

R E G I S T E R N O W !

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1,000,000,000 CHF investment

7,000,874 hours of work

6,587 experiments

423 researchers

1 medicine



# THE MAKING OF AN INNOVATIVE MEDICINE

*Introductory workshops on translational biomedical research,  
drug discovery and development*

**BIO-698 resumes Thursday September 11. 2025  
4:15 PM @ CM013**



Judge Prof Dr med Olaia Naveiras



With Timothee Ferrari MD PhD cand



Sciences de la Vie -SV



With Justine Epiney MD PhD cand

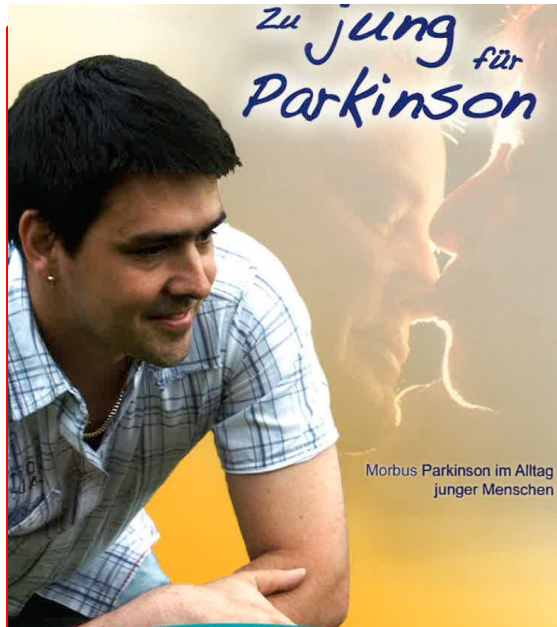


Mehdi AliGadiri MD PhD cand



Prof Roger G. Clerc

# Each of You Knows a Relative, a Friend, a Neighbor Who Suffered from a Disease



...nt-side of life, a more onerous citizenship.

...born holds a dual citizenship, in the  
...well and in the kingdom of the sick.

...prefer to use only the good  
...sooner or later each of us is obliged, at least  
...identify ourselves as citizen of the other p

**DO WHAT PATIENTS NEED NEXT!**

Susan Sontag

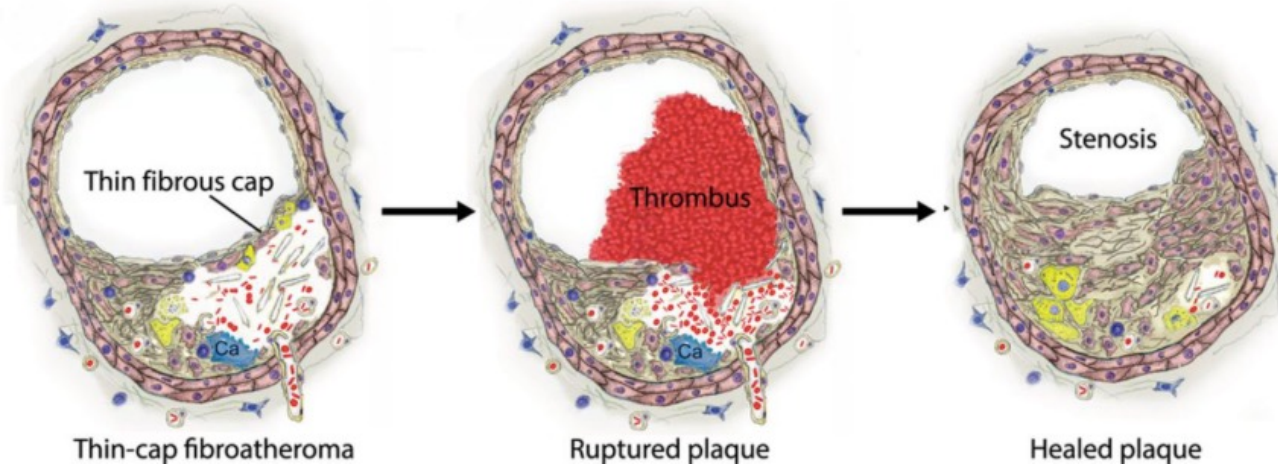


CVDs are the number 1 cause of death globally: more people die annually from CVDs than from any other cause.

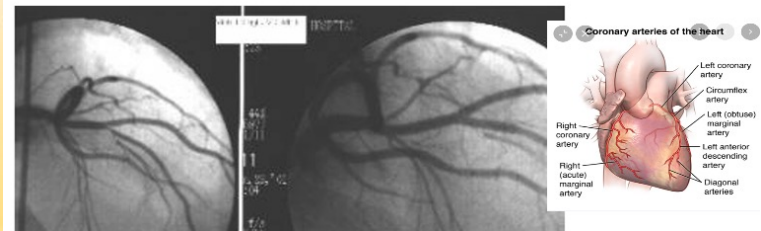
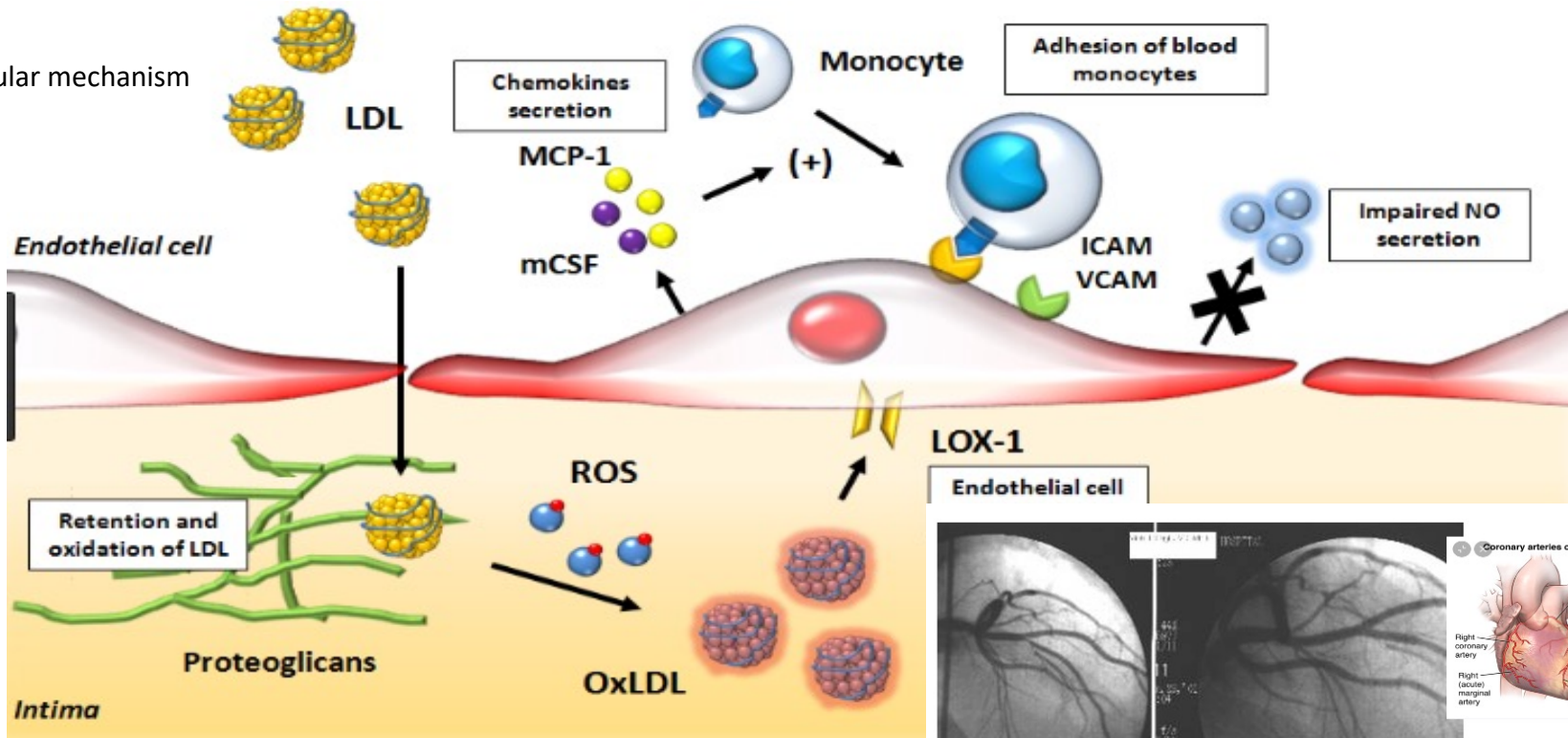
# Stroke and acute heart failure : the unstable atheroma plaque



at histopathological level



at molecular mechanism



# The Making Of An Innovative Medicine – class schedule

Thursday's @ 4-6 PM except 04.12/11.12.25 @2-6 PM



**Session 1: Scope of the course \_ general organization \_ case study**

11.09.25 *Embracing a career at the heart of biomedical research !?*

CM013

**Session 2: Historical perspective: the modern pharmacy**

18.09.25 *Advent of modern medicines - placebo controlled drug development*

CM013

**Session 3: Introduction to translational research: crossing the bridge**

25.09.25 *A chasm has opened wide between biomedical research and patients in need*

CM013

**Sessions 4-5: Therapeutic target identification I & II**

02-09.10.25 *"me too" vs a wealth of innovative targets \_ small MW cpds vs biologicals*

CM013

*Early front loading of biomarker identification for cohort stratification*

**Session 6: Structure based drug design \_ medicinal chemistry\_low/high throughput**

16.10.25 **screening assays\_ multiple parallel optimization\_ML-powered screens**

CM013

*Setting up screening assays, the robotics, the million cpds libraries*

**Session 7: Therapeutic modalities biologicals-peptides : today's - tomorrow's**

30.10.25 **pharmacy NBEs**

CM013

*Challenges (cost of goods - healthcare payers) and opportunities*

**WORKSHOP LISTING - THE MAKING OF AN INNOVATIVE MEDICINE BIO 698-HS2025 in CM013**

**! NON EXHAUSTIVE LISTING - SUGGESTIONS WELCOME !**

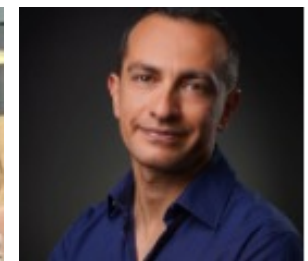
sessions	workshops	speaker/s
<b>S02 (18-09-25)</b>		
historical medicines	penicilin: impact, whose invention ?	
hopping on giant shoulders	prozac at the core of psychiatry	
	vaccine discovery:smallpoxJennerTodaymRNAvaccine	Eugenio
	artemisinin and malaria	
	insulin-Banting Best et al. beagle dog	
	slide51-X-ray image DNA–Rosalind Franklin	
	cyclosporin from soil sample to life saver	
<b>S03 (25-09-25)</b>		
translational research	expanding scope of translational therapies	
from bench to bedside and back	chronotherapy,circadian clock,sex,longevity	Solomon
	CAR-T, TCR-T cell therapies in "cold" tumors	
	Y chrom loss in immune cells drives cancer	
<b>S04 (02-10-25)</b>		
therapeutic target identification	th. target identification using a phenocopy screen	Justine
<b>S05 (09-10-25)</b>		
therapeutic target identification	nocosomial inf/MRSA/phage antibacterials	
	Crispr/Cas9 gene editing huntington disease	
	AI in drug discovery / ML-powered medicine	Lou
	AIDS - Lenacapavir : end of plague ?	
<b>S06 (16-10-25)</b>		
structure based drug design	macrocycles and non druggable targets	Benedikt
	chemoproteomics - NMEs	
	AIDS HIV from deadly virus to chronic disease	
<b>S07 (30-10-25)</b>		
therapeutic modalities - NBEs	rare diseases repurposing medicines	Jana
	biologics on the rise-MABs medicines & more	Eleni
	RNA therapeutics, antisense medicines	
	Wnt pathway - PROTACs vs molecular GLUES	
<b>S08 (06-11-25)</b>		
PHC personalized healthcare	BRCA1/2 preventive surgery/tumor board	
Human genomics	4P medicine-GWAS-Personalized Health Care	Frederico
	disease enabling biomarkers/micro RNAs	
	AZ-biomarker BD-tau yet still no curative drug	
	centenarian host isoallo-LCA bile acid bacteria	



## Workshops The Making Of An Innovative Medicine (today's class)



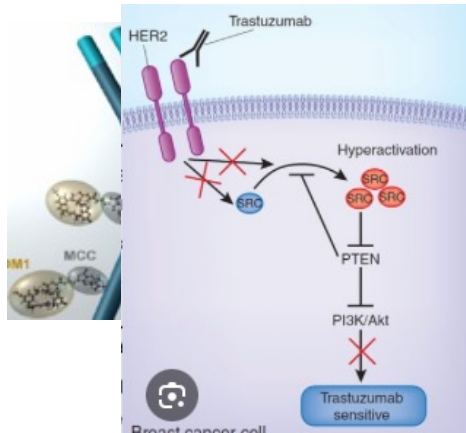
Prof O Naveiras



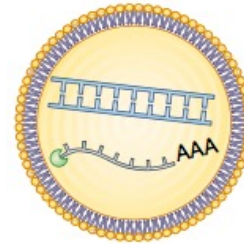
Prof J Shukry



MABs



Peptides



ASOs

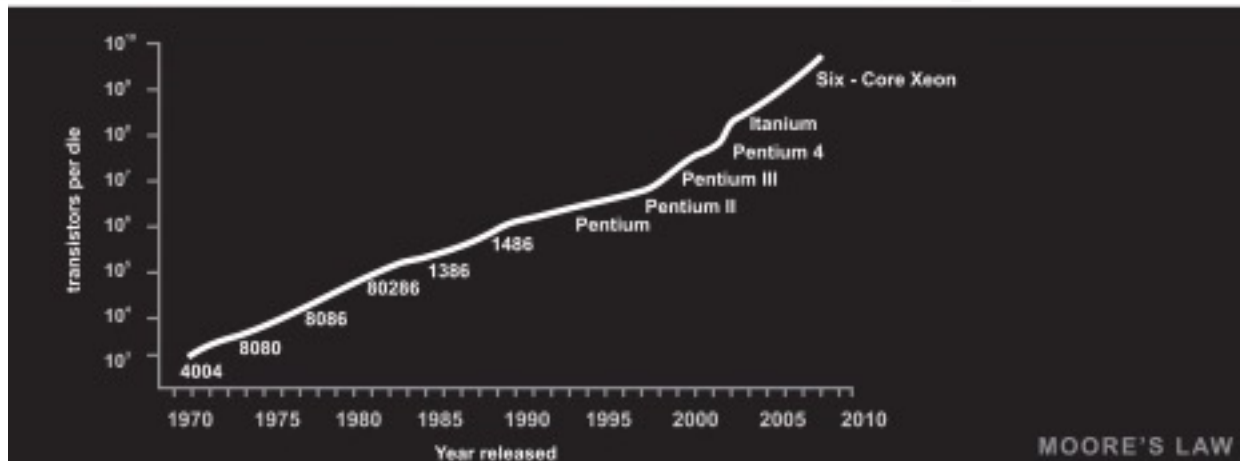
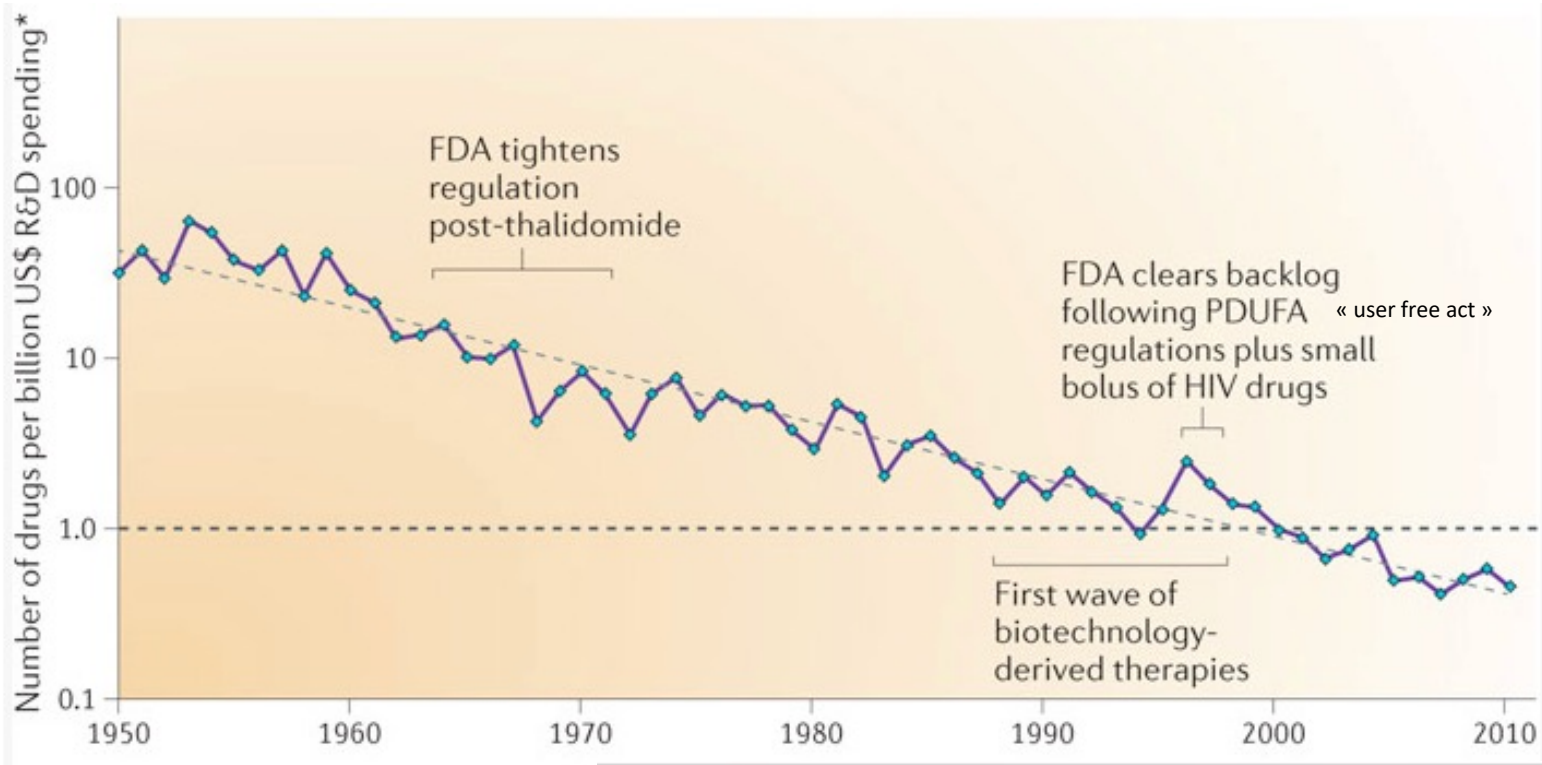
(antisense oligonucleotides)

RNAs

(miRs, siRNAs etc)

- Therapeutic peptides, eg. insulin, incretins, hormones
- Monoclonal antibodies mono, bi, tri-specific, armed
- Novel therapeutic modalities, DNA, RNA, Macrolides, non biologicals complex drug (NBCDs)
- Costs of goods NME's vs NBEs – healthcare payers ! ££\$\$

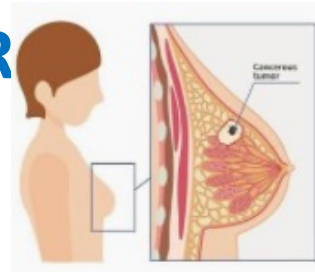
The biggest risk is NOT to get a medicine !  
productivity declines – why ?





- **DISEASE BIOLOGY STARTS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNDERLYING MOLECULAR MECHANISMS AT THE CAUSE OF THE DISEASE**

- **DISEASE BIOLOGY IS COMPLEX: SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF ELEMENTS ARRANGE IN A VERY INTRICATE MANNER**

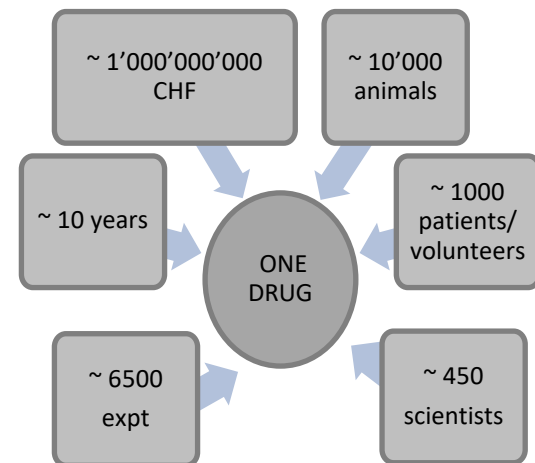
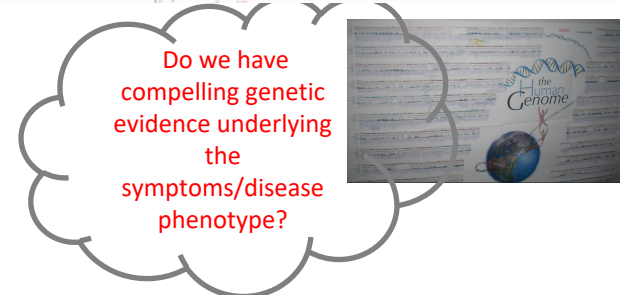
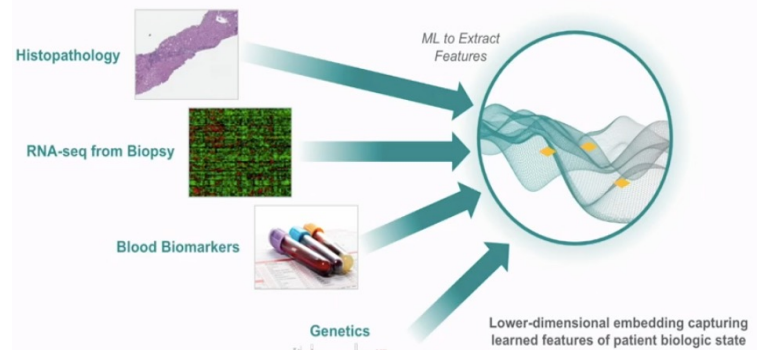
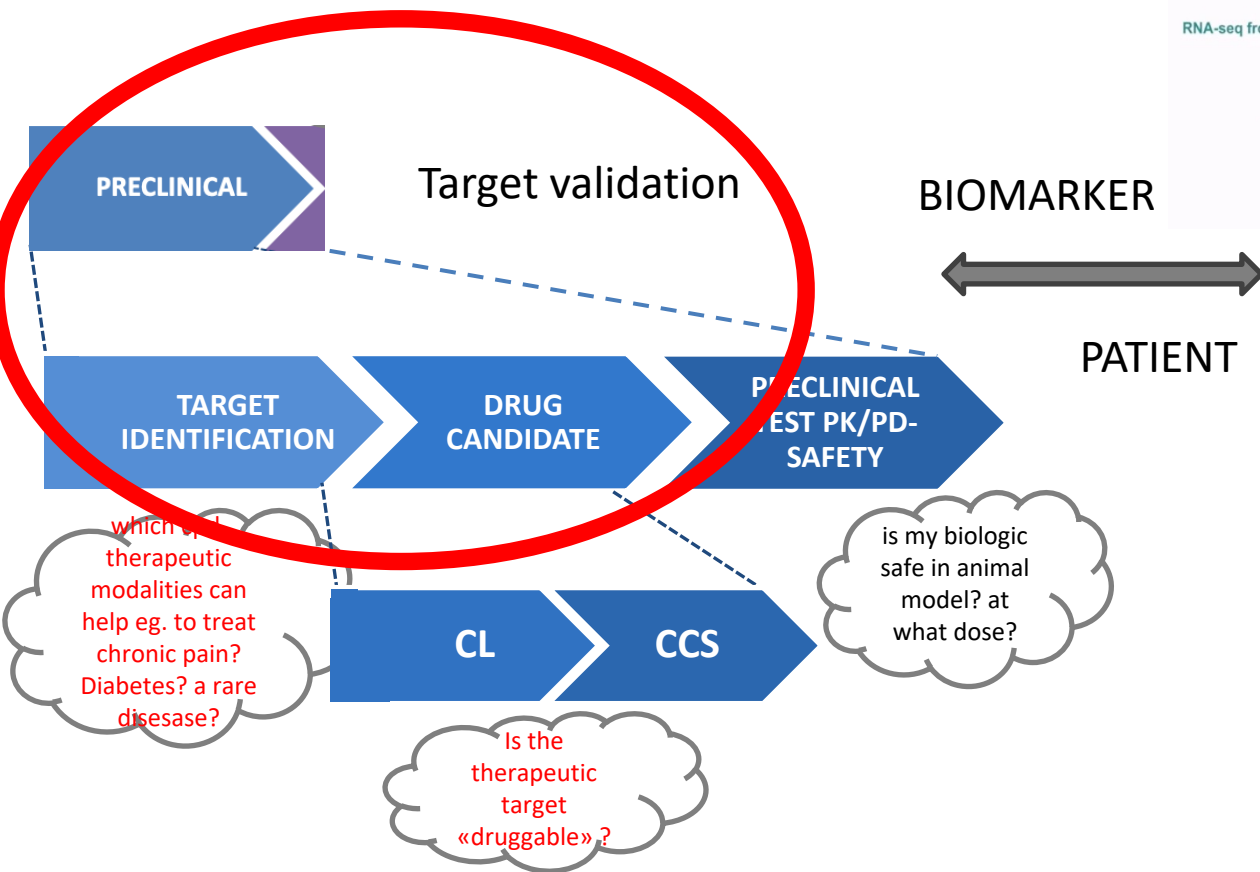


*patients first !*



- **ONCE THE BIOLOGICAL TARGET TO BE ADDRESSED HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED, MOLECULAR BIOLOGISTS START TO DESIGN A BIOLOGICAL WITH THE RIGHT CHARACTERISTICS TO BECOME A MEDICINE**

