio   | n of Respons  | ses:                                       |   |                 |  |  |  |  |                                    |  |  |   |                                      |  |                                  |                                     |  |  |

- 1. Constitute restricted stock units ("RSUs") for which the Reporting Person is entitled to receive one (1) share of common stock for each one (1) RSU upon vesting. 25% of the RSUs vest annually on March 3 of each year, beginning March 3, 2022, subject to the Reporting Person's continued service to the Issuer.
- 2. Includes 54,450 RSUs.
- 3. Transaction made pursuant to a 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the Reporting Person.
- 4. The securities are held of record by Watanabe Ventures, LLC, of which the Reporting Person is the Chief Operating Officer. The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of such securities except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein, and the inclusion of these securities in this report shall not be deemed an admission of beneficial ownership of such securities for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purposes.
- 5. The securities are held of record by The Anderson Prest Watanabe Irrevocable Trust, of which the Reporting Person is the trustee. The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of such securities except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein, and the inclusion of these securities in this report shall not be deemed an admission of beneficial ownership of such securities for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purposes
- 6. The securities are held of record by The John Franklin Watanabe Trust, of which the Reporting Person is the trustee. The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of such securities except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein, and the inclusion of these securities in this report shall not be deemed an admission of beneficial ownership of such securities for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purposes
- 7. The securities are held of record by The Watanabe 2016 Irrevocable Trust, of which the Reporting Person's children are beneficiaries. The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of such securities except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein, and the inclusion of these securities in this report shall not be deemed an admission of beneficial ownership of such securities for purposes of Section 16 or
- 8. 1/48th of the shares subject to the option vest on each monthly anniversary measured from March 3, 2021 (the "Vesting Commencement Date"), such that 100% of the shares subject to the option will be fully vested and exercisable on the fourth anniversary of the Vesting Commencement Date, subject to the Reporting Person's continued service to the Issuer.

/s/ John W. Smither, as Attorney-in-Fact for Todd Franklin Watanabe

03/05/2021

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

- $^{\star}$  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.