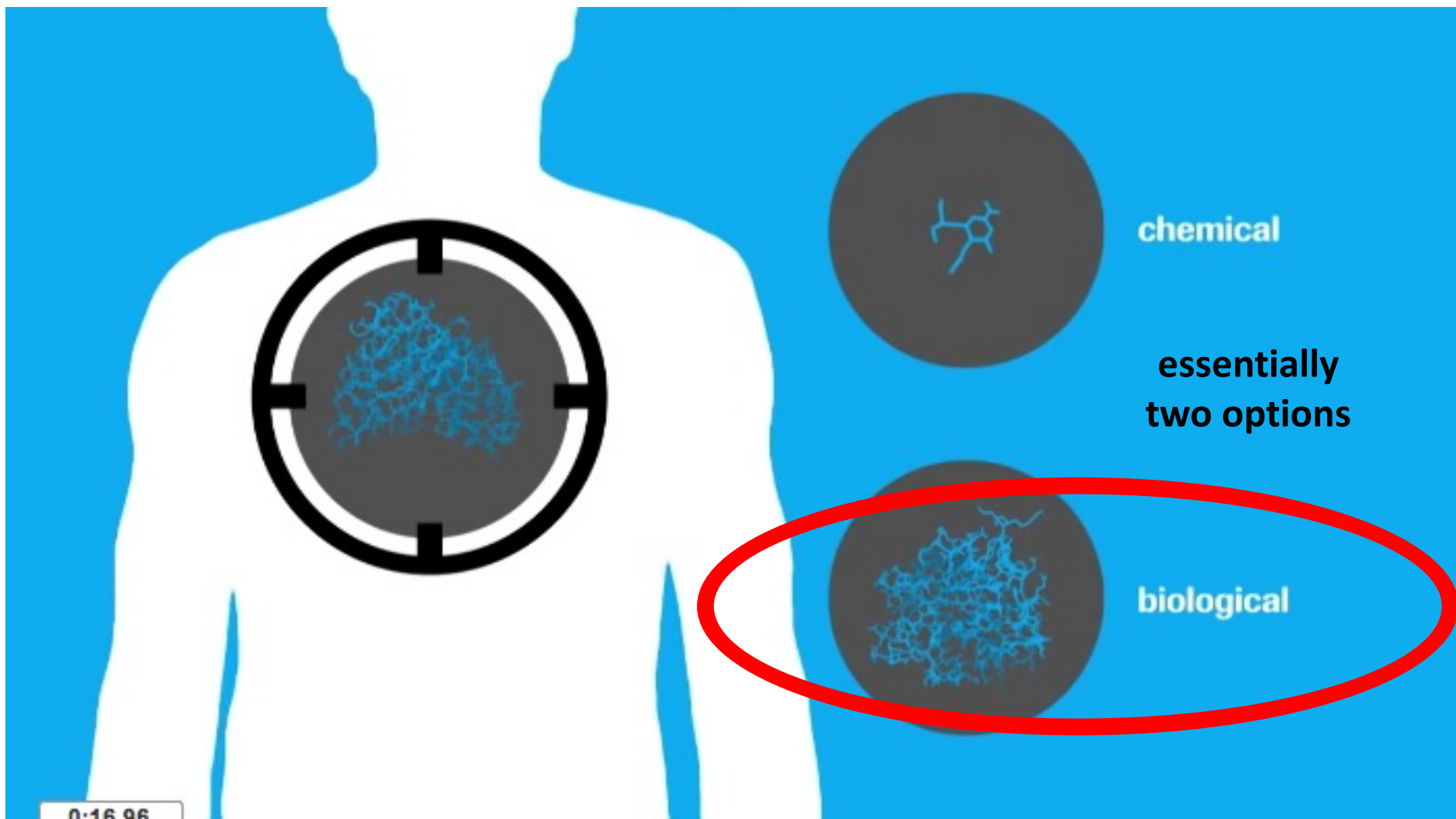
# Therapeutic modality selection



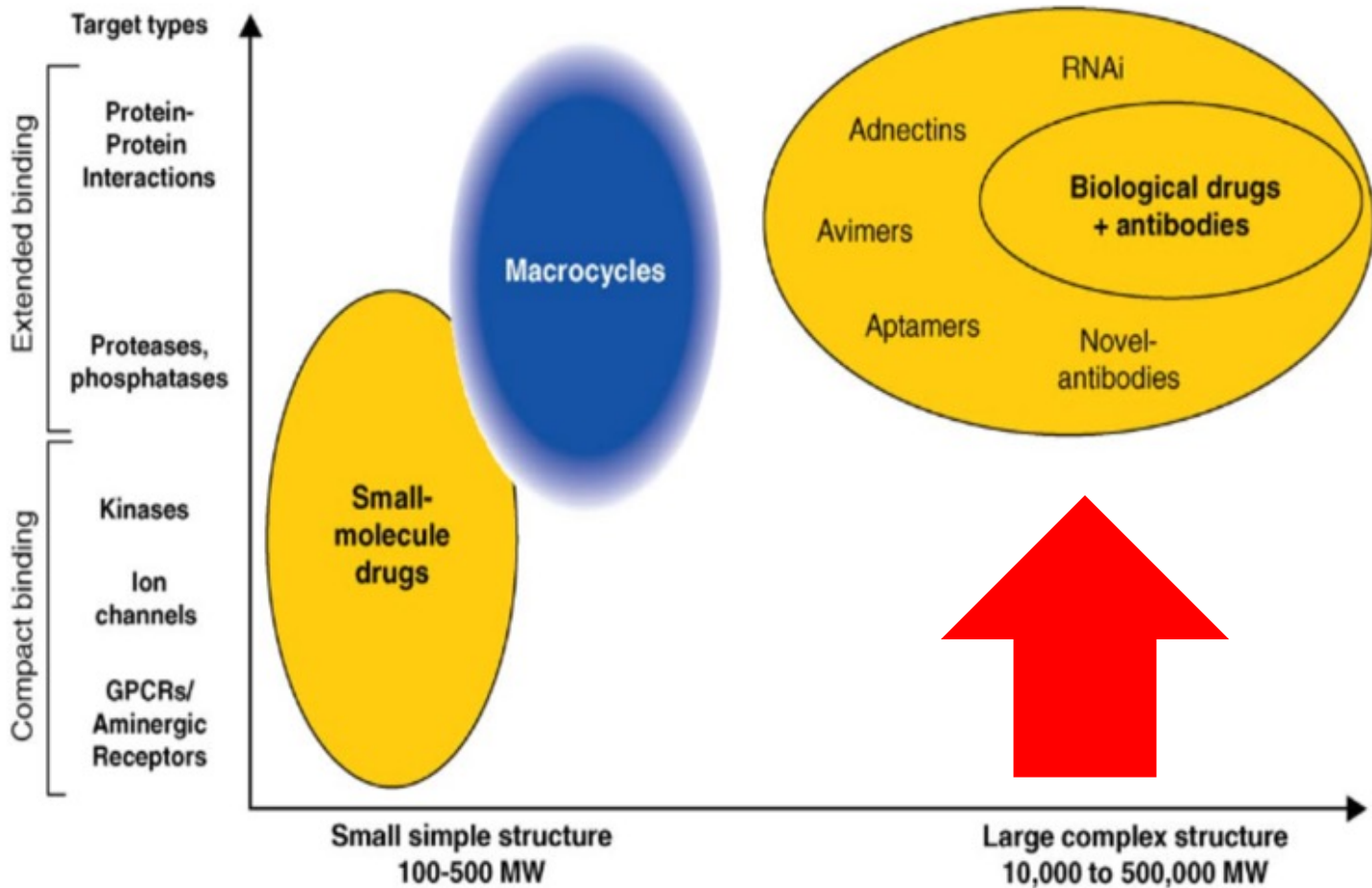
which type of therapeutic modalities can help eg. to treat chronic pain? Diabetes? a rare disease?

Is the therapeutic target «druggable»?

# Addressing a novel therapeutic target : small chemical cpds versus large biological moieties : what's best ?



# Large complex macromolecules for non small MW druggable targets



# BIOLOGICALS - NBEs **VERSUS** CHEMICALS - NMEs



When a small  $M_R$  moiety (**CHEMICALS**) approach is not an option) eg large flat protein: protein interaction surfaces, then another therapeutic modality (**BIOLOGICALS**) eg. peptides, monoclonal antibodies or RNA, DNA is considered

When eg. a druggable therapeutic target is known for its absence of a solvent accessible surface of an hydrophobic “pocket” peptide groove (enzyme, ion channel, receptor etc) invagination lined up with hydrophobic amino acid side chains

**then candidates for other therapeutic modalities, such as biologicals, RNA and DNA moieties shall be considered**

**Only 3000 out of >25000 proteins encoded in the human genome possess a hydrophobic “pocket”!**

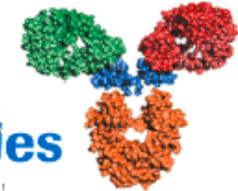


## Small molecules



- chemical synthesis
- single molecule species
- well defined structure, stable, half life hours
- MW < 500-1000 Da
- standard models for safety testing (2 species: rodent and non-rodent)
- non-immunogenic
- Typically given oral
- distribution extra- and intracellular
- metabolised
- efficacy and toxicity from parent and metabolite(s)

## Antibodies



- **biotechnology** derived molecules
- Therapeutic mAb = mixture of molecule **variants**
- **complex** structure, heat sensitive, **long half life**
- **150'000 Da** for IgGs
- **high target selectivity** & **species specificity** (for safety testing often only monkey cross-reacts)
- may be **immunogenic**
- **Parenteral** administration (i.v., s.c.)
- distribution extracellular in blood (**low  $V_{ss}$** )
- **catabolised** (proteolytic degradation)
- effects secondary to **MoA** and exaggerated pharmacology

Aspirin half life 1h ; mAB several weeks !



- **WHAT ARE BIOTHERAPEUTICS ? Peptides, antibodies, DNA, etc**
- **PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM CHARACTERIZED CELLS THROUGH THE USE OF VARIOUS EXPRESSION SYSTEMS**
- **INCLUDING BACTERIA, YEAST, INSECT, PLANT, MAMMALIAN CELLS ETC**
- **THERAPEUTIC MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES ARE THE LARGEST SUBGROUP OF BIOTHERAPEUTICS IN CLINICAL USE**
- **2800 LISTED CLINICAL TRIALS CURRENTLY REFER TO MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES**



## BIOLOGICALS are increasingly being developed as INNOVATIVE MEDICINE

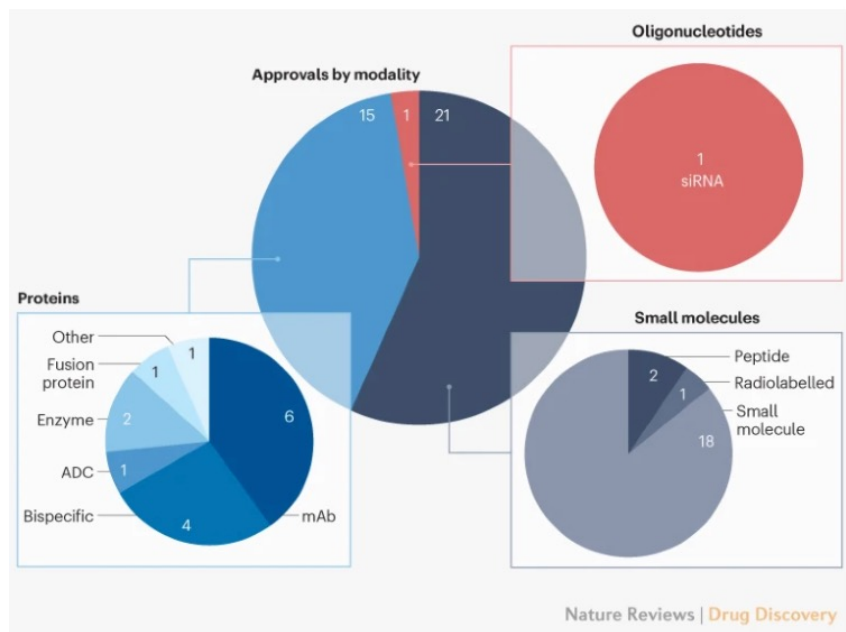


Fig. 3 | CDER approvals by modality. Small molecules, including peptides of up to 40 amino acids in length, and oligonucleotides are approved as new molecular entities (NMEs). Protein-based candidates

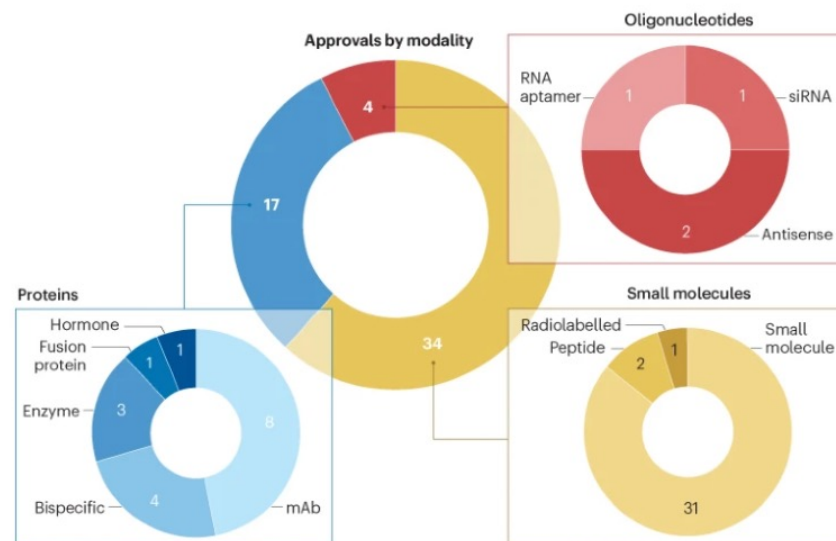
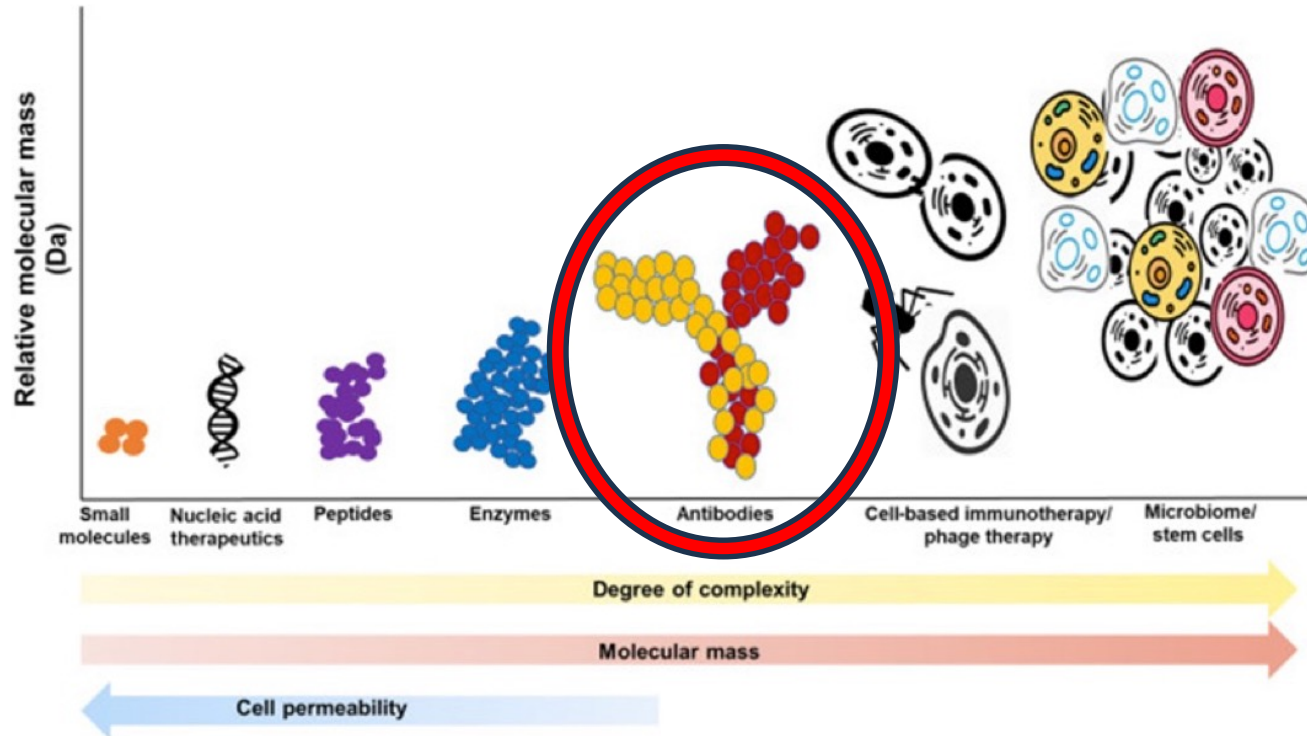


Fig. 3 | CDER approvals by modality. Small molecules, including peptides of up to 40 amino acids in length, and oligonucleotides are approved as new molecular entities (NMEs). Protein-based candidates are approved through biologics license applications (BLAs). mAb, monoclonal antibody; siRNA, small

2022 FDA approvals

2023 FDA approvals

# Degree of complexity of target modalities comes with challenges !

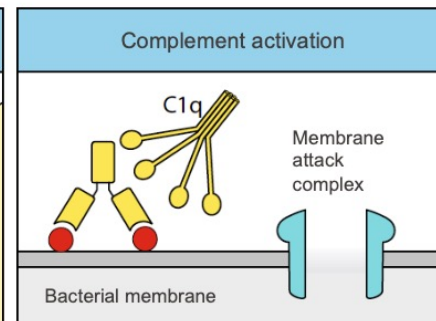
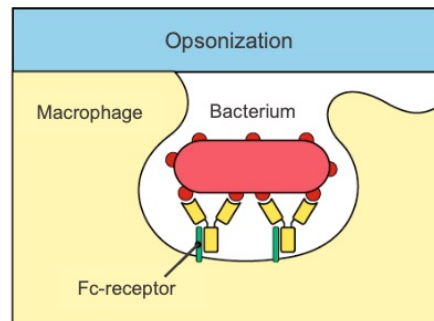
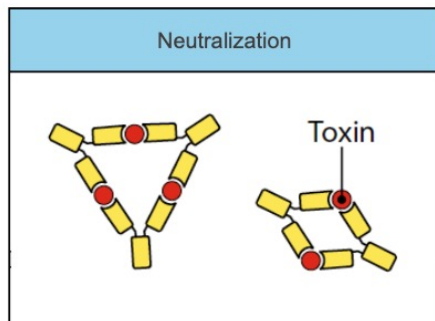
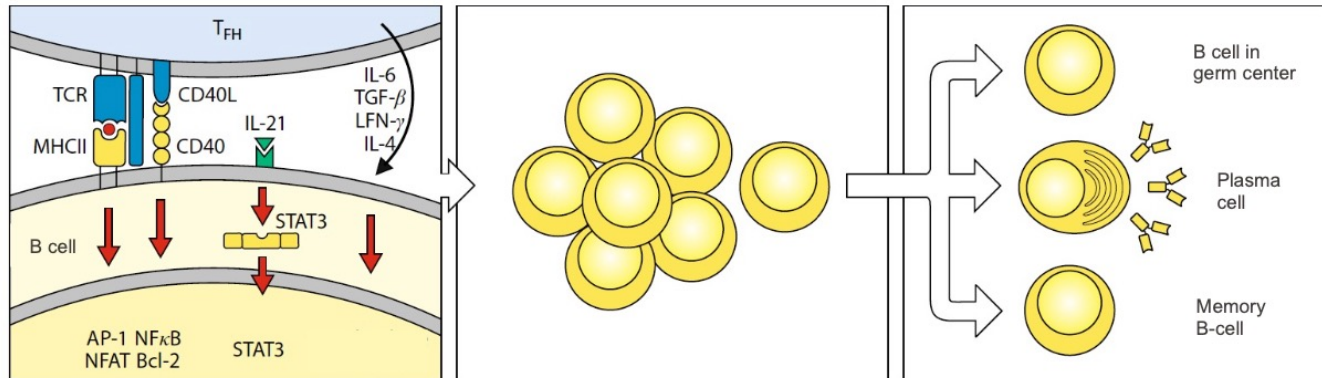


## MABs



Features	Monoclonal Antibodies (mAbs)	Small Molecules
<b>Size</b>	150 kilodaltons (kDa)	500 daltons
<b>Production</b>	Produced using recombinant DNA technology in living cells, resulting in complex manufacturing processes.	Chemically synthesized, allowing for precise structural control.
<b>Administration</b>	Administered parenterally, usually via intravenous (IV) or subcutaneous (SC) injection	Can be taken orally, as they are typically absorbed through passive diffusion in the gastrointestinal tract.
<b>Target specificity</b>	Highly specific to a single epitope on their target antigen, minimizing off-target effects.	May interact with multiple targets, potentially leading to off-target effects
<b>Mechanism of action</b>	Bind to extracellular targets, such as cell surface receptors or soluble antigens, to modulate immune responses or block disease pathways	Can target both intracellular and extracellular sites, influencing various cellular processes.
<b>Pharmacokinetics</b>	Exhibit long half-lives (approximately 11–30 days in humans) and are cleared through linear and nonlinear processes. Low frequent dosing	Typically have shorter half-lives, necessitating more frequent dosing.

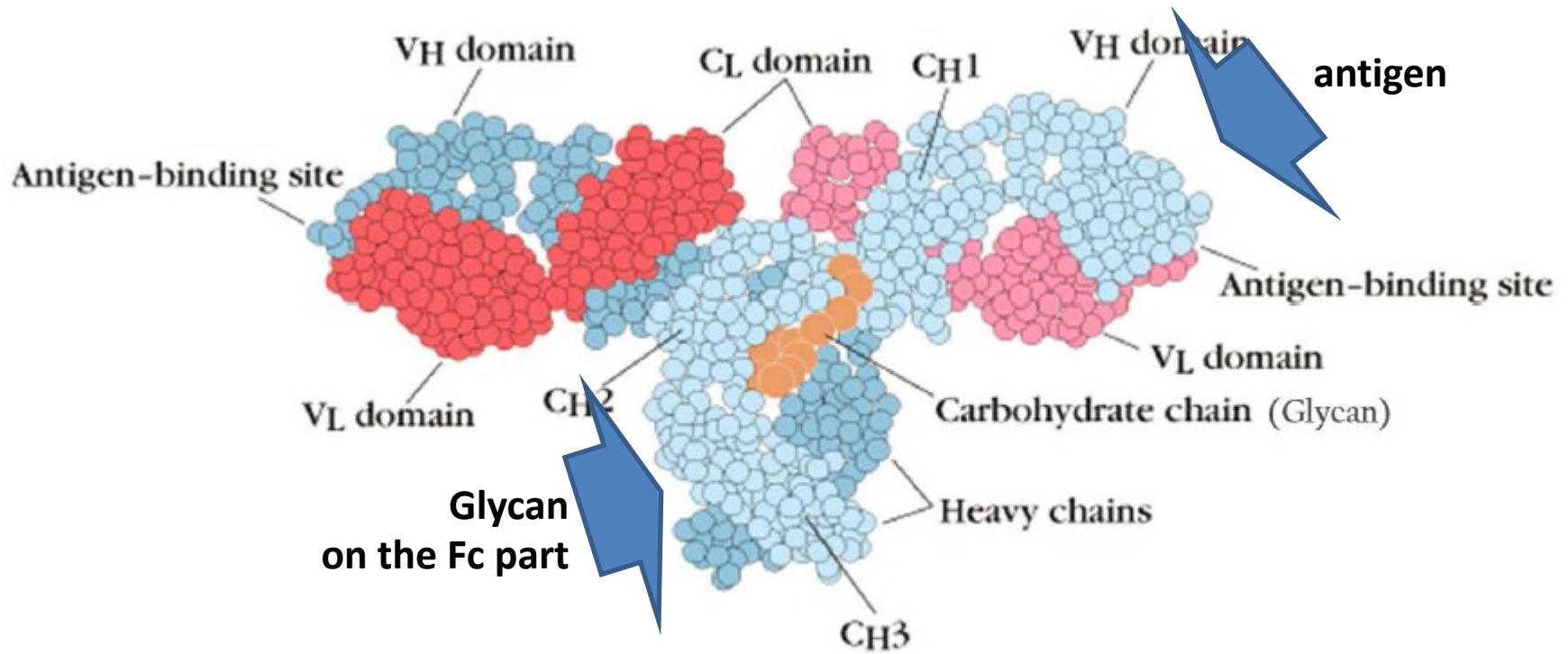
# The adaptive humoral immune response



# Monoclonal antibodies \_ mABs



mABs \_ monoclonal antibodies are a product from a fused B cell with a tumor cell (hybridoma)



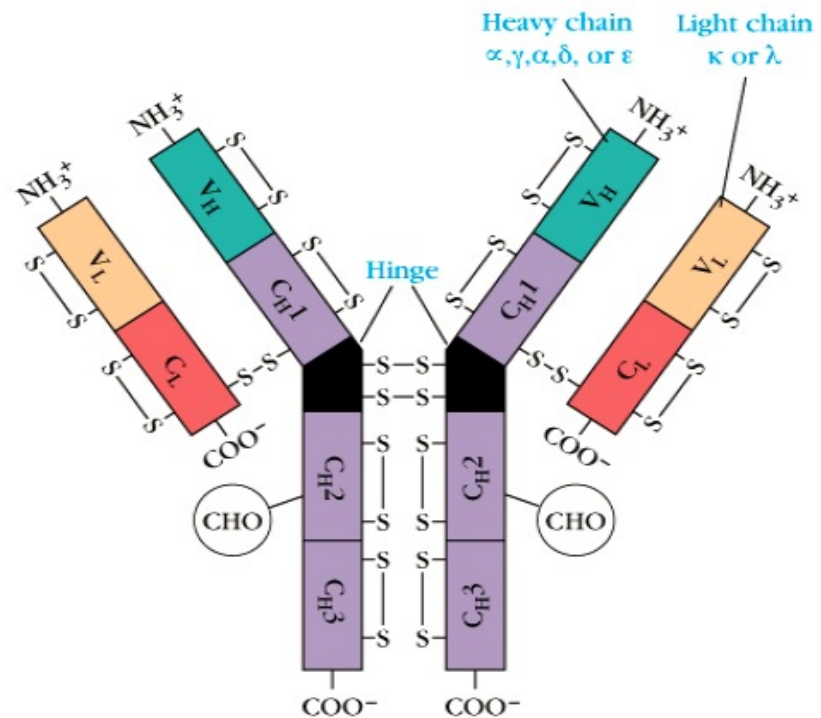
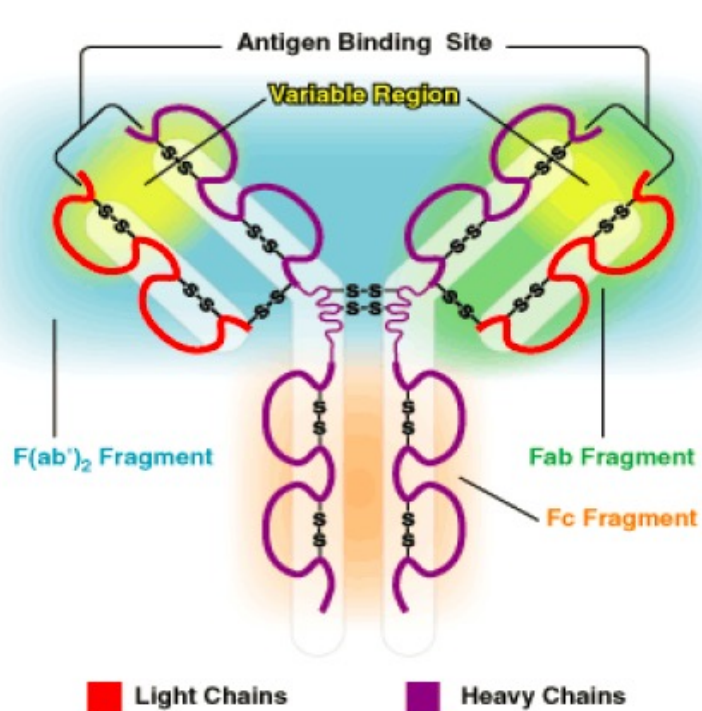
Immunoglobulins are glycoproteins

# Immunoglobulin as biotherapeutics in various clinical setting



## Immunoglobulin G (IgG)

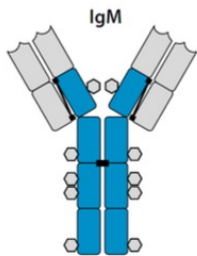
**BIOLOGICALS** are increasingly being developed as **INNOVATIVE MEDICINE**



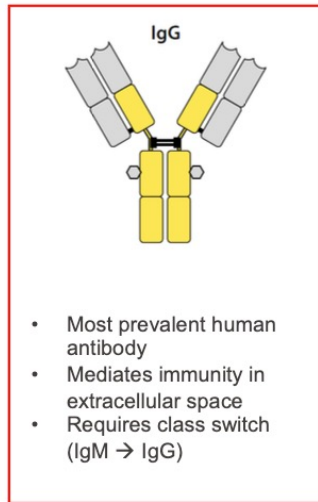
Immunoglobulins consist of two heavy chains ( $\mu$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\delta$ , or  $\epsilon$ , respectively), and two light chains ( $\kappa$  or  $\lambda$ )

# Several distinct classes of Immunoglobins

## IgGs most prevalent biotherapeutics

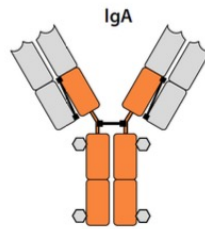


- First soluble immunoglobulin during immune reaction
- Usually low affinity
- Pentamer  
→ avidity  
→ complement activation

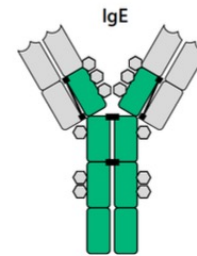


- Most prevalent human antibody
- Mediates immunity in extracellular space
- Requires class switch (IgM → IgG)

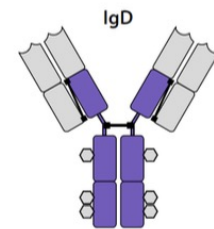
Therapeutic antibody format



- Secreted antibody
- Mucosa-associated class (e.g. digestive tract)
- Can be monomer, dimer, or trimer



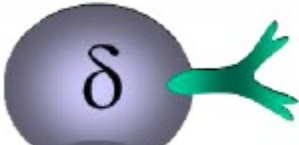

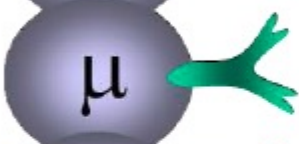

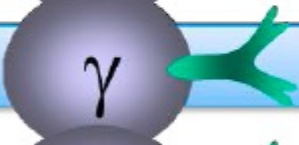

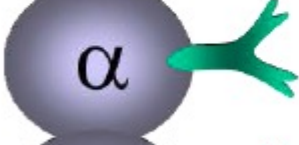



- Only low abundance
- Protection against parasites
- Associated with allergies



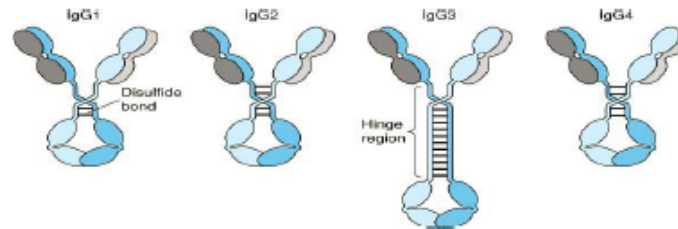
Function unclear





B cell	Isotyp	% serum	Immunglobulin
	IgD	0.2	
	IgM	10	
	IgG	75	
	IgA	15	
	IgE	0.002	

# IgG1 is the most common in serum



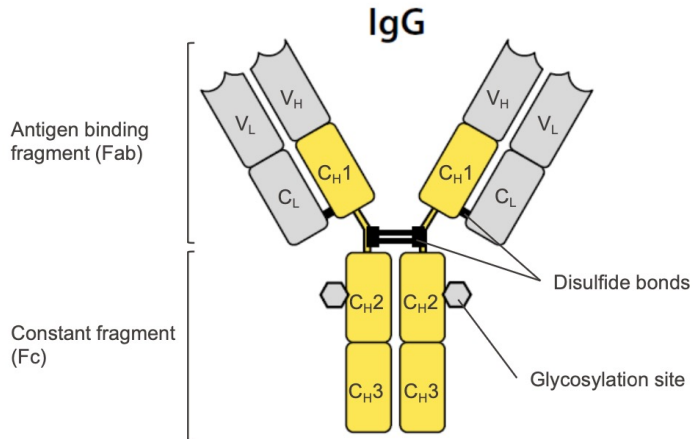
	<b>IgG<sub>1</sub></b>	<b>IgG<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>IgG<sub>3</sub></b>	<b>IgG<sub>4</sub></b>
Serum concentration (%)	60-65	20-25	5-10	<4
Serum half life (days)	21	20	7	21
Placental passage	++	±	++	++
Complement binding	+++	++	++++	±
FcγR binding	RI, RII, RIII	RII	RI, RII, RIII	
ADCC	+++	+	+++	±

antibody dependent cell cytotoxicity

All 4 IgG subclasses are monomeric, but are different for their effector function which can be utilized for therapeutic mAbs

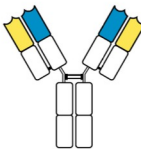
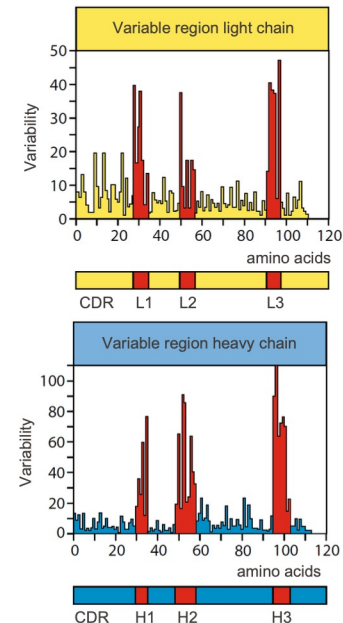
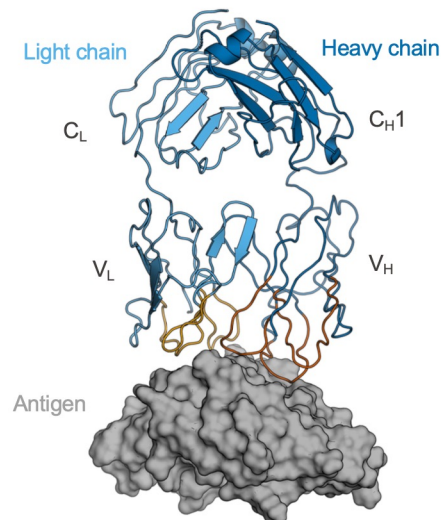
# Several distinct classes of Immunoglobulins

## IgGs most prevalent biotherapeutics

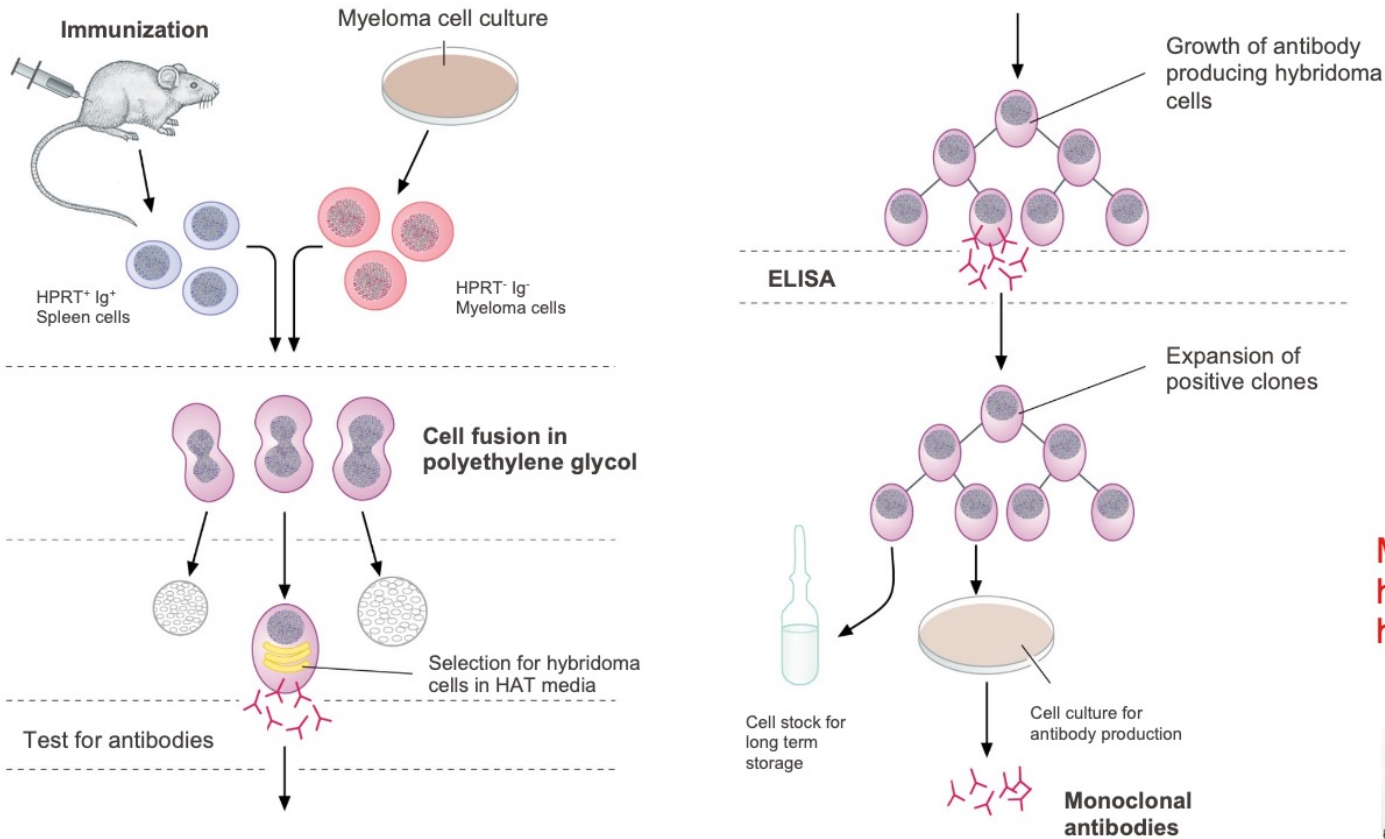


- IgG is a Y-shaped protein
- 2 light (L) and 2 heavy (H) chains
- Antibodies can be cleaved into antigen binding and constant fragments
- Constant (C) and variable (V) domains
- Stabilized by disulfide bnds
- Glycosylation on the Fc part

### Fab: antigen binding



# At the core of MABs : the Roche Basel Institute of Immunology : "NL - hybridoma technology"



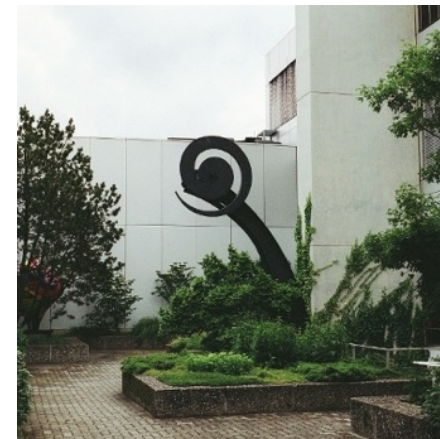
Murine antibodies are highly immunogenic to humans!

Köhler & Milstein, *Nature*, (1975), 495-497, 256(5517)

## Basel Institute of Immunology

Basel, Switzerland

Connections **Niels Jerne**



# Monoclonal antibodies \_ mAbs in new medicine development

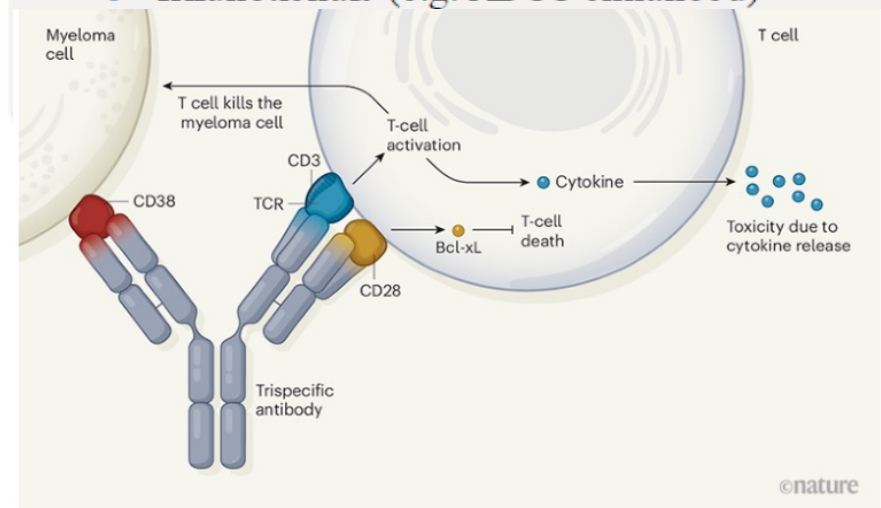


## Main therapeutic areas for mAbs & impact

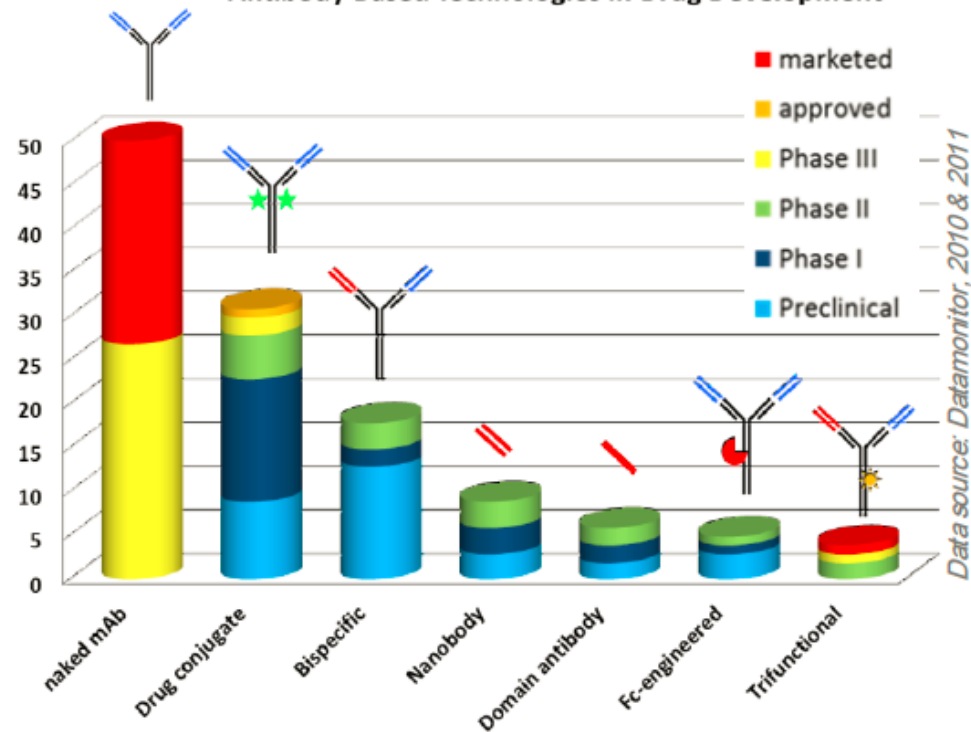
- Cancer (~ 50%) (also CVD, AZ etc)
- Auto-immune diseases (~ 15%)
- > 2'800 clinical trials currently listed\*

## New biologics formats (antibody-based)

- Fc-engineered
- Antibody-drug conjugate
- Bispecifics / trispecific
- Trifunctionals (e.g. ADCC enhanced)



## Antibody Based Technologies in Drug Development



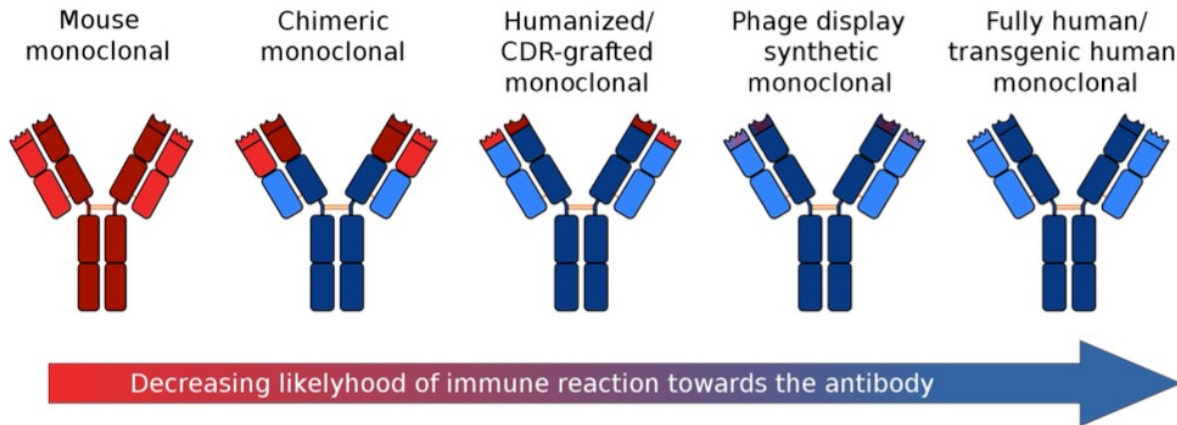
Wu et al (2020) Nature cancer 1:86-98

Tri-specific MABs enhance therapeutic efficacy through T cell receptor co-stimulation (blocking Bcl-x)

Data source: Datamonitor, 2010 & 2011

Figure 1 | An antibody that helps immune cells to target cancer cells. Wu et al.<sup>1</sup> report the

# Humanization/fully human Immunoglobulins have improved patient safety (idiosyncratic immune reactions - anaphylactic shock)



- Chimeric: fusion of variable domains (e.g. from mouse antibody) with constant domains from human antibody
- Humanized: grafting (transferring) CDRs from mouse antibody to a human antibody
  - Selection of a human antibody closely matching the structure/sequence of the mouse antibody
  - Often results in reduced affinity (non-matching framework regions / vernier zones)
- Synthetic mAb: guided selection
- Humanization methods may be less important with the emergence of single B-cell sequencing for identification of fully human antibodies

## Type d'Ac

Seules les IgG seront utilisées en thérapeutique.

- **Les anticorps murins (suffixe -omab)** sont des anticorps produits et utilisés comme agent thérapeutique chez l'homme. Aujourd'hui leur utilisation est limitée.
- **Les anticorps chimériques (suffixe -ximab)** sont humains à 60%. Ils sont constitués des régions variables (VH et VL) d'un anticorps murin.

- **Les anticorps humanisés (suffixe -zumab)** sont humains à 90%. Ils sont humains à 90% et murins à 10%. L'anticorps humanisé est mieux toléré par l'organisme humain car ressemble plus à un anticorps humain.

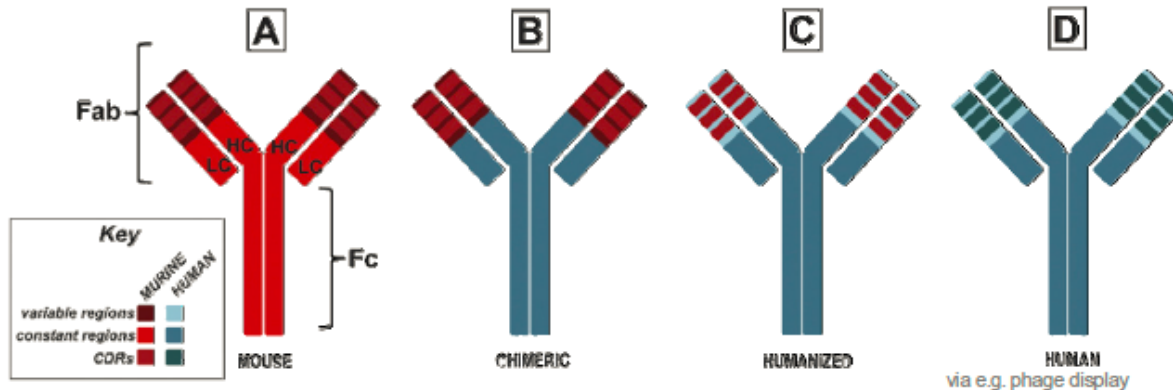
- **Les anticorps humains (suffixe -umab)** sont humains à 100%. Ils sont humains à 100%. Ils sont utilisés lorsque des anticorps chimériques et humanisés sont utilisés.

Le choix de l'**isotype** est important à considérer lorsque l'on veut utiliser un anticorps. Il existe 4 isotypes d'IgG (IgG1 à IgG4). Les IgG1 sont les plus abondants. L'isotype d'IgG se différencie par le nombre de ponts S-S entre les chaînes I et J. Les ponts S-S sont des ponts disulfures intercaténaux.

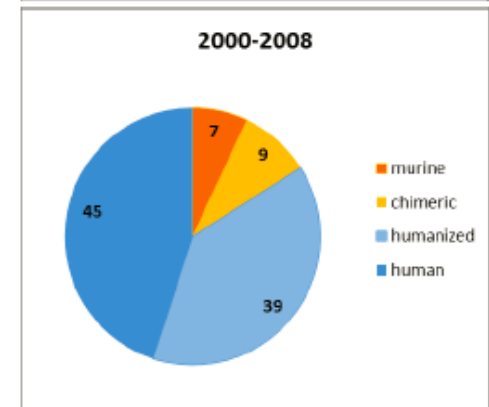
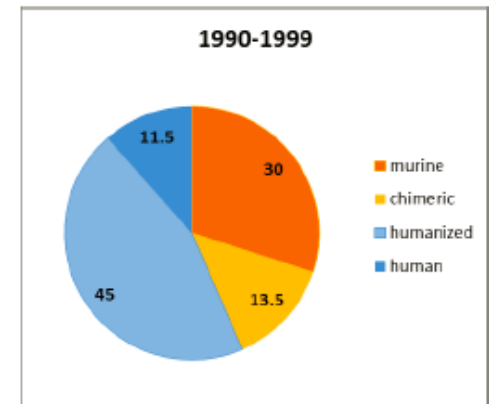
# mABs: murine, chimeric, humanized, human : towards safety



## Classification of mAbs by level of humanisation



## Types of Therapeutic mAbs in Pipeline (%)



## mAbs Nomenclature

Types of mAbs	Description	Nomenclature
Murine	Entirely murine amino acids	'o' = mouse e.g. mu <u>ro</u> mmonab
Chimeric	Human constant + murine variable regions	'xi' = chimeric e.g. ritux <u>ix</u> mab
Humanized	Human except murine complementary determining regions (CDRs)	'zu' = humanized e.g. alemtu <u>zu</u> mab
Human	Entirely human amino acids	'u' = humanized e.g. adalimu <u>u</u> mab

Source: Nelson et al, Nature Rev, 2010

# Biologicals - large scale production challenges



Pilot (1 liter fermenter) and large scale (1000 l scale) fermenters

Biotechnology production means tailor made downstream processing !

Biological generics (biosimilars) entered the market relentlessly, why ?

GMP large scale biological production  
kg amounts = several  $10^6$  \$\$ costs !



Cell lines (eg CHO) are reprogrammed with expression DNA vectors to **ectopically express *bona fide* biologicals**

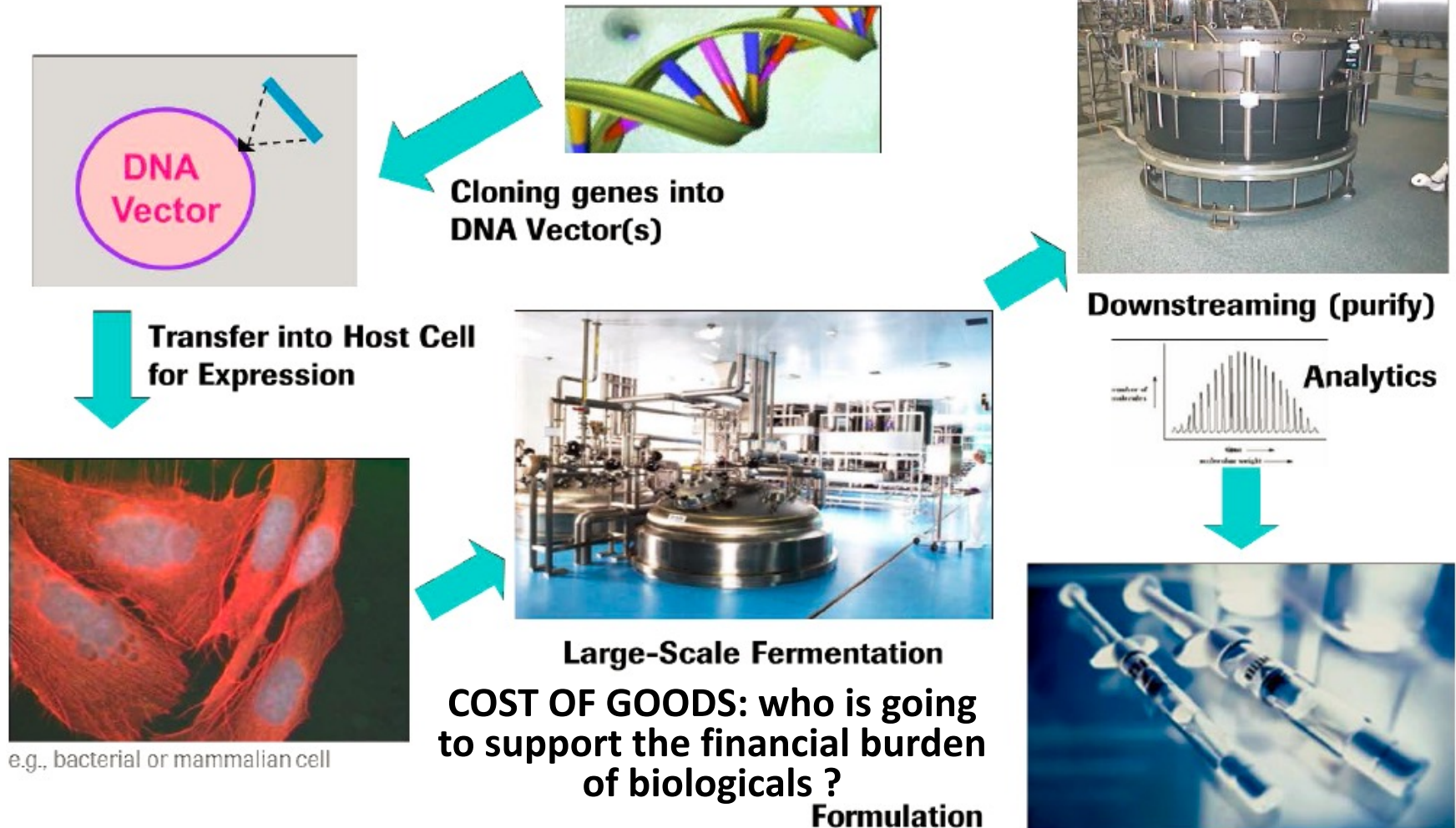
Custom designed **posttranslational modifications (eg.glycoengineering)** as well as humanized AA codons to improve T-cell recognition and reduce idiosyncratic reactions with patients (see Glycart Inc.- James Bailey)

# Biologicals – challenges of large scale production



## GMP PRODUCTION : A MULTISTEP PROCESS THAT REQUIRES STRICT CONTROLS

### BIOTECHNOLOGY: KING IN THE KINGDOM OF UNCERTAINTY ?



# Biologicals - large scale production in Basel – Avastin production



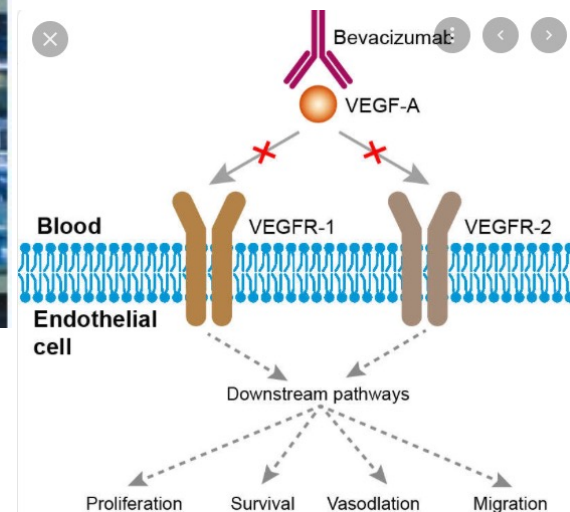
## GMP PRODUCTION OF AVASTIN (hVEGF MAB)



100mg



oncology  
ophthalmology AMD  
(controversy Lucentis)



Cancer patient life extension : average 4.7 months (phase 3 trials)  
20'000.-US \$ /y/patient  
5mg/kg bi-monthly iv dose, 120mg/y

# Biologicals - large scale production in Basel – Avastin production



## GMP PRODUCTION OF AVASTIN (hVEGF MAB)

### Controversy Lucentis vs Avastin off label



SANTÉ

## Traitement de la DMLA : l'Autorité sanctionne 3 laboratoires pour des pratiques abusives

Publié le 09 septembre 2020 | [Imprimer la page](#)



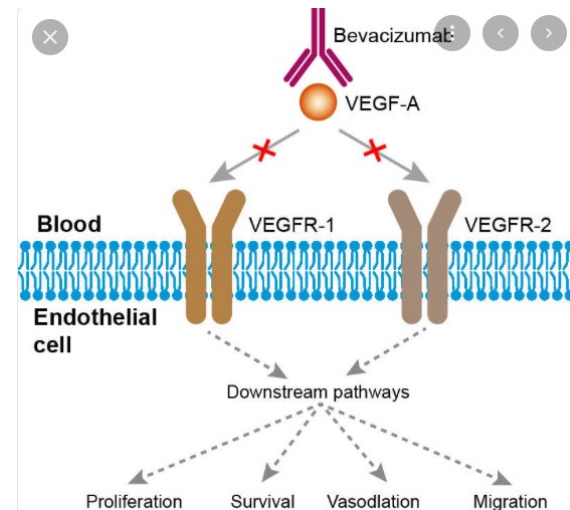
L'Autorité sanctionne les 3 laboratoires Novartis, Roche et Genentech à hauteur de 444 millions d'euros pour des pratiques abusives visant à préserver les ventes du médicament Lucentis pour le traitement de la DMLA au détriment d'Avastin (spécialité concurrente 30 fois moins chère).

### L'essentiel

La dégénérescence maculaire liée à l'âge (DMLA), est la principale cause de malvoyance chez les sujets de plus de 50 ans dans les pays industrialisés. Elle entraîne une altération sévère de la vision centrale, qui se présente notamment sous la forme de taches sombres perçues par le patient au milieu de sa vision.

Le laboratoire Genentech a développé un médicament, le Lucentis, traitant la DMLA. Il

oncology  
ophthalmology AMD  
(controversy Lucentis)



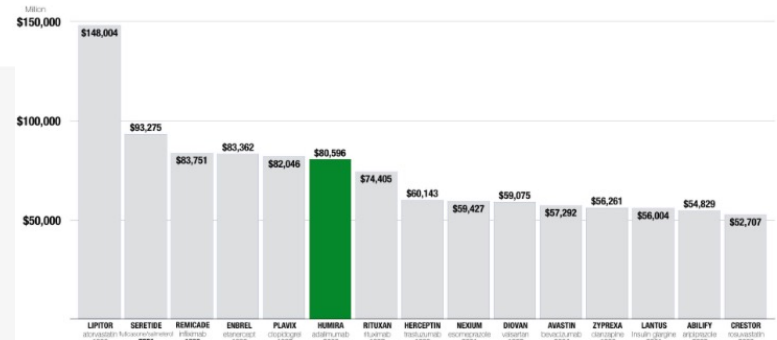
# More pioneer champions in Mabs biologicals



- Avastin : entirely humanized anti VEGF monoclonal
- Rituxan : anti CD20 non Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Herceptin : anti Her2 monoclonal
- and more...
- resistance : non responders !
- Patient costs : 5,000 US \$ a month



**BEST SELLERS 1996-2015**  
Most commercially successful drugs of all time \*



\* Lifetime sales. Source: FirstWord Pharma, EvaluatePharma

**Les AcM à usage thérapeutique**

- Abatacept (ORENCIA®)
- Abciximab (REOPRO®)
- ▶ Adalimumab
- Aflibercept (ZALTRAP®, EYLEA®)
- Alemtuzumab (LEMTRADA®)
- Alirocumab (PRALUENT®)
- Anakinra (KINERET®)
- Atezolizumab (TECENTRIQ®)
- Avelumab (BAVENCIO®)
- Basiliximab (SIMULECT®)
- Belatacept (NULOJIX®)
- Belimumab (BENLYSTA®)
- ▶ Bevacizumab
- Beztoloxumab (ZINPLAVA®)
- Brentuximab vedotin (ADCETRIS®)
- Brodalumab (KYNTHHEUM®)
- Burosumab (CRYSVITA®)
- Canakinumab (ILARIS®)
- Catumaxomab (REMOVAB®)
- Certolizumab pegol (CIMZIA®)
- Cetuximab (ERBITUX®)
- Daclizumab (ZINBRYTA®)
- Daratumumab (Darzalex®)
- Denosumab (PROLIA®, XGEVA®)
- Dinutuximab beta (QARZIBA®)
- Dupilumab (DUPIXENT®)
- Eculizumab (SOLIRIS®)
- Elotuzumab (Empliciti®)
- Erenumab (AIMOVIG®)
- ▶ Etanercept

Idarucizumab (PRAXBIND®)

- ▶ Infiximab
- inotuzumab ozogamicin (BESPOUSA®)
- Ipilimumab (YERVOY®)
- Ixekizumab (TALTZ®)
- Mepolizumab (NUCALA®)
- Natalizumab (TYSABRI®)
- Nivolumab (OPDIVO®)
- Obinutuzumab (GAZYVARO®)
- Ofatumumab (ARZERRA®)
- Olaratumab (LARTRUVO®)
- Omalizumab (XOLAIR®)
- Palivizumab (SYNAGIS®)
- Panitumumab (VECTIBIX®)
- Pembrolizumab (KEYTRUDA®)
- Pertuzumab (PERJETA®)
- Ramucirumab (CYRAMZA®)
- Ranibizumab (LUCENTIS®)
- Reslizumab (CINQAERO®)
- ▶ Rituximab
- Sarilumab (KEVZARA®)
- Secukinumab (COSENTYX®)
- Siltuximab (SYLVANT®)
- Tildrakizumab (ILUMETRI®)
- Tocilizumab (ROACTEMRA®)
- ▶ Trastuzumab
- Trastuzumab emtansine (KADCYLA®)
- Trastuzumab (HERCEPTIN®)
- Ustekinumab (STELARA®)
- Vedolizumab (ENTYVIO®)



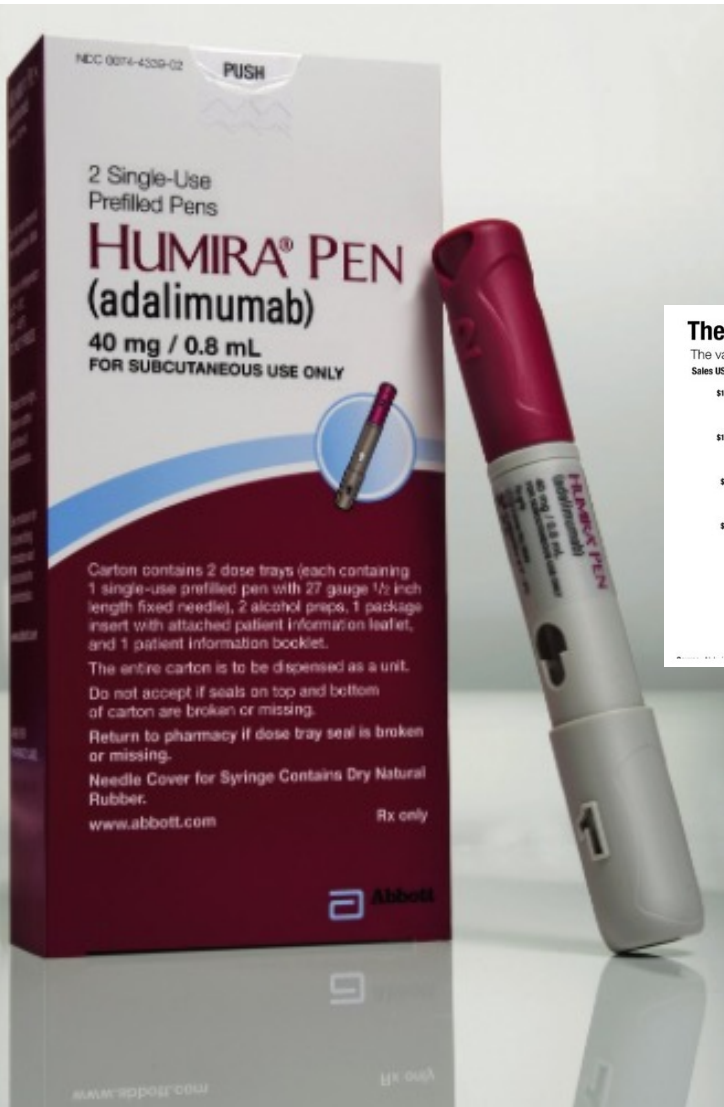
## mABs in clinical practice oncology, neurology, inflammation (01. 2019)

### Onkologie-Marktführer

Umsätze 2017 mit Krebsmedikamenten in Milliarden US-Dollar	Veränderung zu 2016, in %
Roche	26,2 +3,7
<b>Bristol-Myers + Celgene</b>	8,4 10,8 19,2 +18,6
Novartis	12,3 -4,1
Johnson & Johnson	7,3 +25,0
Pfizer	6,1 +32,7
Merck & Co	4,6 +107,5
Astra-Zeneca	4,0 +19,1
Eli Lilly	3,5 -3,3
Abbvie	3,4 +28,2

Grafik: ake / Quelle: «Handelsblatt»

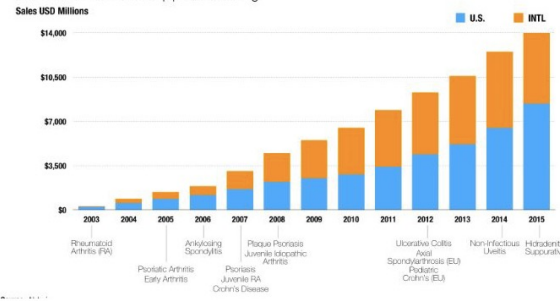
# Anti TNF : rhumatoid arthris-Crohn bowel disease-ulcerative colitis



- Adalimumab : **entirely humanized** monoclonal antibody to TNFalpha cytokine
- Double response rate of methothrexate
- Resistance : non responders to adalimumab !
- Patient costs : 5,000 US \$ a month

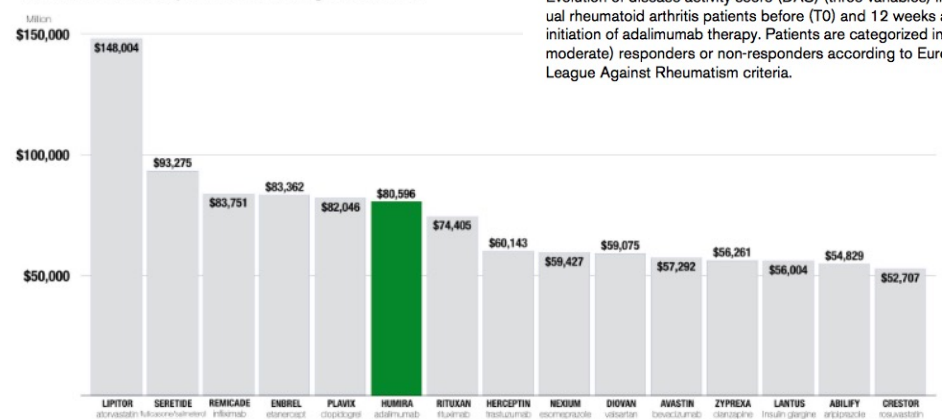
## The Swiss Army Knife of Pharmaceuticals

The value of Humira as a "pipeline in a drug"



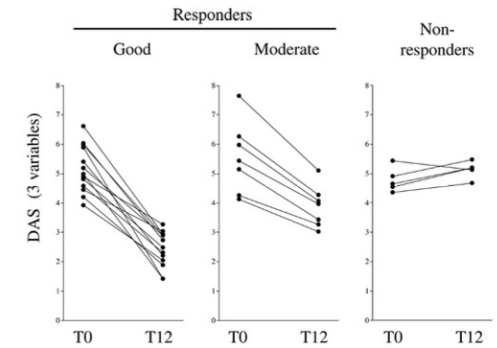
## BEST SELLERS 1996-2015

Most commercially successful drugs of all time \*



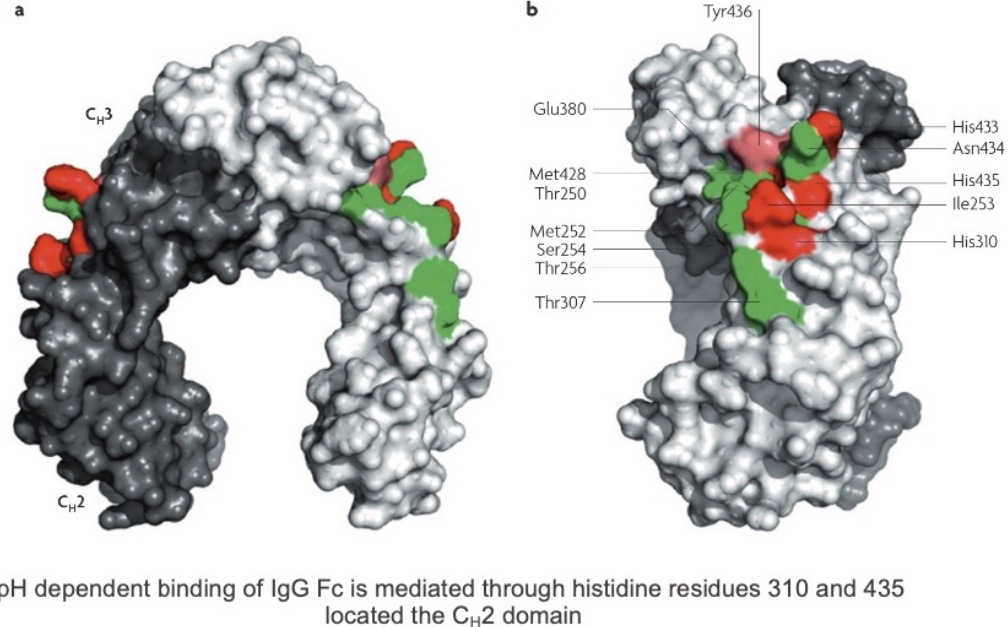
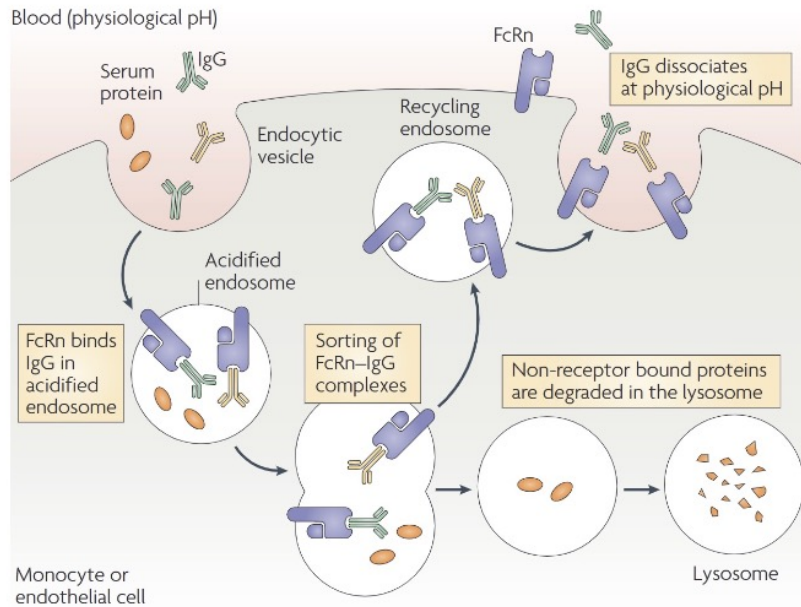
\* Lifetime sales Source: FirstWord Pharma, EvaluatePharma

Figure 1



Evolution of disease activity score (DAS) (three variables) in 25 individual rheumatoid arthritis patients before (T0) and 12 weeks after (T12) initiation of adalimumab therapy. Patients are categorized into (good or moderate) responders or non-responders according to European League Against Rheumatism criteria.

# The neonatal Fc receptor FcRn is unable to present AG but binds IgGs and albumin at low pH and regulates half lives of both proteins



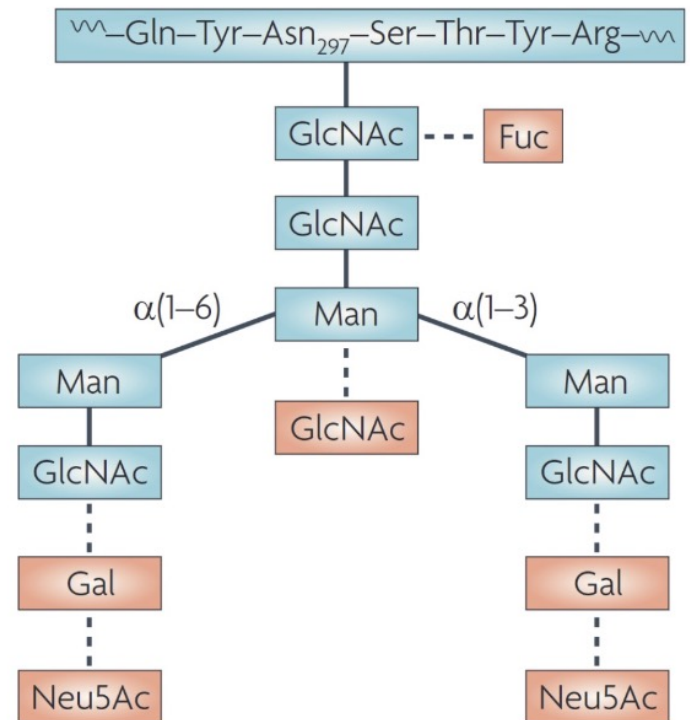
→ Most (but not all) antibodies, which can bind to FcRn have an increased half-life in blood plasma

FcRn neonatal receptor belongs to a divergent family of MHC molecules

# Goal: mimic glycosylation of MABs to enhance efficacy and increase plasma exp



- IgG carries glycosylation at Asn<sub>297</sub> in the Fc part
- Glycosylation is of complex biantennary type
- 20% of IgG glycosylated, about 128-512 glycoforms!
- Glycosylation is dependent on the enzyme repertoire of the producing cell
- terminal  $\alpha$ -2,6-linked sialic acid  
→ anti-inflammatory activity
- CHO, NS0, Sp2/0 cells: >90% fucosylated IgG  
→ decreased ADCC
- Roche GlycoMAB: Cell line for recombinant expression of non-fucosylated antibodies



*mAbs*, (2012), 419-425, 4(4) & *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery*, (2009), 226-234, 8(3)

Glycosylation pattern may influence the biology and therapeutic index of mABs



# Engineered glycoforms of an antineuroblastoma IgG1 with optimized antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxic activity

Pablo Umaña, Joël Jean-Mairet, Radmila Moudry<sup>1</sup>, Hanspeter Amstutz<sup>1</sup>, and James E. Bailey\*

*Institute of Biotechnology, ETH Zürich, CH-8093, Zürich, Switzerland. <sup>1</sup>ZLB Central Laboratory, CH-3000 Bern 22, Switzerland. \*Corresponding author (e-mail: bailey@bi*

Received 26 June 1998; accepted 1 December 1998

The glycosylation pattern of chCE7, an antineuroblastoma chimeric Ig hamster ovary cells with tetracycline-regulated expression of  $\beta(1,4)$ -N-ac (GnTIII), a glycosyltransferase catalyzing formation of bisected oligosacch ed in antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC). Measurement of tl duced at different tetracycline levels showed an optimal range of GnTIII e) vitro ADCC activity, and this activity correlated with the level of consta complex oligosaccharides determined by matrix-assisted laser desorption spectrometry. The new optimized variants of chCE7 exhibit substantial AD useful for treatment of neuroblastoma. The strategy presented here shoul ADCC activity of other therapeutic IgGs.

Keywords: glycosylation, effector function, antitumor antibody, t

Glycosylation pattern may influence the biology and therapeutic index of mABs

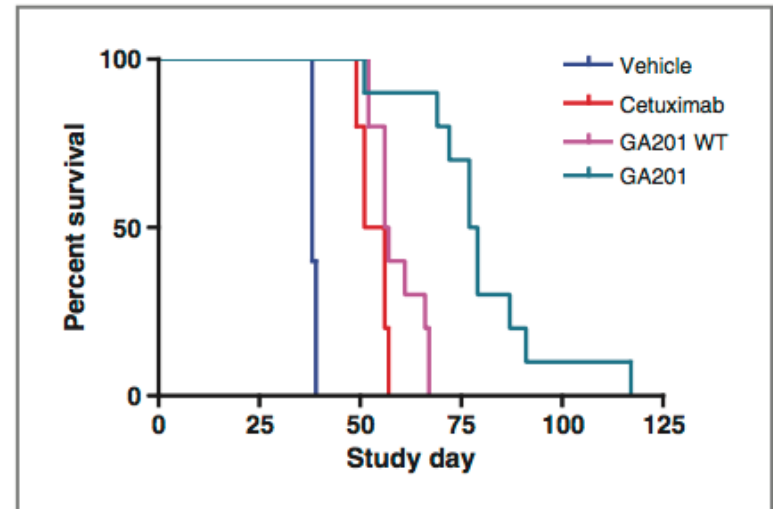
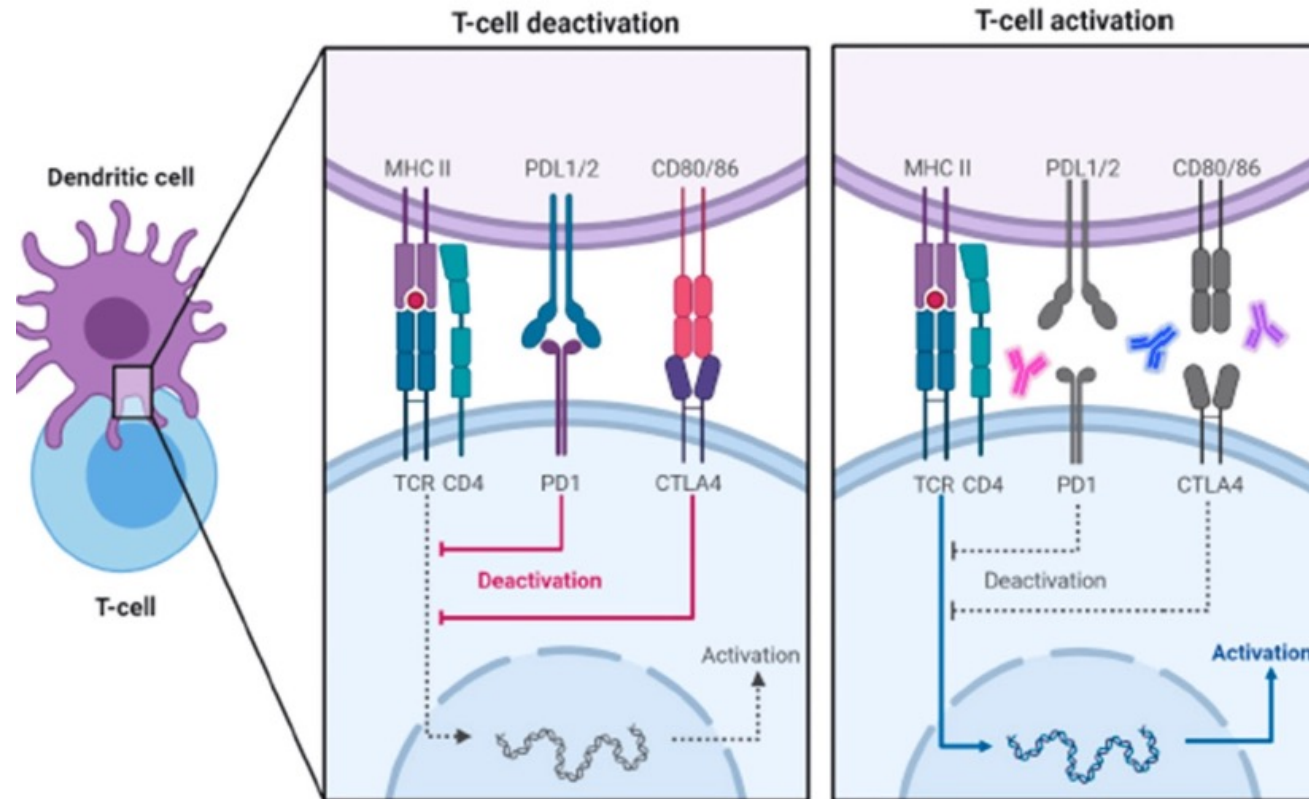


Figure 2. Superior efficacy of GA201 versus cetuximab and the wild type, nonglycoengineered version of GA201 in the A549 lung adenocarcinoma xenograft model in SCID/beige mice. All animals ( $n = 10$  per

# Distinct immune check point blockers or how to boost immunity against tumor cells



**Anti-CTLA-4 Inhibitors:**  
Ipilimumab  
Tremelimumab

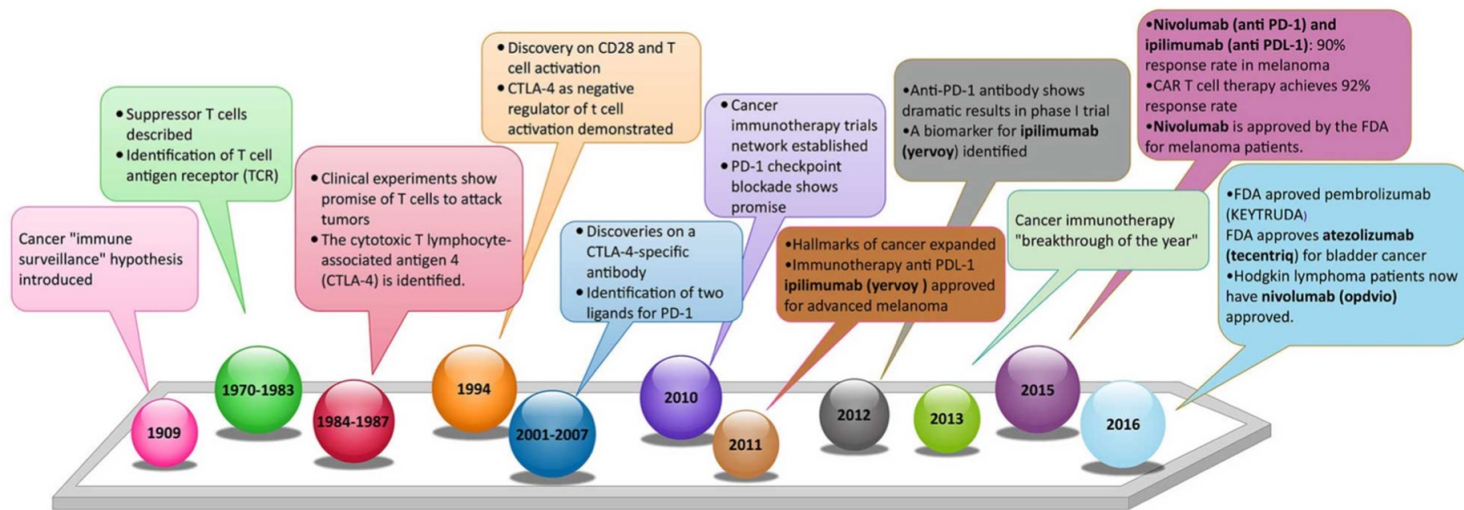
**Anti-PDL1 Inhibitors:**  
Durvalumab  
Avelumab  
Atezolizumab

**Anti-PD1 Inhibitors:**  
Nivolumab  
Pembrolizumab  
Tislelizumab  
Sintilimab  
Camrelizumab  
Toripalimab  
Spartalizumab  
Penpulimab

# Immune checkpoint blockade : time line



## Immune checkpoint inhibitors Drug Discovery Timeline (Immunotherapy)



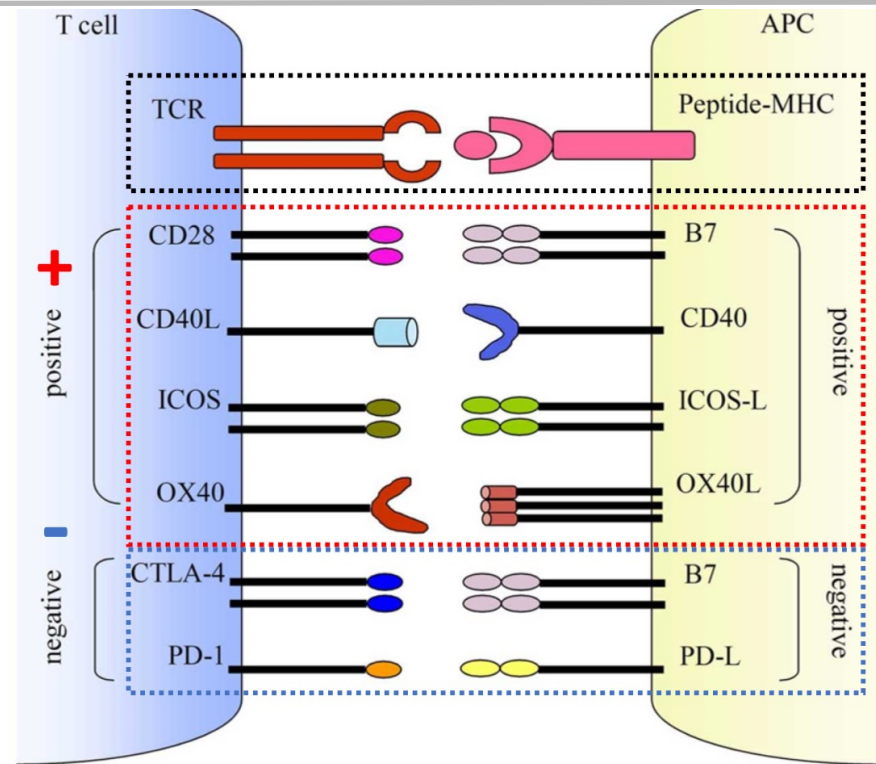
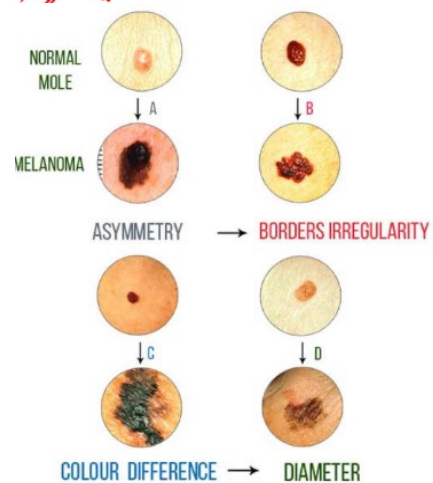
### Important Dates for PD-1/PDL-1:

*Alsaab & al. frontiers in Pharmacology, 2017*

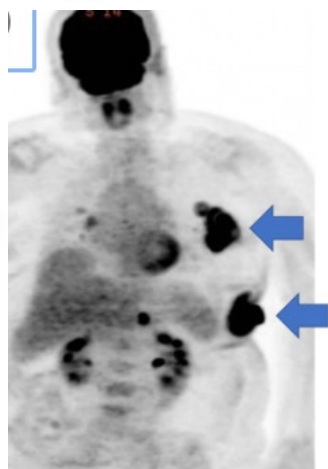
- 1992: Discovery of PD-1
- 1999: Discovery of B7-H1 (PDL-1)
- 2018 Honjo T. (PD1) Allison JP. (CTLA-4) Nobel Laureates in medicine and physiology

# Beyond PD-1: next frontier immunotherapy T-cell exhaustion (eg resistant melanoma)

- Activation of T cell upon foreign antigen encounter **+ "Go"**
- Regulation and blocking of self-antigen recognizing T cells (that avoided self-tolerance check) **- "No Go"**



Huang & al. *frontiers in Microbiology*, 2011 <sup>7</sup>

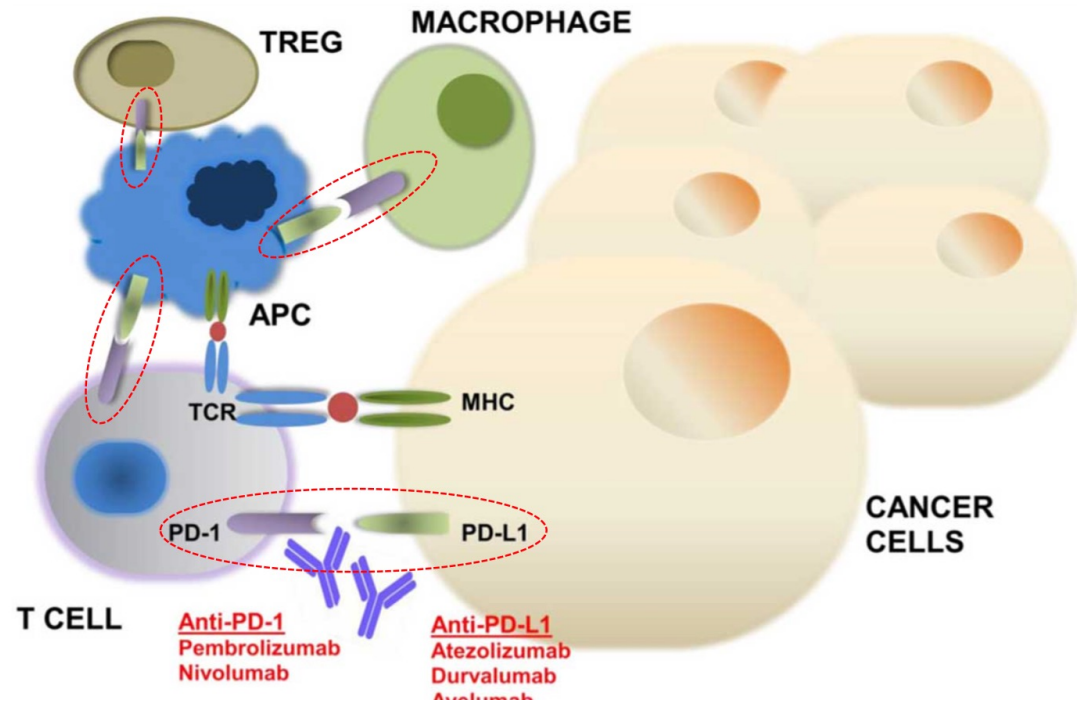


# PD-1/PDL-1 checkpoint blockade : a potent cancer treatment



- PD-1/PDL-1 Blockade could result in:

- Cancer cell recognition & clearance
- Prolonged immuno-activation
- Induction of memory T cells
- Neutralization of cancer-sustaining actors (M2 macrophages, stroma cells...)



- T-reg Nobel laureate 2025 Sakaguchi S, Brunkow M Ramsdell F.

# Keytruda among the pioneers PD-1/PDL-1 checkpoint blockade

Name	Target	Approved
Nivolumab	PD-1	2014
Pembrolizumab	PD-1	2014
Atezolizumab	PD-L1	2016
Avelumab	PD-L1	2017
Durvalumab	PD-L1	2017
Cemiplimab	PD-1	2018
Tislelizumab	PD-1	2019
Dostarlimab	PD-1	2021
Retifanlimab	PD-1	2023
Toripalimab	PD-1	2023
Cosbelimab	PD-L1	2024

**Case study:** Keytruda / Pembrolizumab: 1<sup>st</sup> PD-1 Inhibitor approved for metastatic melanoma

- 5-year survival rate for metastatic melanoma = 16%
- Increase of 2% annually of cases in children between 0 and 19 years old
- Cost: \$11,000 monthly / patient ---- 100'000 patients in 2018 US



\$11,000-per-month

- **Keytruda**
  - First human PD-1 blocking antibody approved in the USA
  - Objective response rate (ORR): 19.4% (~500 patients)
  - Most common side effects: fatigue and decreased appetite
- Medical conclusion (2015): Safe, effective for unresectable or metastatic melanoma

Of note SMW cpds are in 2022 in clinical trials as inhibitors targeting PD1/PDL1 ! (cost of good !)

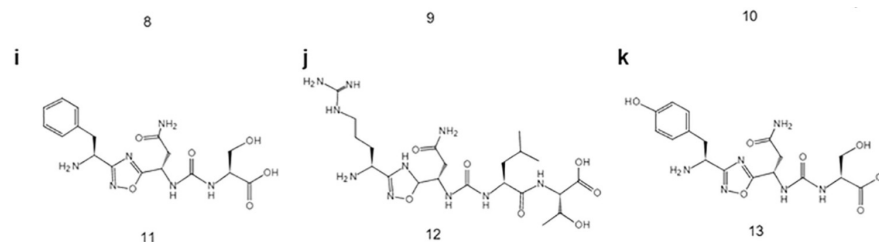
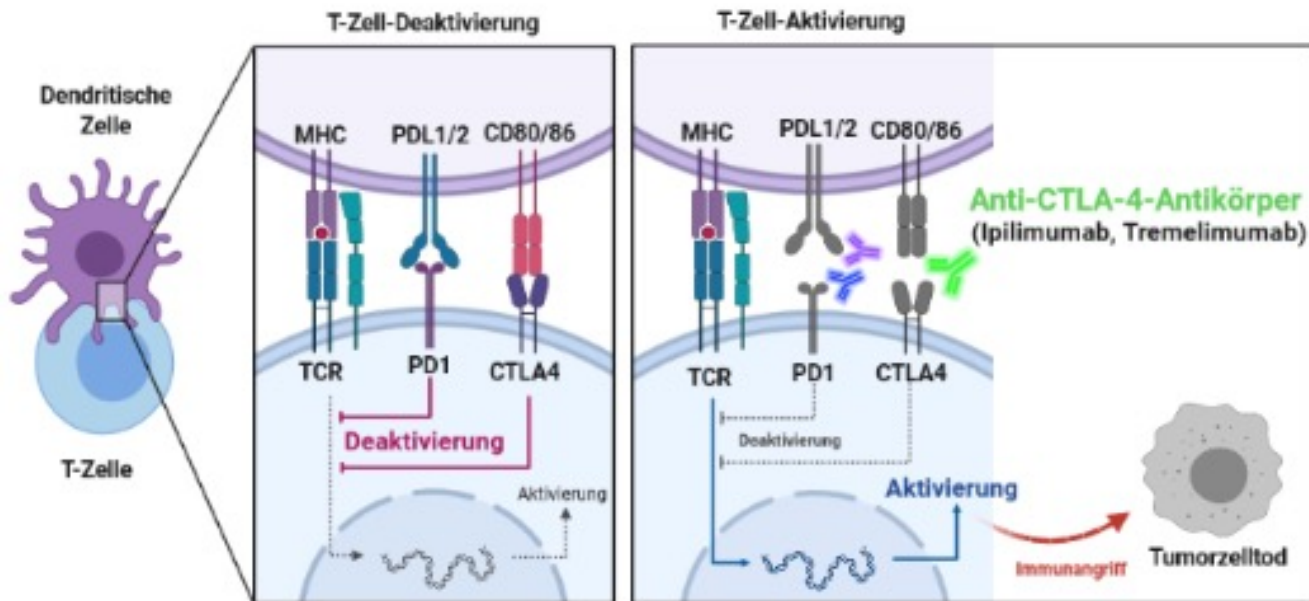


Fig. 3 Nonpeptide-based small molecule inhibitors targeting PD-1/PD-L1

# Ipilumab, pembrolizumab : therapy for the treatment of metastatic melanoma

Name	Target	Approved
Nivolumab	PD-1	2014
Pembrolizumab	PD-1	2014
Atezolizumab	PD-L1	2016
Avelumab	PD-L1	2017
Durvalumab	PD-L1	2017
Cemiplimab	PD-1	2018
Tislelizumab	PD-1	2019
Dostarlimab	PD-1	2021
Retifanlimab	PD-1	2023
Toripalimab	PD-1	2023
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Of note SMW cpds are in 2022 in clinical trials as inhibitors targeting PD1/PDL1 ! (cost of good !)

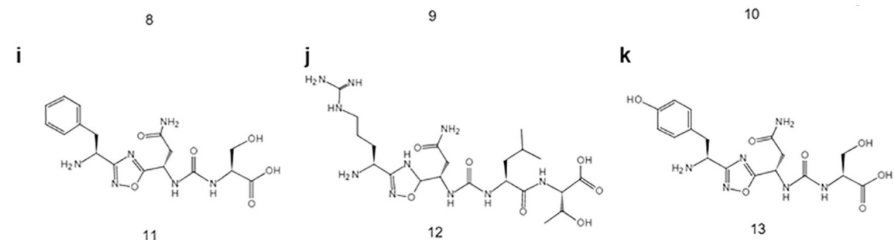


Fig. 3 Nonpeptide-based small molecule inhibitors targeting PD-1/PD-L1

# pembrolizumab : therapy for the treatment of metastatic melanoma ; the J Carter success story -2015-2024-



## PD-1 checkpoint blockade: Hype vs Reality

- “I want what Jimmy Carter had” syndrome
- **ORR 20% & cancer-dependent** VS **total remission & long-term cancer free**
- Works better in synergy with others (chemotherapy, cancer vaccine)

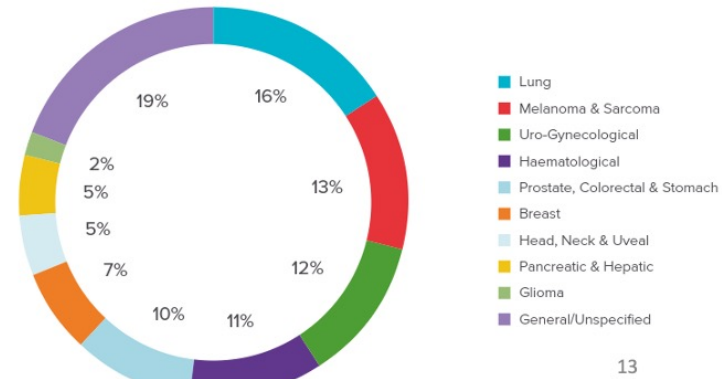
‘I want what Jimmy Carter had’: Patients clamor for the president’s cancer drug

By IEE SWETLITZ / December 16, 2016



Demanded for the cancer drug Keytruda has second thanks to Jimmy Carter

Anti-PD-1/PD-L1 MAb combination studies by (broad) indication (grouping)



### Major FDA Approvals of PD-1 / PD-L1 Inhibitors

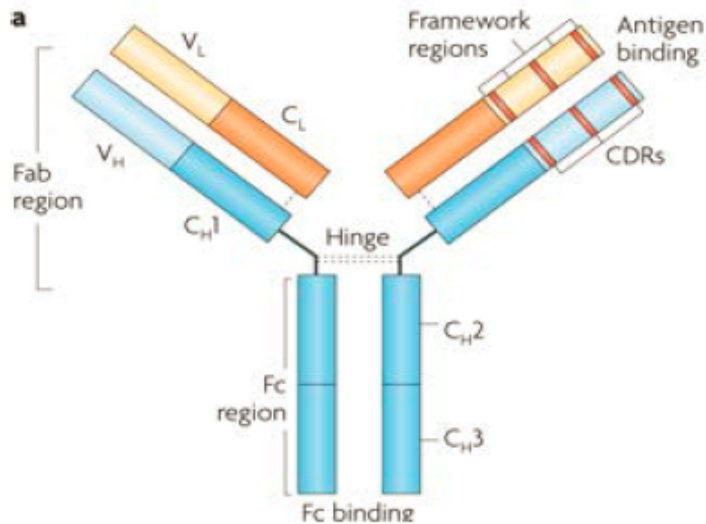
Drug	Commercial name	Owner	Target	First approval date
Pembrolizumab	Keytruda	MSD	PD-1	September 2014
Nivolumab	Opdivo	BMS	PD-1	December 2014
Atezolizumab	Tecentriq	Roche	PD-L1	May 2016
Avelumab	Bevancio	EMD and Pfizer	PD-L1	March 2017
Durvalumab	Imfinzi	AstraZeneca	PD-L1	May 2017

Source: Drugs.com



**pembrolizumab : the J. Carter success story in metastatic melanoma diagnosed in 2015, exitus in 2024, almost 10 years relapse free liver surgery, radiotherapy included !**

# “armed” biologicals – “smart” biopharmaceuticals



*Hansel et al, Nature Rev, 2010*

- **Monoclonal mAbs**

- Majority of biotherapeutics in drug development
- Murine, humanized or fully human mAbs

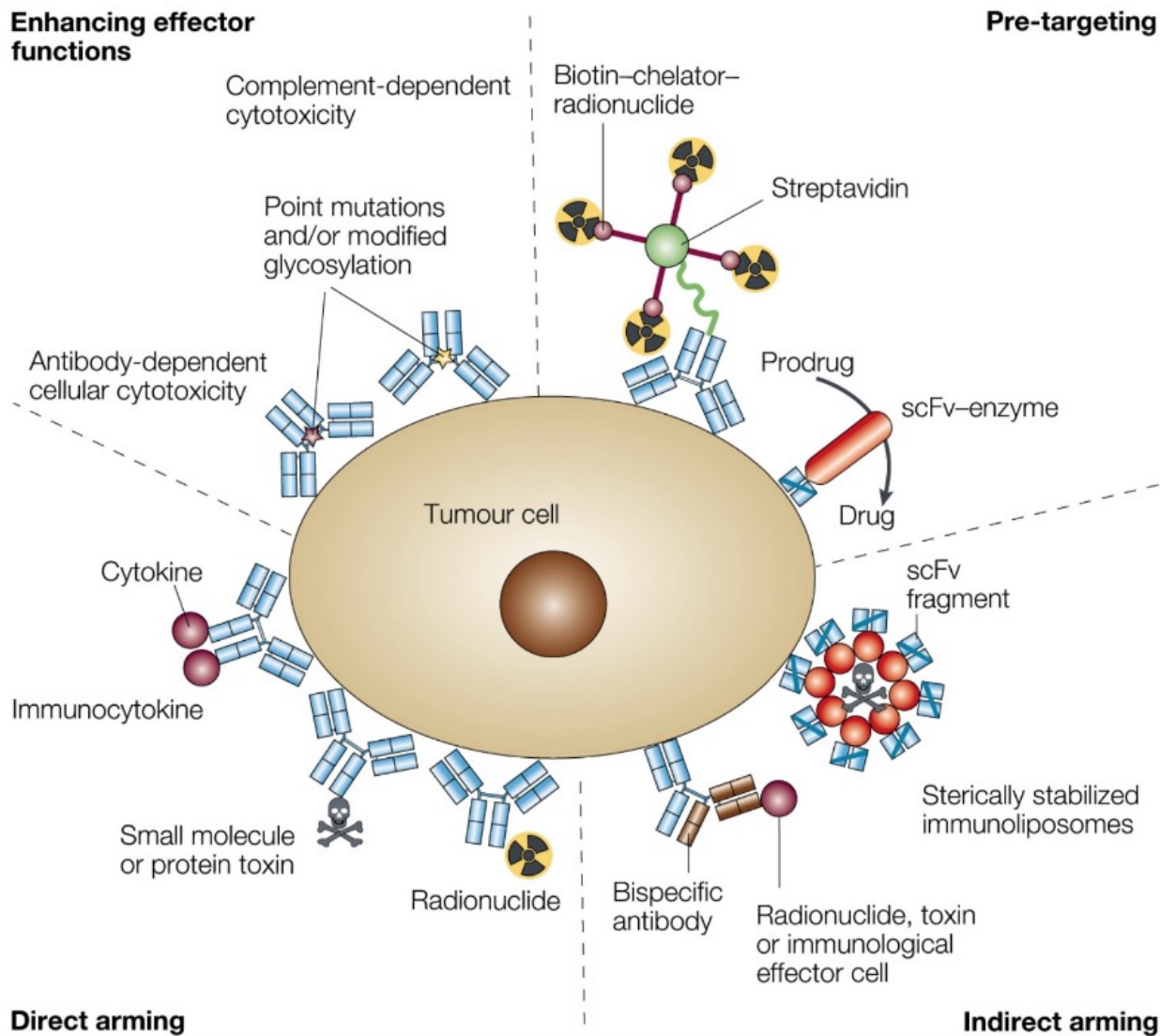
- **Fab-region**

- **Variable domain: antigen binding**
- Interaction with the target
  - membrane bound or soluble target
  - high specificity
- Antagonistic or agonistic drug effect
- Associated with pharmacological/ toxicological activity (exaggerated pharmacology)

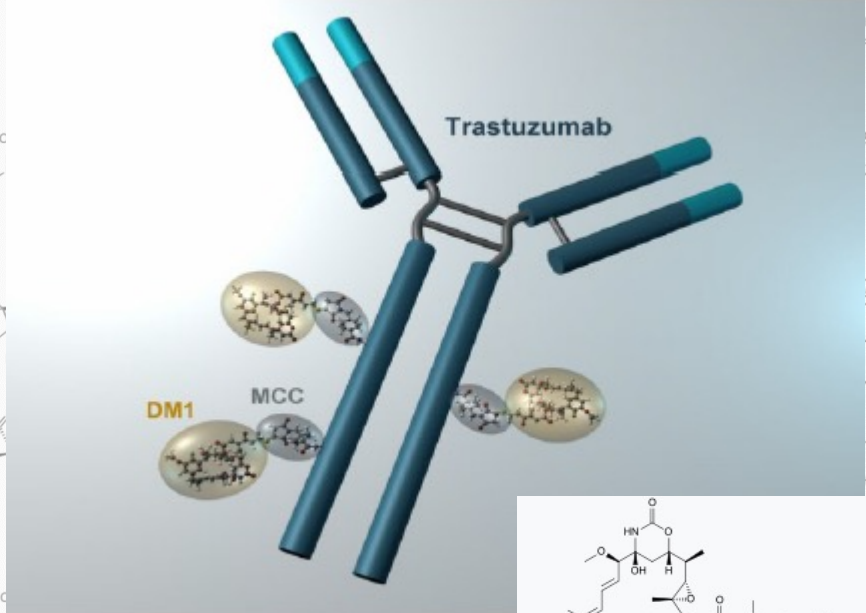
- **Fc-region**

- **Constant domain: effector function, homeostasis**
- Relevant for pharmacological activity, half life, and adverse effects

# “armed” biologicals – “smart” biopharmaceuticals therapeutic antibodies with enhanced activities



# “armed” biologicals – ADCs -combining precision medicine with chemo- radio-therapy



**T-DM1 (trastuzumab emtansine)  
recently entered clinics for resistant  
HER2 positive breast cancer**

**Custom made antibody  
therapeutics armed with  
chemotherapy (eg alpha amanitin)**

**“smart biologicals” : tomorrow  
magic bullet in medicine ?**

**Cell type and therapeutic target -  
specific chemotherapy**

**Antibody drug conjugates (ADC)-  
chemotherapy tubulin inhibitor**

**Bispecific antibodies: magic  
bullet in medicine or  
immunosafety nightmare ?**

**Emerging class of cancer therapeutics: mechanisms by which ADC are internalized and  
activated remain unclear « beaking up is hard to do »**

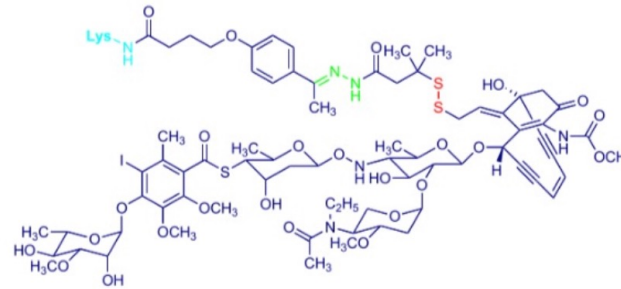
# “armed” biologicals – ADCs -combining precision medicine with chemo-radio-therapy



## Mylotarg: Toxin armed mAb



- mAb humanized from mouse
- Target: CD33 (acute myeloid leukemia)
- Antibody conjugated with Calicheamicin (bacterial toxin)
- NHS coupling to lysine (on average 2-3 toxin molecules per mAb)
- After internalization of the ADC Calicheamicin breaks DNA → Apoptosis



Biologically instable linker:

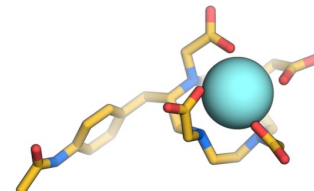
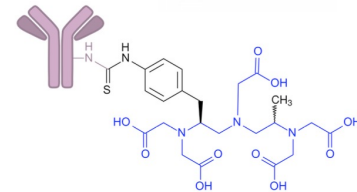
- 1) **Disulfide** bridge: reduction upon internalization
- 2) **Hydrazone**: hydrolysis under acidic conditions

Antibody Engineering of armed antibodies involves intensive linker chemistry!

## Zevalin: <sup>90</sup>Yttrium Ibritumomab Tiuxetan



- Coupling of a chelating agent (Tiuxetan, DTPA derivate) to Ibritumomab
- Tiuxetan can bind multiple isotopes:
  - <sup>111</sup>In<sup>3+</sup> (diagnosis)
  - <sup>90</sup>Y<sup>3+</sup> (therapy, t<sub>1/2</sub> = 64 h)
- <sup>90</sup>Y<sup>3+</sup> will penetrate solid tissue (range of about 200 cells)
- Most successful therapeutic antibody
- Comparison to non-armed antibody equivalent: 80/56% overall response, 30/16% complete remission





# Common metastatic sites in breast cancer

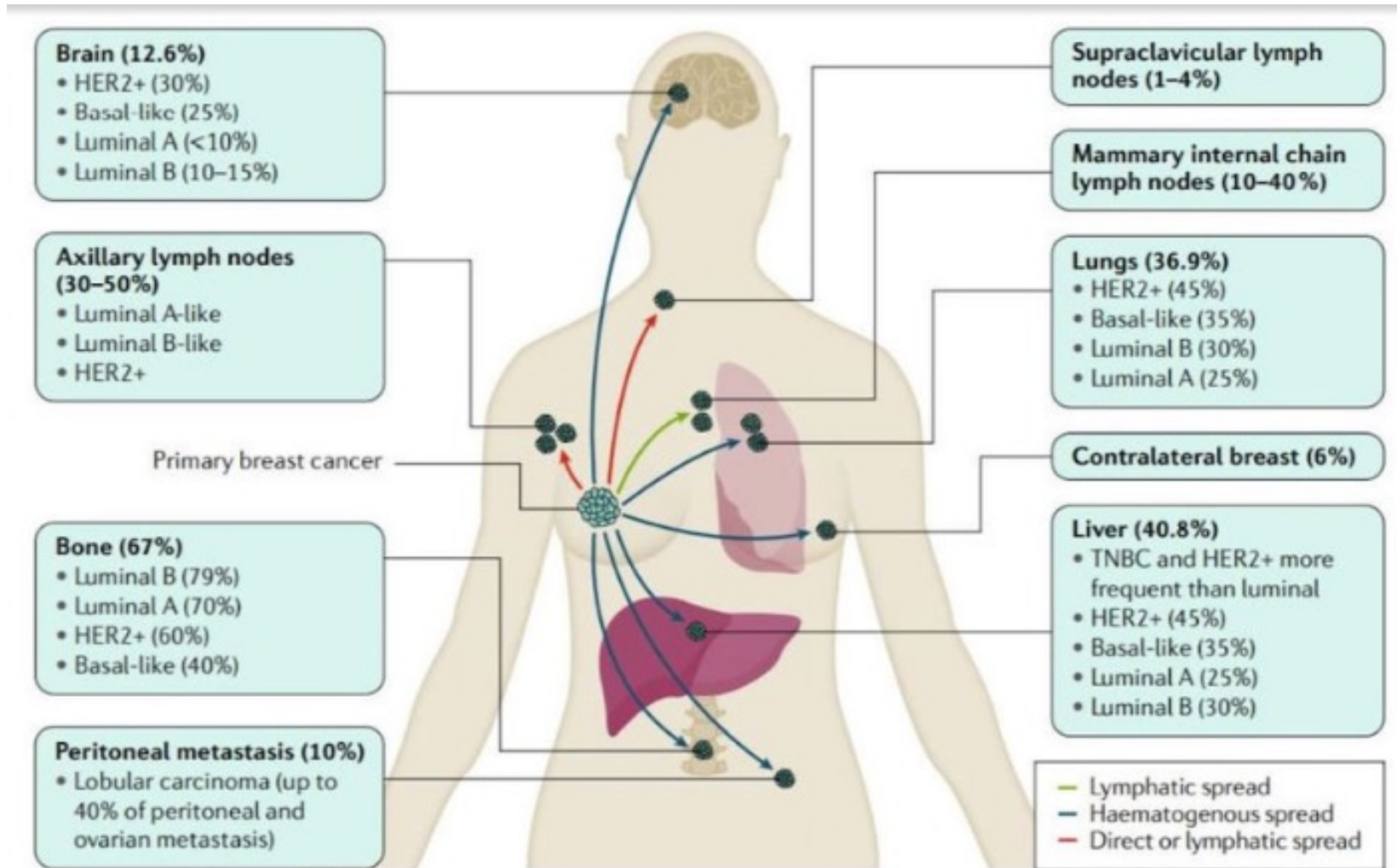
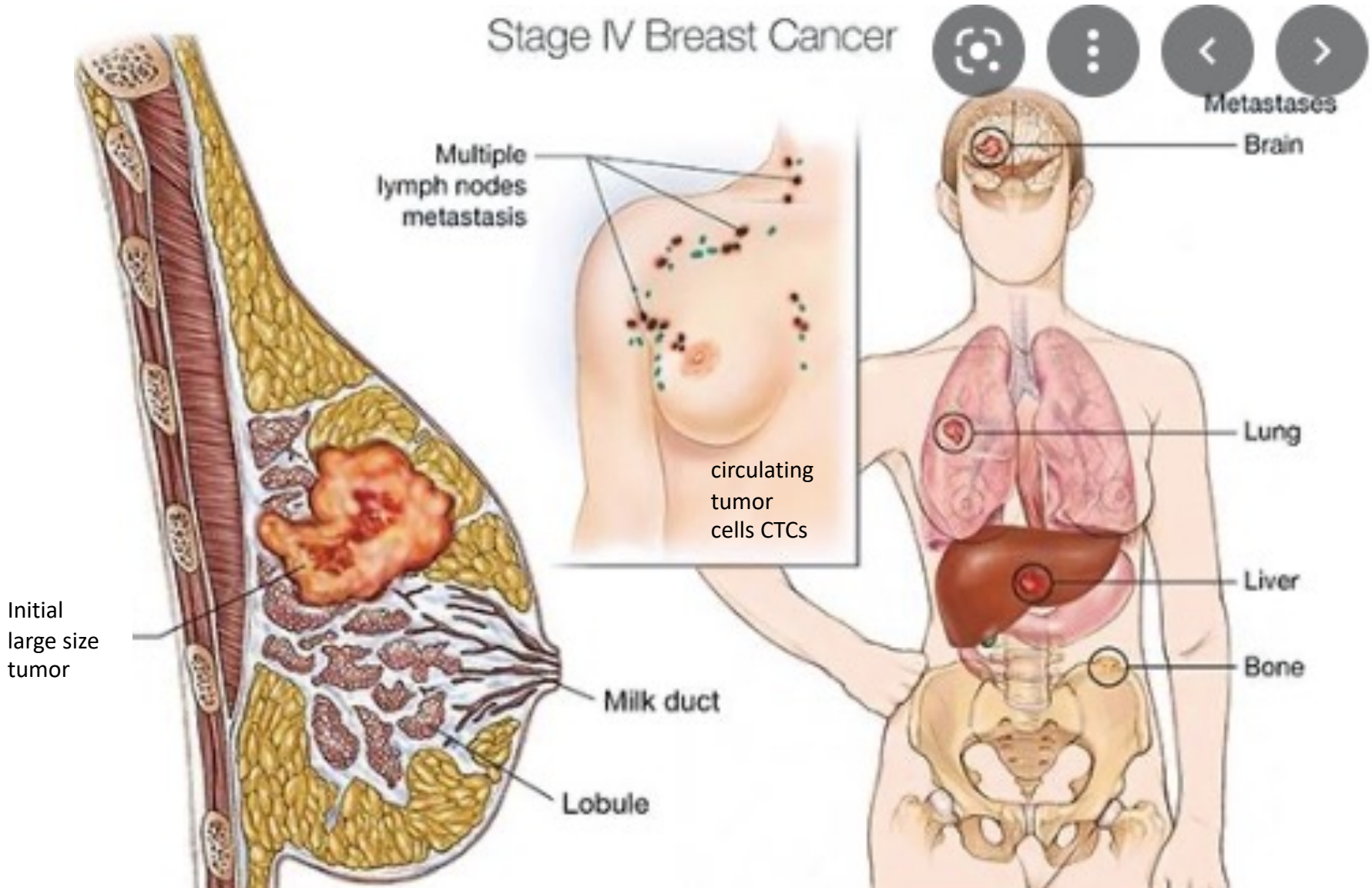


Illustration of common metastatic sites in breast cancer [2]. The most common metastatic sites for breast cancer are the bones, axillary lymph nodes, liver, and lungs. Approximately 10-40% of breast cancer tumors have

# Most aggressive triple negative breast cancer TNBC fast track approval of sacituzumab (Trodelvy)



**TNBC are negative for ER, PR and HER2 – represents 15-20% of invasive BC**

# “armed” biologicals – Sacituzumab

## In non ER+, PR+ and Her2+ triple negative breast cancer



### About triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC)

TNBC represents breast cancers that are negative for estrogen and progesterone receptors, as well as human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, or HER2. This type of breast cancer comprises about 15-20% of all invasive breast cancers and is more prevalent in young and African-American women. Despite the fact that initial responses with chemotherapy are high, TNBC characteristically has a high recurrence rate and is perhaps the most difficult type of breast cancer to treat successfully with current cytotoxic agents. According to a published report, the median survival for patients with metastatic triple-negative breast cancer is estimated to be 13 months.<sup>1</sup> Currently, there are no targeted treatments available for TNBC.

### About Sacituzumab Govitecan

Sacituzumab govitecan is composed of hRS7, a humanized antibody that binds to the trophoblast cell-surface antigen (TROP-2), also known as the epithelial glycoprotein-1 antigen (EGP-1). TROP-2 is expressed by many human tumors, such as cancers of the breast, cervix, colon and rectum, kidney,

and expression in normal human tissues. The binding to TROP-2, making it a suitable candidate

(Camptosar), which is a standard therapy for breast cancer, but is associated with significant gastrointestinal and hematological toxicity.

#### Linker for SN-38

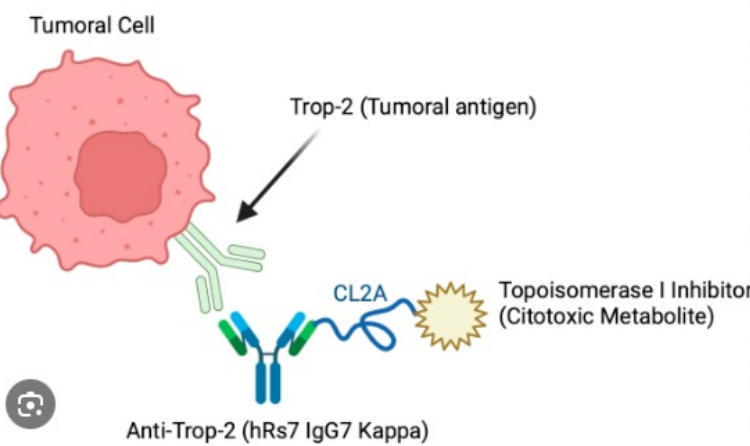
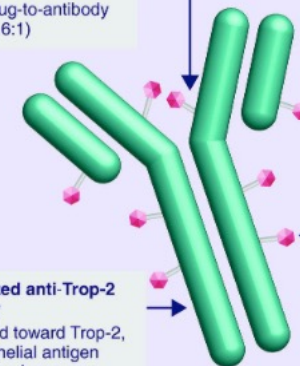
- Hydrolyzable linker for payload release
- High drug-to-antibody ratio (7.6:1)

#### Humanized anti-Trop-2 antibody

- Directed toward Trop-2, an epithelial antigen expressed on many solid cancers

#### SN-38 payload

- Metabolite of Topo I inhibitor
- SN-38 more potent than parent compound, irinotecan



# “armed” biologicals – eg. in triple negative breast cancer TNBC (FDA fast track sacizutumab 2021 when Kadcylya fails)



7 molecules of highly toxic topoisomerase inhibitor  
irinotecan/hu IgG1

**Linker for SN-38**

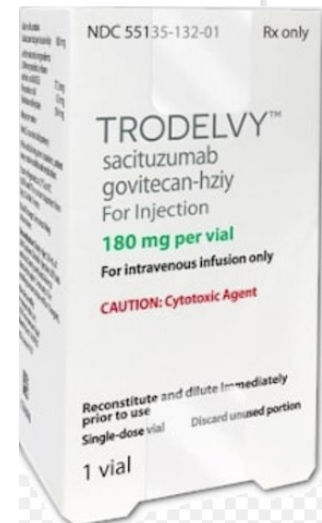
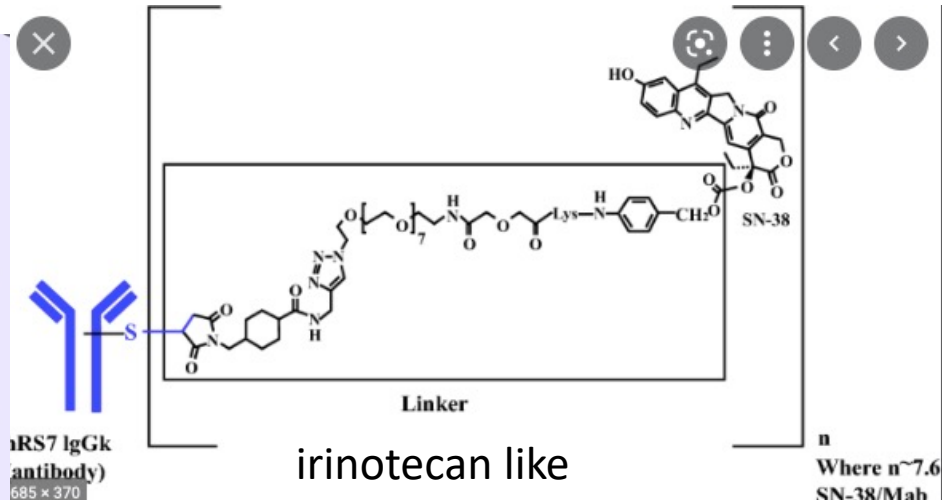
- Hydrolyzable linker for payload release
- High drug-to-antibody ratio (7.6:1)

**SN-38 payload**

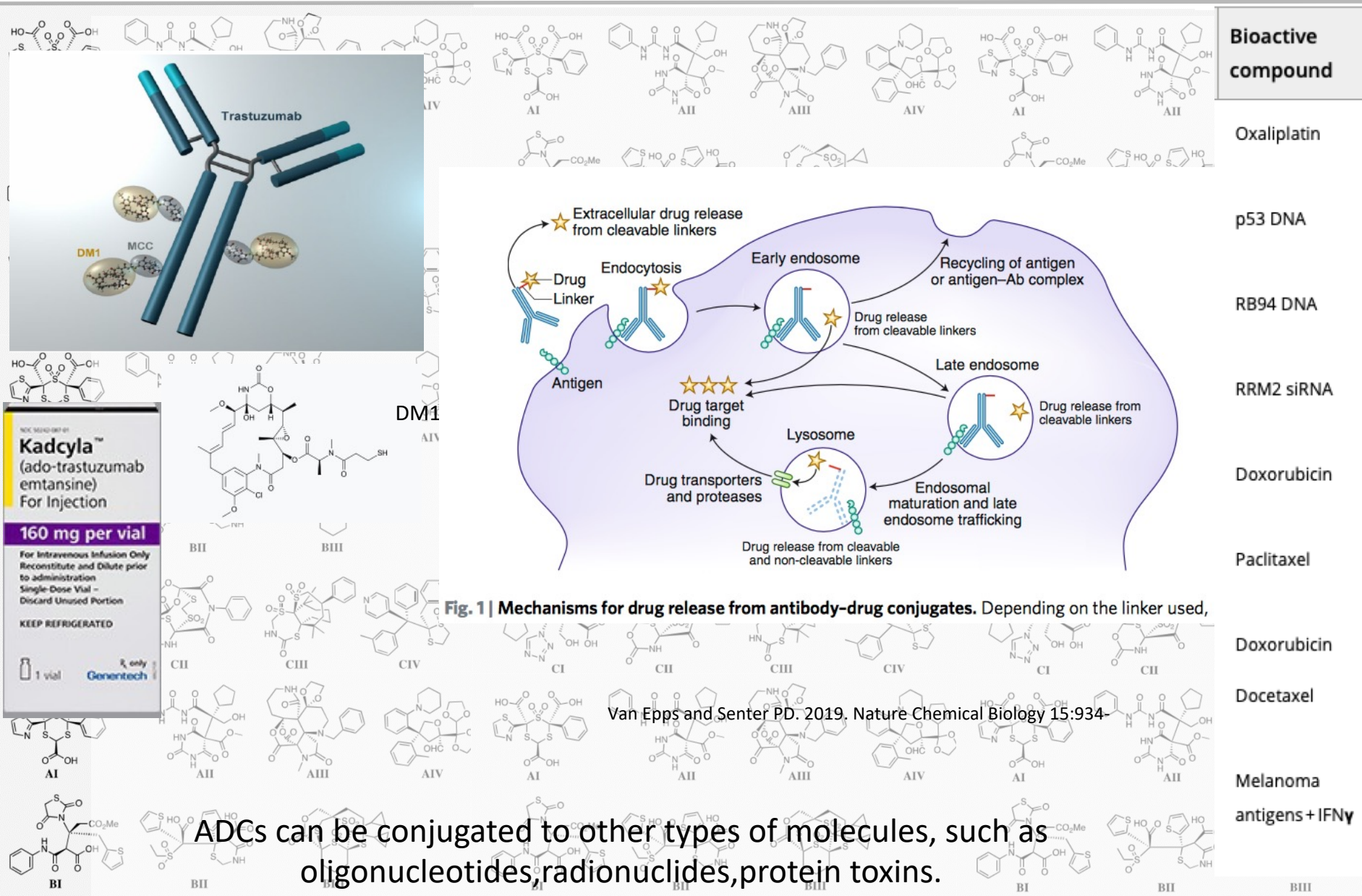
- Metabolite of Topo I inhibitor
- SN-38 more potent than parent compound, irinotecan

**Humanized anti-Trop-2 antibody**

- Directed toward Trop-2, an epithelial antigen expressed on many solid cancers



# “armed” biologicals – ADCs -combining precision medicine with chemo- radio-therapy



**Fig. 1 | Mechanisms for drug release from antibody–drug conjugates.** Depending on the linker used,

Van Epps and Senter PD. 2019. Nature Chemical Biology 15:934-

ADCs can be conjugated to other types of molecules, such as oligonucleotides, radionuclides, protein toxins.

Bioactive compound

Oxaliplatin

p53 DNA

RB94 DNA

RRM2 siRNA

Doxorubicin

Paclitaxel

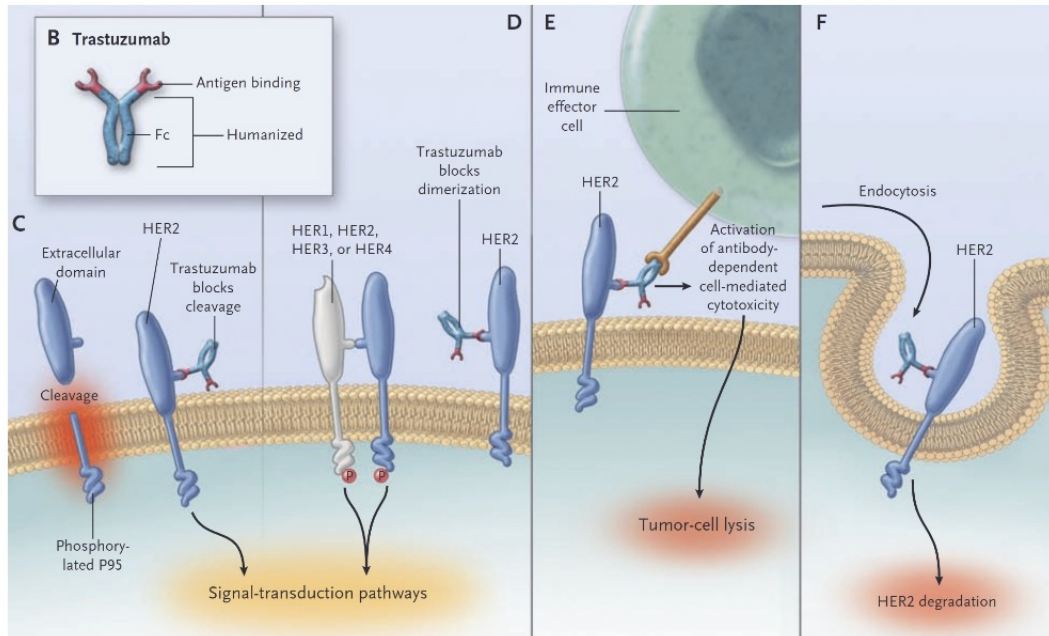
Doxorubicin

Docetaxel

Melanoma antigens + IFN $\gamma$

BIII

# Her2 (EGFR) is amplified in 10% of breast and gastro oesophageal cancer

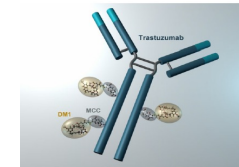
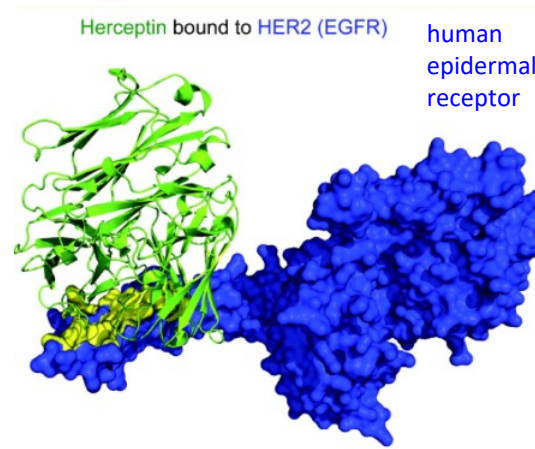


- Humanized through CDR grafting
- First approved humanized antibody (Genentech)
- Plasma half-life ~5.8 days
- Only 1 case of HAHA (human-anti-humanized-antibody) response in 903 patients

## Mechanism of Trastuzumab

- Prevents shedding of HER2
- Blocks dimerization
- Induction of ADCC
- Clustering induces receptor internalization via endocytosis

*New England Journal of Medicine*, (2007), 39-51, 357(1)

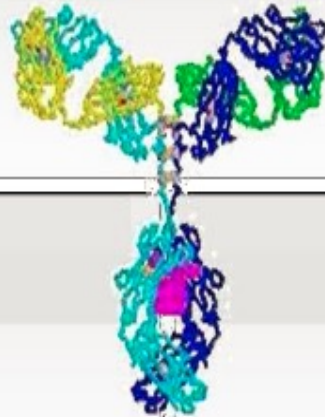


trastuzumab (Herceptin)  
trastuzumab-DM1 (Kadcyla)

# Engineering IgG can be used to modulate FcR interaction



Antigen binding



Fab

Fc

Fc-driven immune effector functions linked to antigen binding

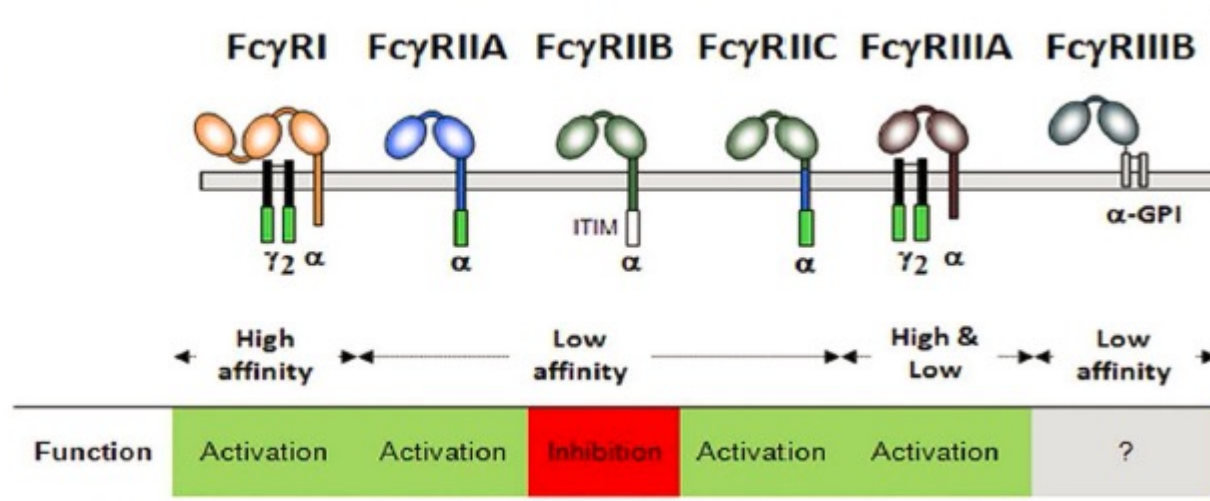
Fc-driven Antigen-independent homeostasis & transcytosis



Fc binds to: **Fc $\gamma$  receptor family** and **Complement C1q**

Fc binds to: **FcRn receptor**

Fc $\gamma$ R = Fc gamma-receptor family



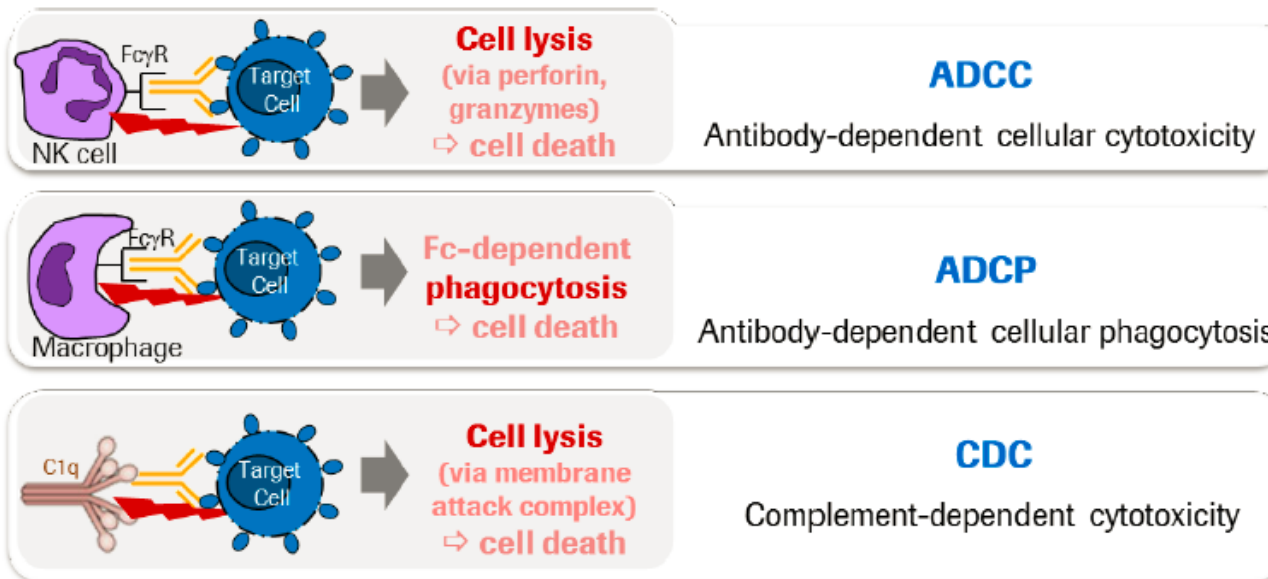
Silencing of the Fc part (mutagenesis) in situation where you do not want to eg activate NK cells

# Fc receptor driven effector functions linked to antigen binding



## Fc-driven immune effector functions linked to antigen binding

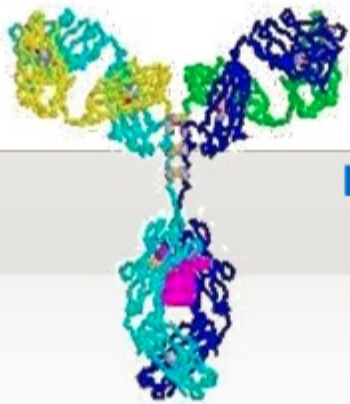
Fc binds to: **Fcγ** receptor family and **Complement C1q**



The effector function is exerted by complement or by immune cells that bind to the Fc part of a mAb

Fc part has two complement binding sites

# Fc receptor driven effector functions independent to antigen binding

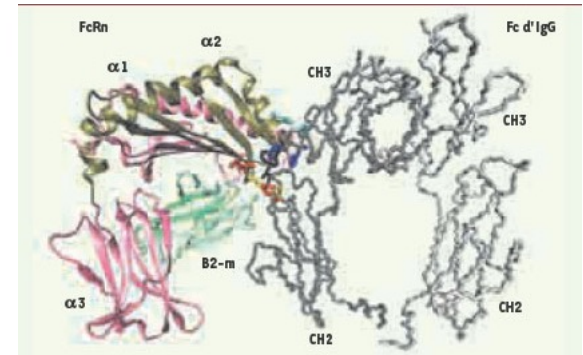


contribute to host defense : long half life of IgG

**Fc-driven Antigen-independent homeostasis & transcytosis**

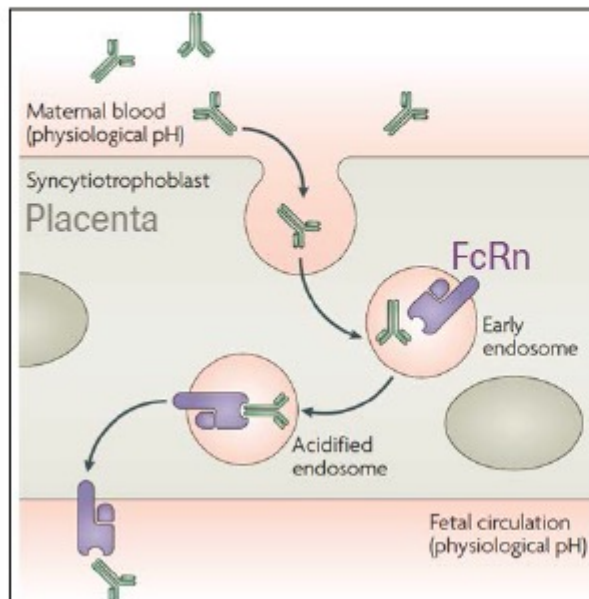


Fc binds to: **FcRn receptor**

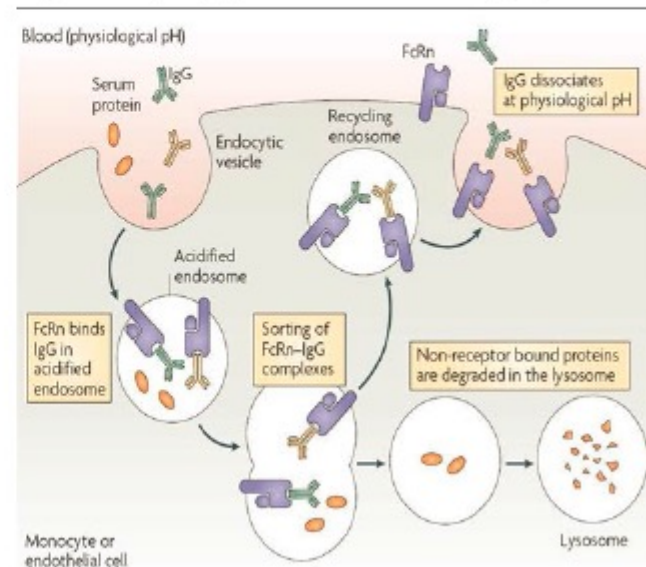


Roopenian D, Akilish S (2007) Nature Rev Immunology 7:715-725

- **FcRn mediates transcytosis** of IgG (via epithelial gut cells; placenta)

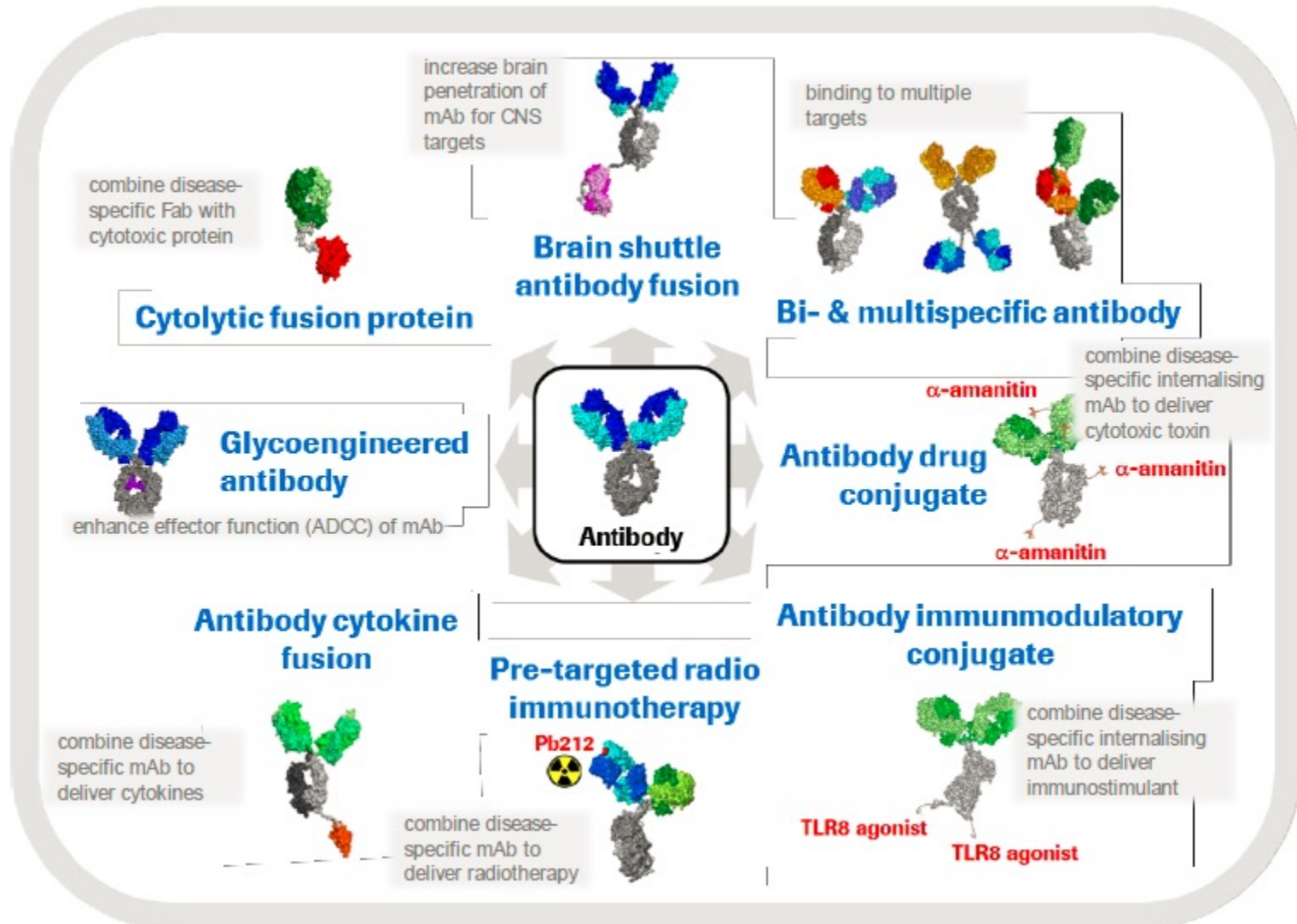


- **FcRn prevents lysosomal catabolism** of IgG by recycling via endosomal pathway (confers long plasma half life of IgG)



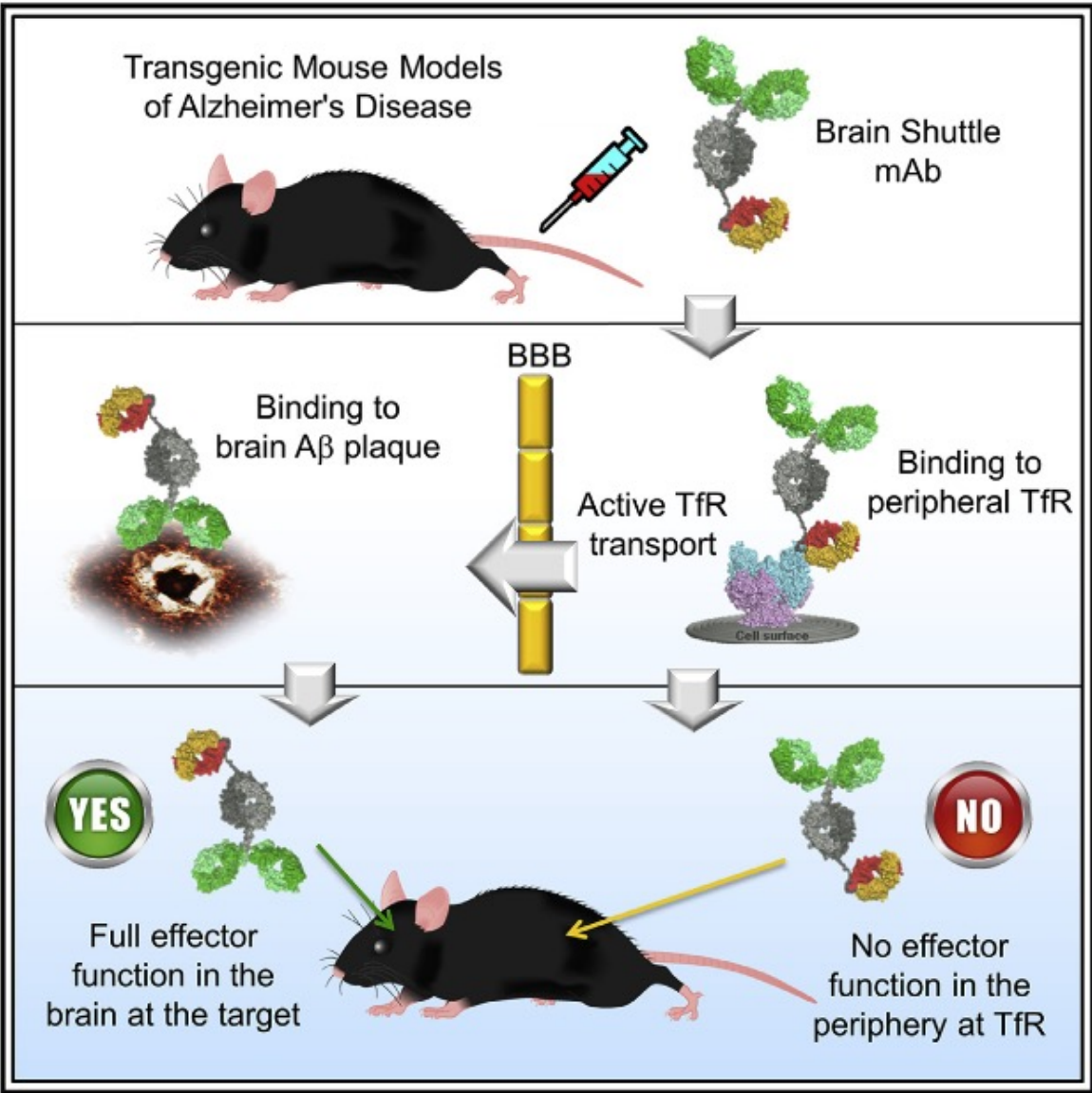
# Fc receptor driven effector functions independent to antigen binding

**GOAL: COMBINE DIFFERENT MODE OF ACTION TO ENHANCE EFFICACY OF mABS**



Glycosylation pattern may influence the biology and therapeutic index of mAbs

# Brain shuttle mAbs for Alzheimer's disease with attenuated peripheral effector function due to an inverted binding mode

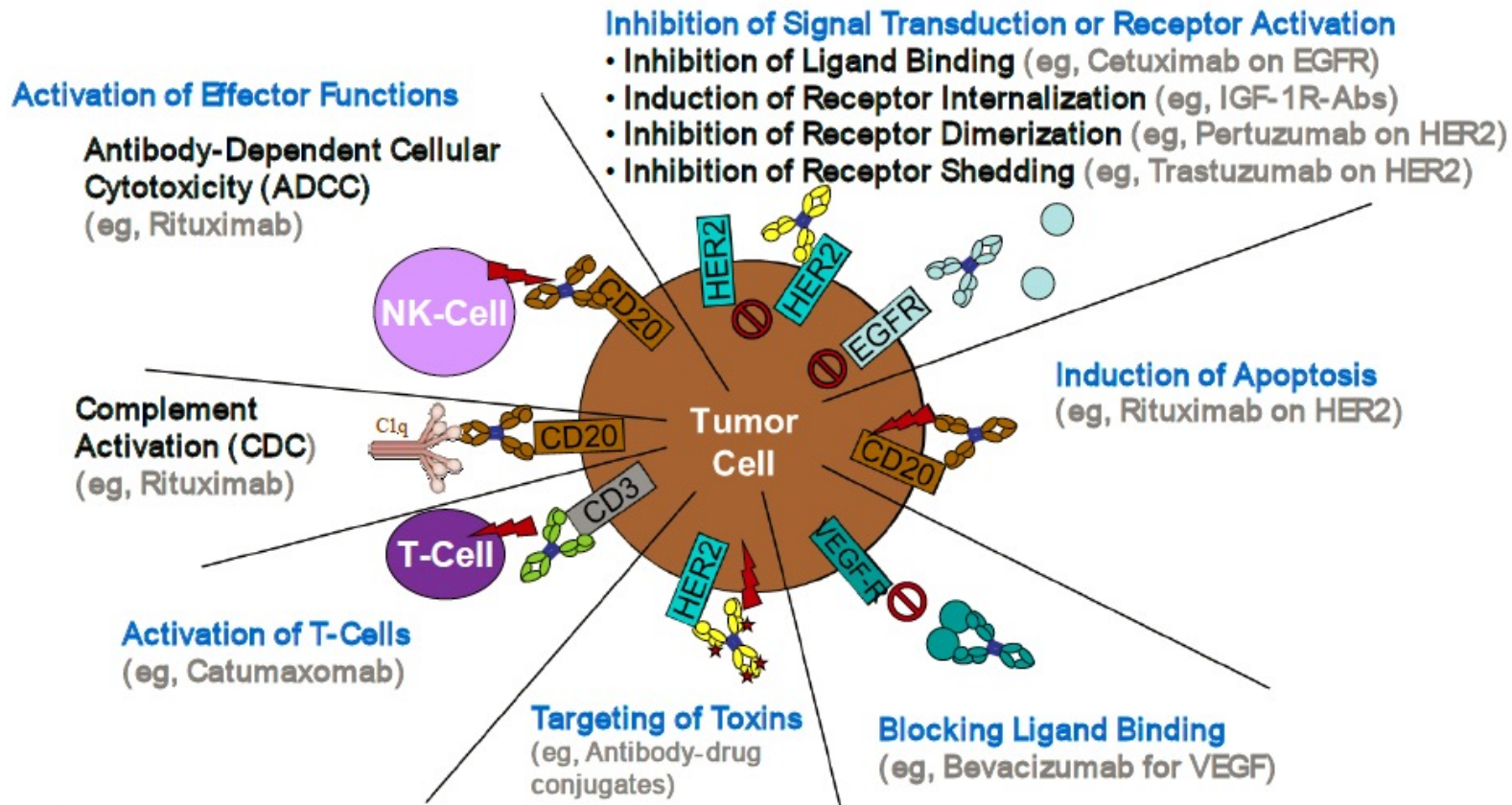


No first infusion Fc portion dependent adverse reaction in periphery, yet BBB transport via Ferritin receptor and clearing of brain Aβ plaques in mouse model by active Fc dependent effector function (eg cellular cytotoxicity)

Weber F et al. 2018 Cell Reports 22, 149–162

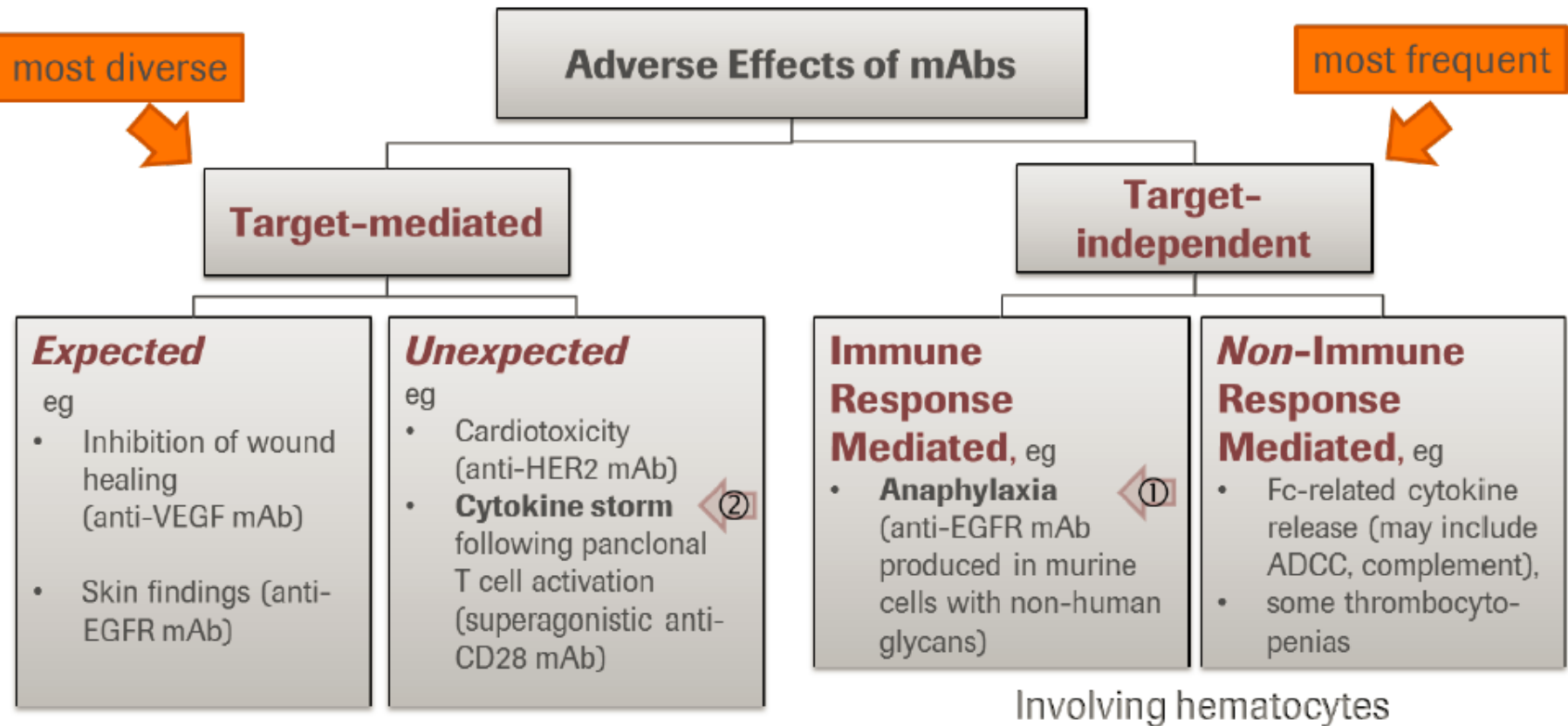


## The Pharmacological Mode of Action of mAbs is Complex and may Involve Contributions from Multiple Mechanisms

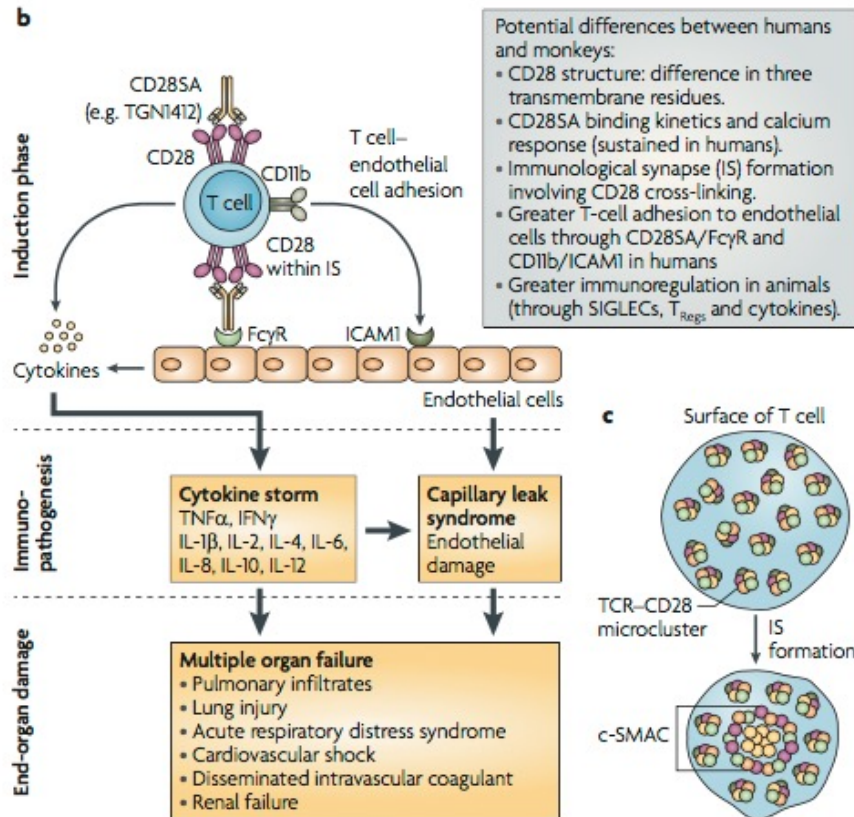
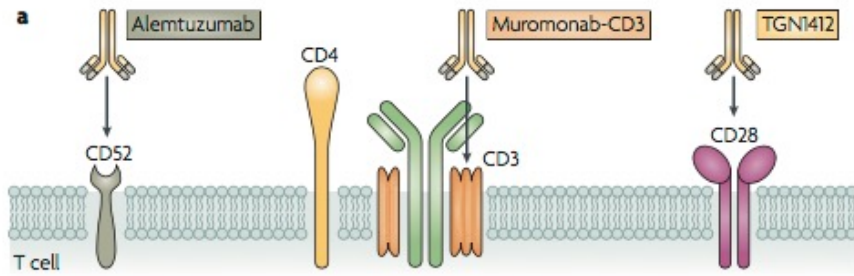


The *in-vivo* net contribution of different modes of action described for one mAb is often incompletely understood and may also be different in different indications.

# Mechanisms of adverse effects with mAbs



# MABs are subjected to intense scrutiny in drug safety and development



## Mechanisms of adverse effects with mABs eg TGN1412

### ◆ Clinical signs of cytokine storm

- Early onset after 1st infusion with a mAb
- Signs and symptoms
  - Nausea, headache, fever, hypotension, hypoactivity, rash, shock, lower body temp., multiorgan failure
  - Neurological findings (encephalopathy, tremors, dizziness, seizures)
- Huge increases in cytokines and other mediators

### ◆ Cytokine storm in patients first time treated with anti-CD28 mAb TGN1412

- Clinical signs: Severe symptoms, tissue damage, multiorgan failure
- Retrospectively, the mAb was shown to be a superagonist to CD28 with activation of all CD28<sup>+</sup> immune cells



Figure 3 | Monoclonal antibodies and the cytokine storm. a | Surface receptors on

# MABs are subjected to intense scrutiny in drug safety and development

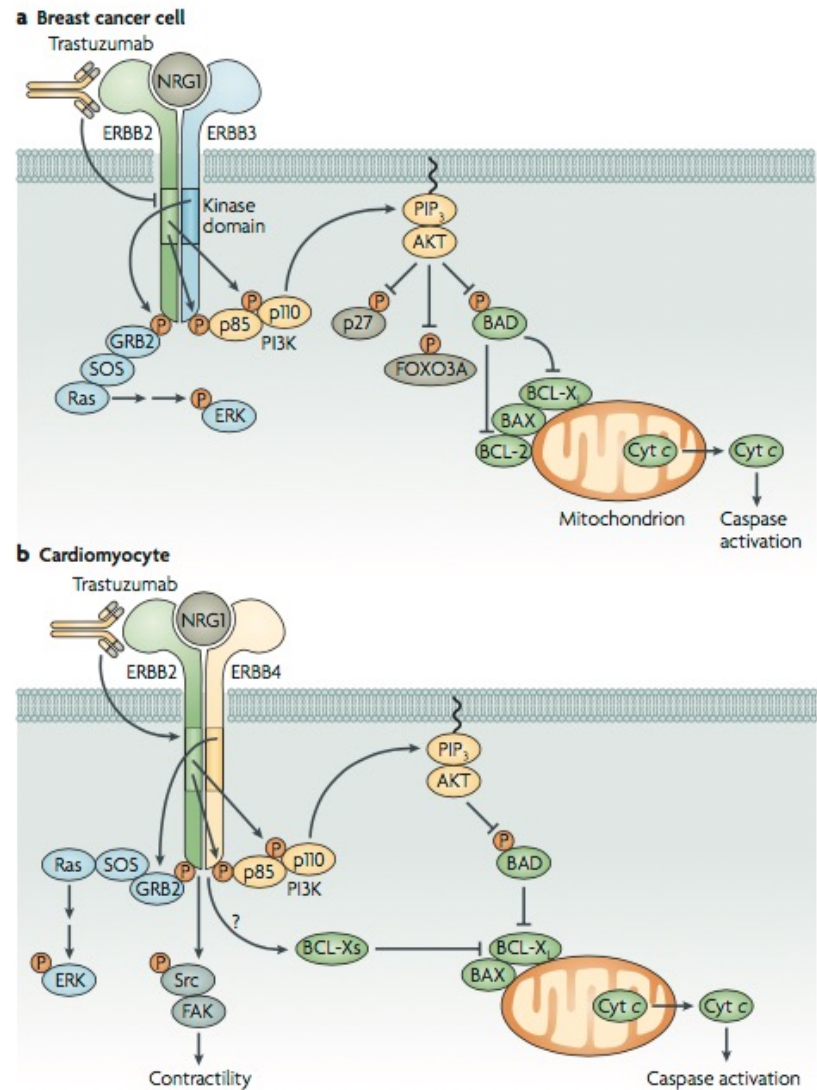
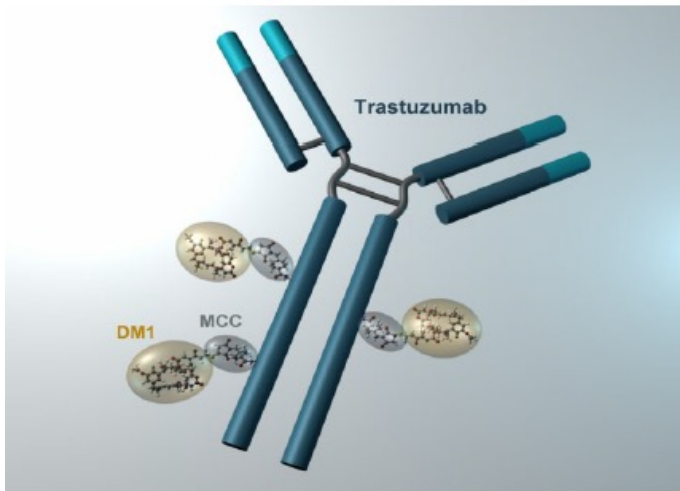
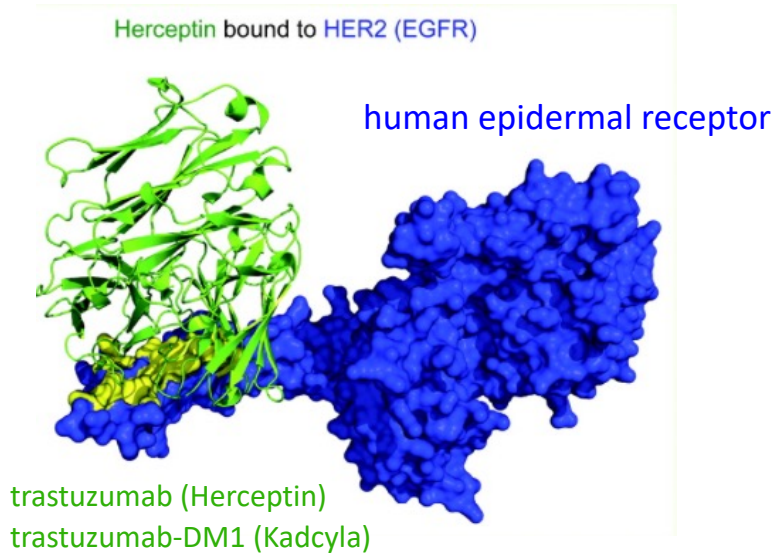


Figure 2 | Action of trastuzumab on breast cancer cells and on cardiomyocytes.

# MABs are subjected to intense scrutiny in drug safety and development



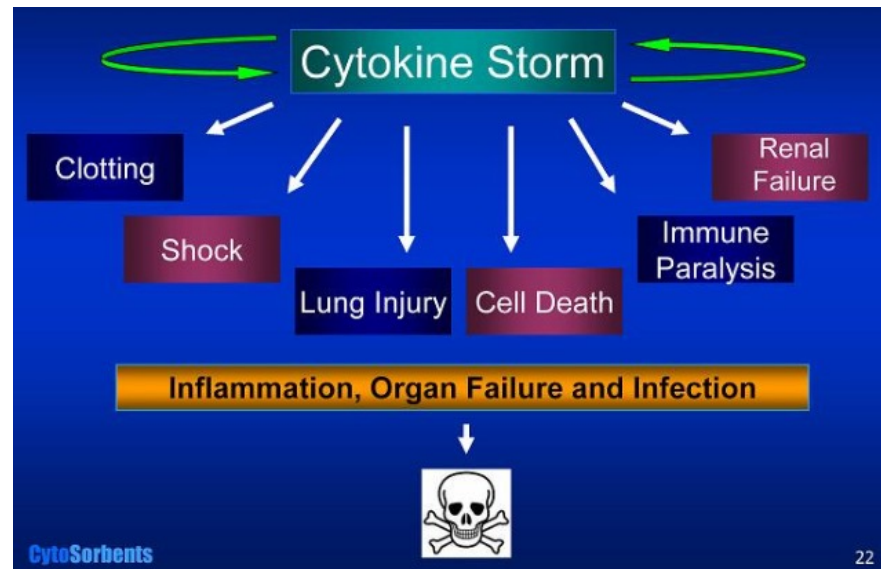
## ◆ Clinical signs of cytokine storm

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  - Neurological findings (encephalopathy, tremors, dizziness, seizures)
- Huge increases in cytokines and other mediators

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY COMPLEX INCLUDING PATIENT HETEROGENEITY SAFETY HURDLE !

## ◆ Cytokine storm in patients first time treated with anti-CD28 mAb TGN1412

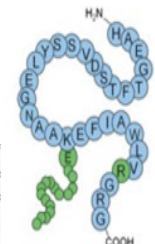
- Clinical signs: Severe symptoms, tissue damage, multiorgan failure
- Retrospectively, the mAb was shown to be a superagonist to CD28 with activation of all CD28<sup>+</sup> immune cells



# Peptides vs small M<sub>R</sub> compounds



Peptides



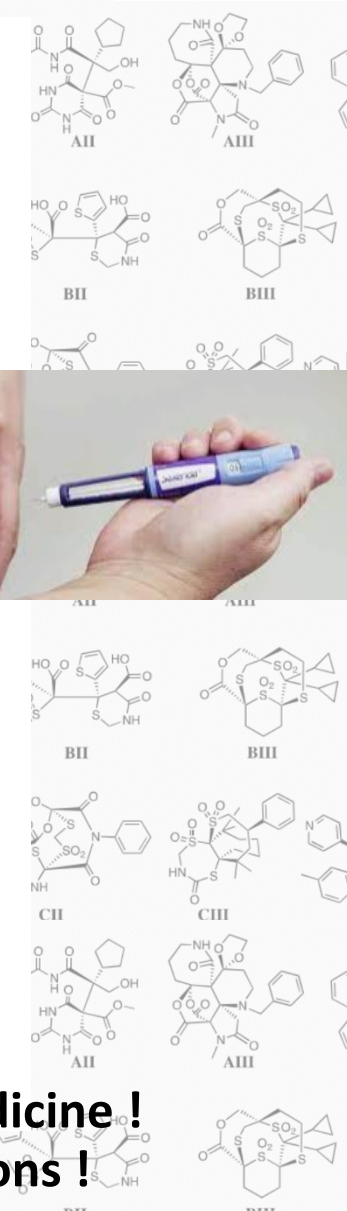
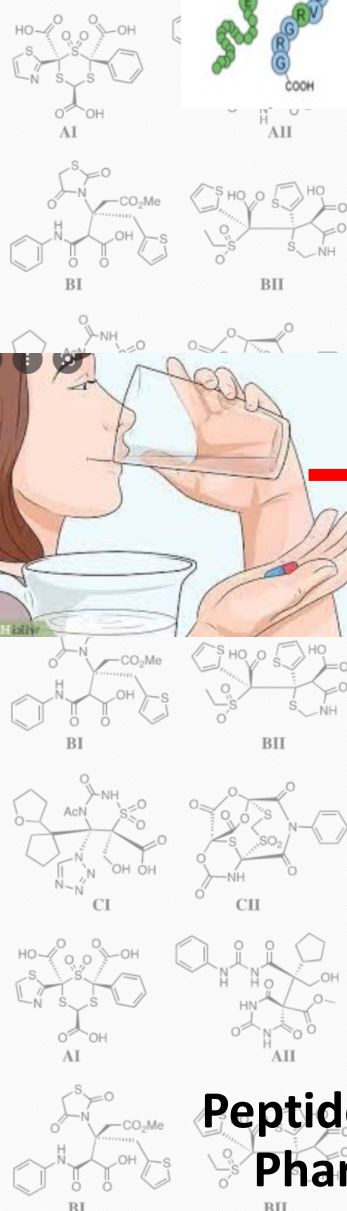
**Table I.** Comparison Between Peptides and Small Molecules

Small molecules

Peptides

- ~80% drug market
- Low cost
- Permeable
- Stable
- Good oral bioavailability
- Easier synthesis
- 95% current medicines

- ~2% drug market
- High cost
- Low permeability
- Limited stability
- Poor oral bioavailability
- More challenging synthesis
- Short half-life
- Limited to extracellular targets
- High binding affinity
- Easier to identify
- Excellent target specificity
- Broad disease targets
- Mechanism of action well understood
- Low toxicity and immunogenicity
- Low risk of drug–drug interaction potential
- Lower impact from generics



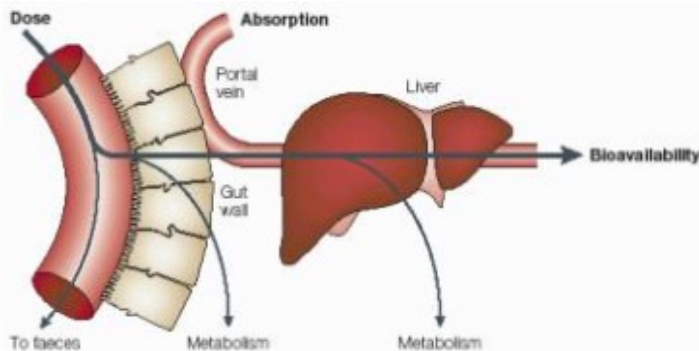
**Peptides are increasingly being developed as innovative medicine!  
Pharmacological intervention on protein:protein interactions!**

# MDO (multiparameter drug optimization) for small MW cpds



## MDO simplified (drug likeliness or Pfizer's "rule of five")

- Solubility
- Lipophilicity (clogP) octanol water partition <5) (partition coefficient)
- Number of H donors (<5)
- Number of H acceptors (<10)
- Molecular weight (generally <500 Da)
- Permeability (PAMPA assay)
- CYP450s screen (eg. adverse drug metabolites)
- Metabolic stability (PK, PD, ADME)
- Cardiac ion channels (hERG, "torsade de pointes")
- CEREP screens, kinase panels, GPCR panels



C.A. Lipinski et al. *Adv. Drug. Delivery Reviews* **23** (1997) 3.

7th lecture

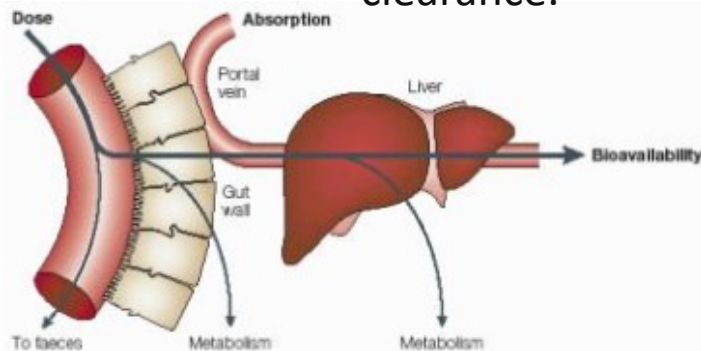
Modern Methods in Drug Discovery WS08/09



# Challenging MDO (multiparameter drug optimization) for peptides

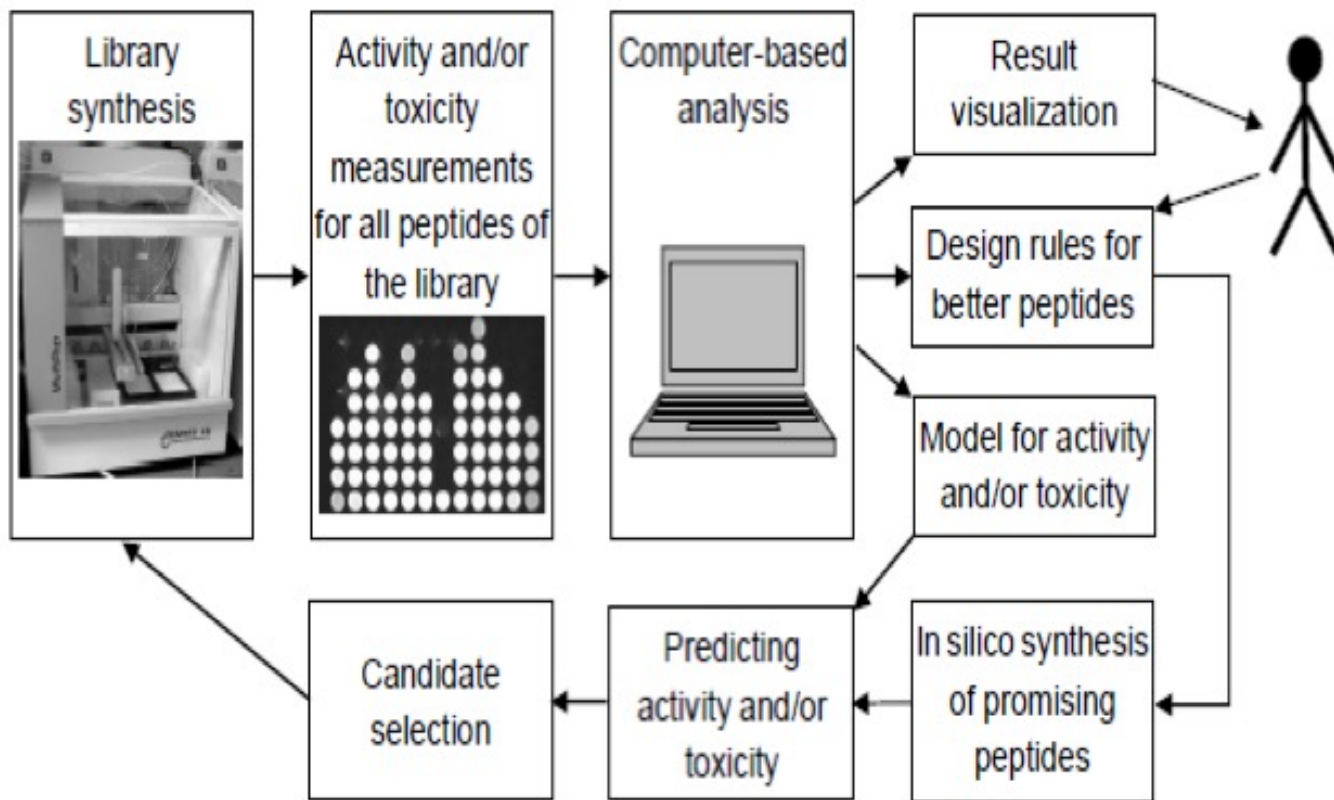


- Several blockbuster peptide drugs are currently on the market
- Although peptides only represent 2% of the drug market, the market is growing twice as quickly and might soon occupy a larger niche
- Natural peptides typically have poor absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME) properties with rapid clearance, short half-life, low permeability, and sometimes low solubility.
- Strategies have been developed to improve peptide drugability through enhancing permeability, reducing proteolysis and renal clearance, and prolonging half-life. In vivo, in vitro, and in silico tools are available to evaluate ADME properties of peptides, and structural modification strategies are in place to improve peptide developability.
- KEY WORDS: ADME; peptides; pharmacokinetics; proteolysis; renal clearance.



C.A. Lipinski et al. *Adv. Drug. Delivery Reviews* **23** (1997) 3.

# Challenging MDO (multiparameter drug optimization) for peptides



**Figure 5.** Optimization strategy for peptide libraries (modified from [134])



## INSULIN – FIRST BIOLOGICAL

- **A century old peptide medicine that revolutionized therapies of type I diabetic patients and later challenged biotechnology**
- **A far reaching clinical revolution without precedent**

**(average life expectancy of a 10y old type I diabetic patient was 1 y, today is >60 y !)**

1869 P. Langerhans describes islets from pancreas

1889 Von Mehring : total pancreatectomy in dogs is followed by severe diabetes



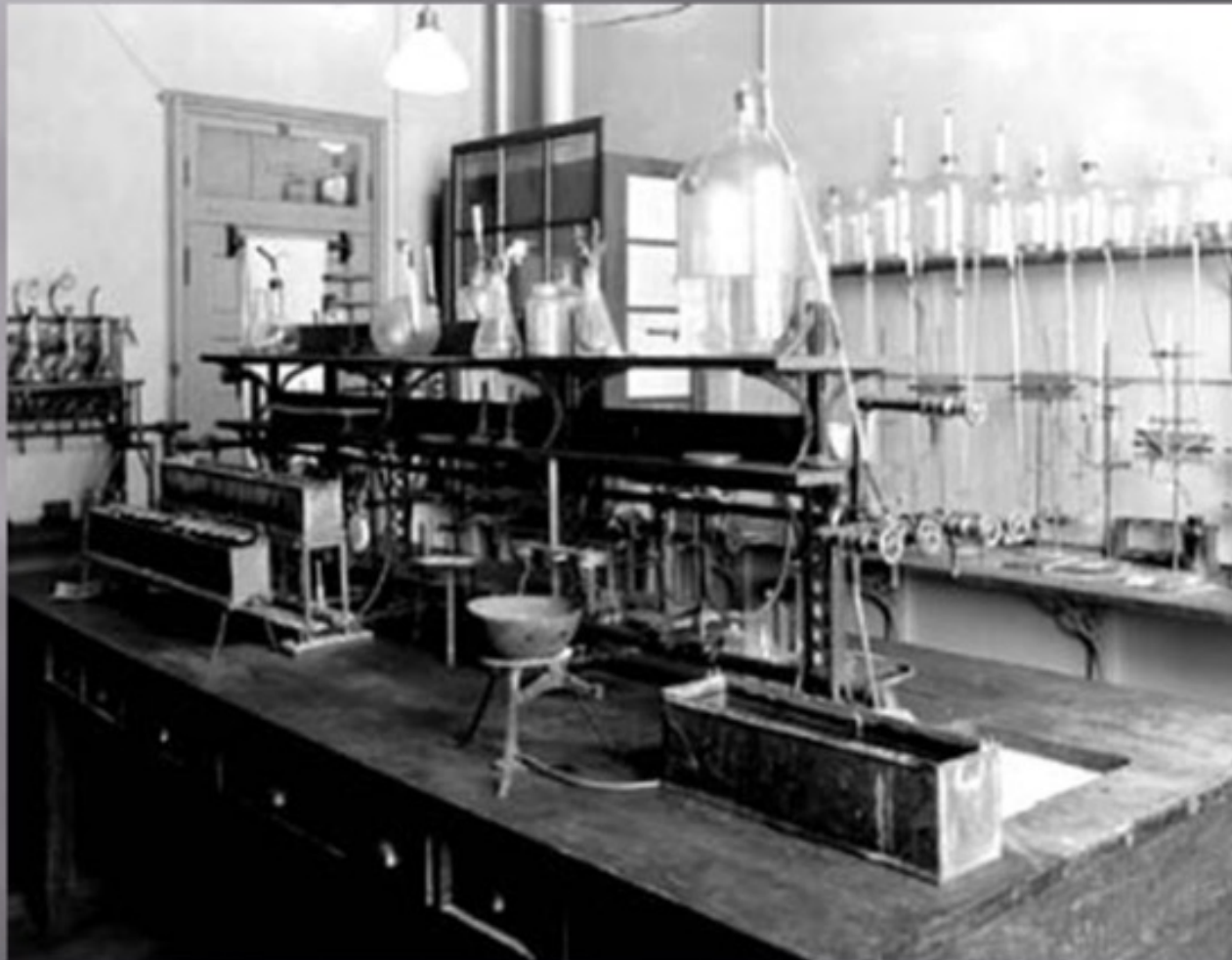
1921

F Banting-C.Best Beagle dogs

# Discovery of the first biological (peptide) in Toronto: July 1921 - Banting and Best cracking 1000 y old mystery !



Banting and Best's laboratory  
where insulin was discovered

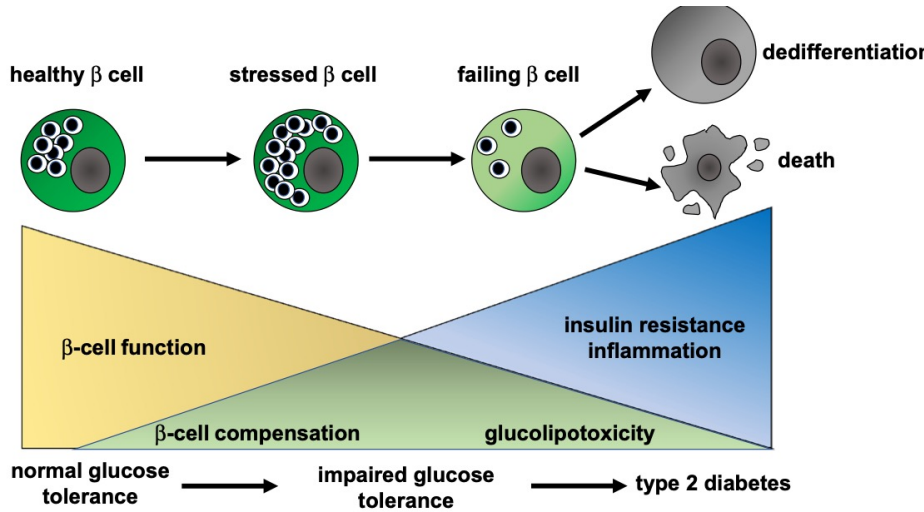


Prof Banting and McLeod 1929

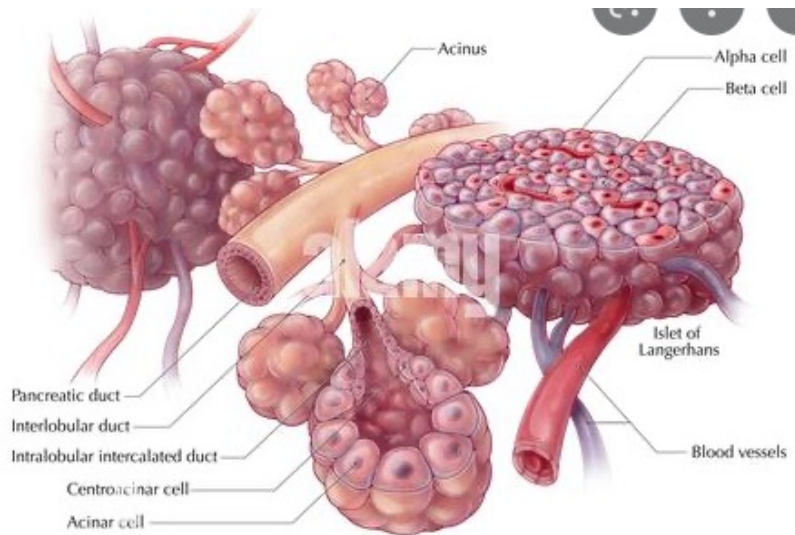
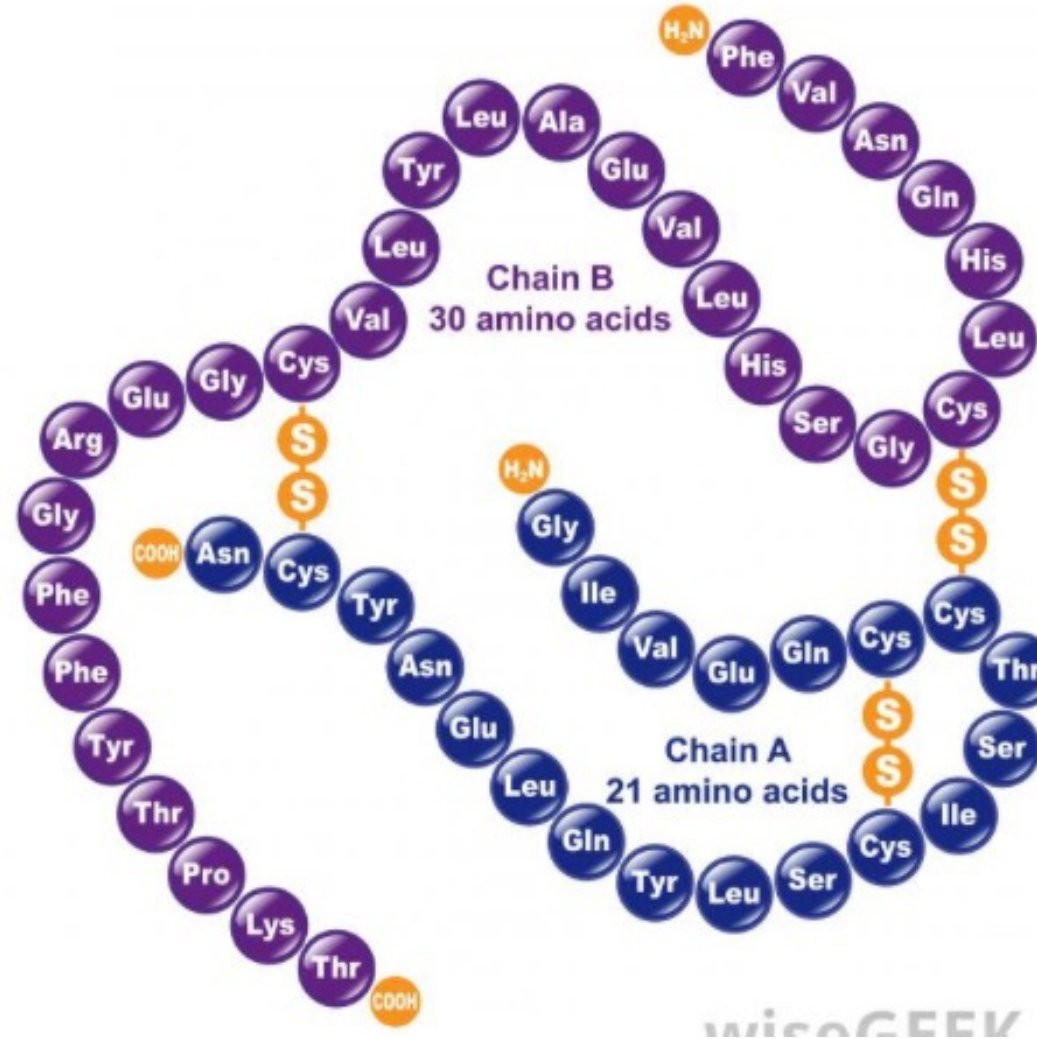


« Inventas vitam  
iuvat excoluisse  
per artes »

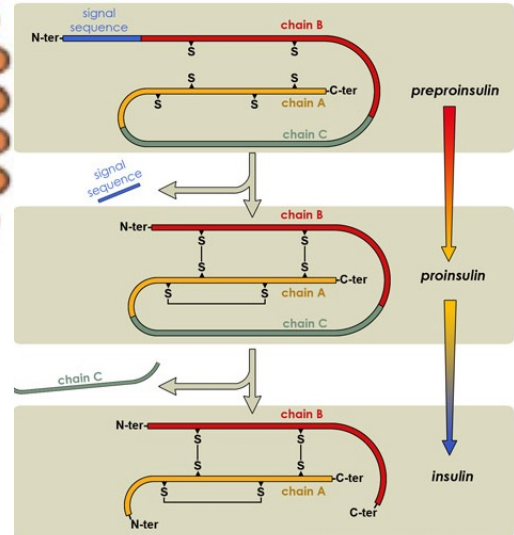
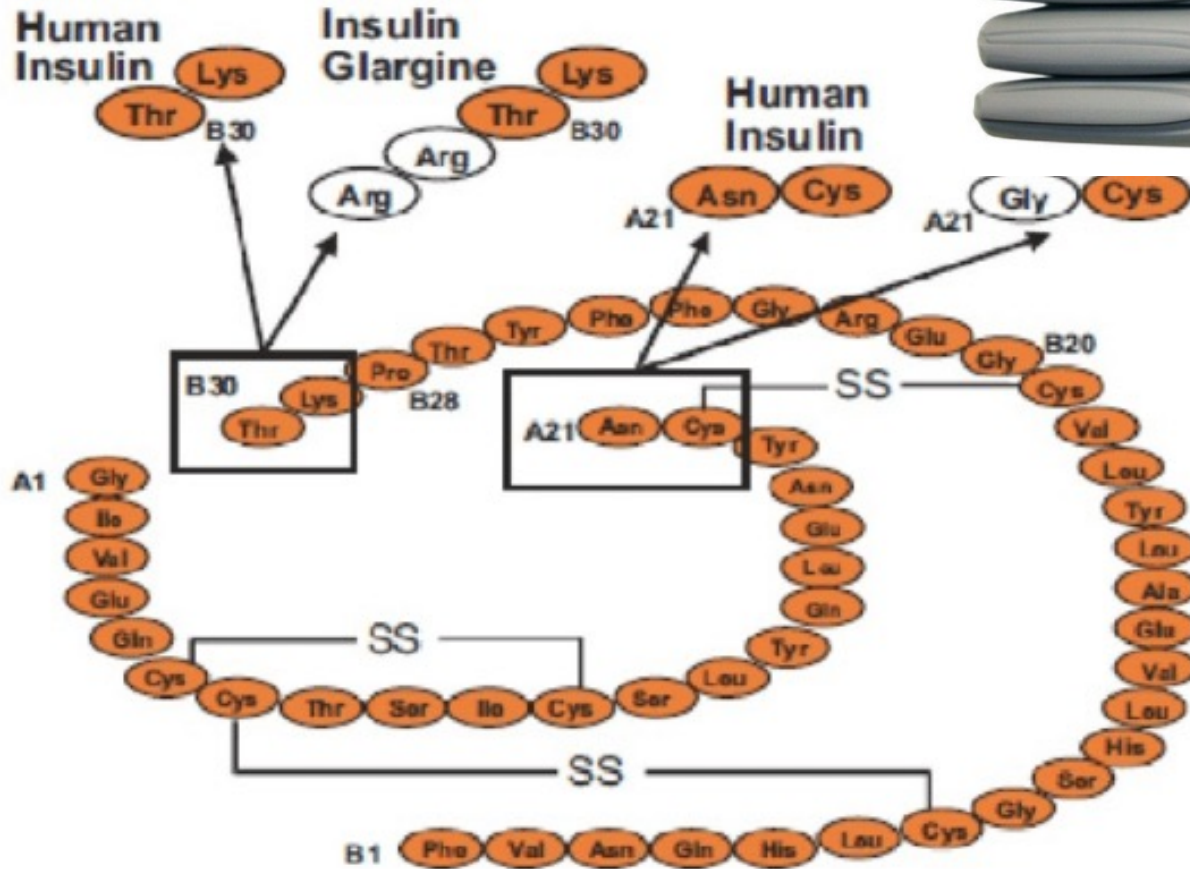
# First biological (peptide) ever described : Toronto F.Banting and C.Best cracking a 1000 y old mystery !



## Human Insulin



Insulin glargine differs by replacing Asp and Gly position 21 and Cterm ext of chain B  
 Medical need ; shifting isoelectric point pH5.4 to 6.7 makes more soluble at pH7 and  
 pharmacodynamic peakless level for 24 hours

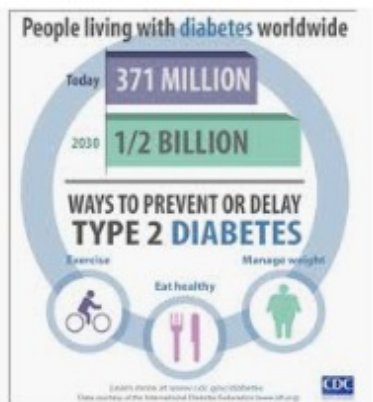


Modifications of the Insulin Sequence in Insulin Glargine.

# Advanced type II diabetes : peripheral ischaemia-necrosis



MEDICAL NEED :  
IMPROVE INSULIN  
SENSITIVITY ASAP !



Copyright Medetec (<http://www.medetec.co.uk>)

MACRO- AND MICROVASCULARIZATION IMPAIREMENTS

# Insulin syringes, automatic pumps connected to acucheck today's reality in clinical practice with both type I and II diabetics



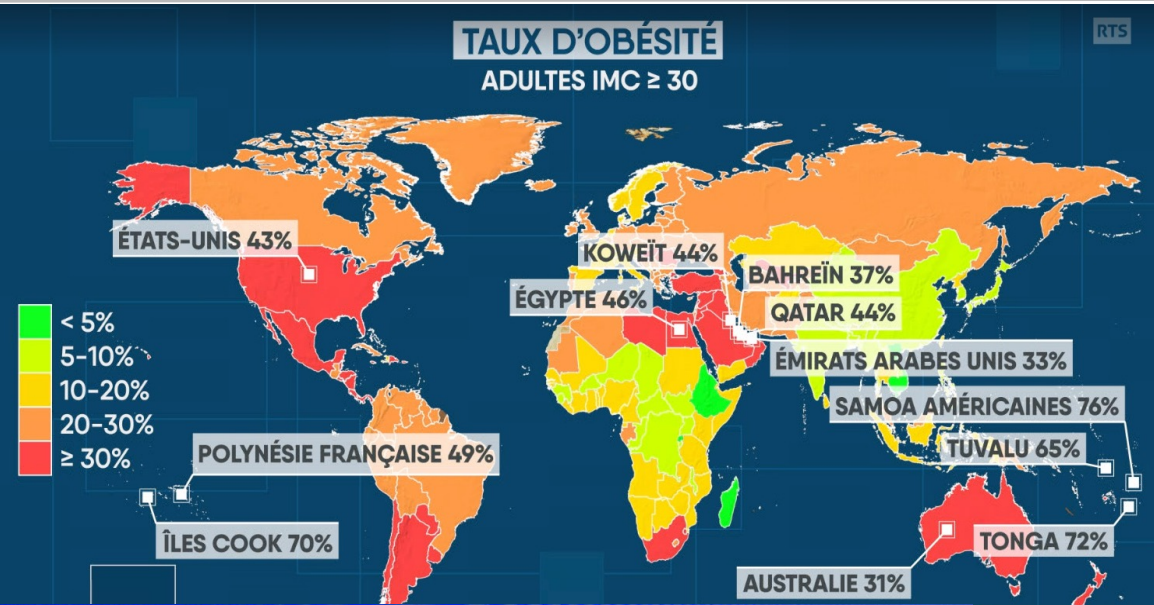
ww pandemia – 4 fold prevalence increase in young adults !



1990-2022

x4

SOURCE : OMS



**SURPOIDS**



**2,5**  
Mia

**OBÉSITÉ**



**890**  
Mio

# Metabolic diabetes syndrome : a public health challenge

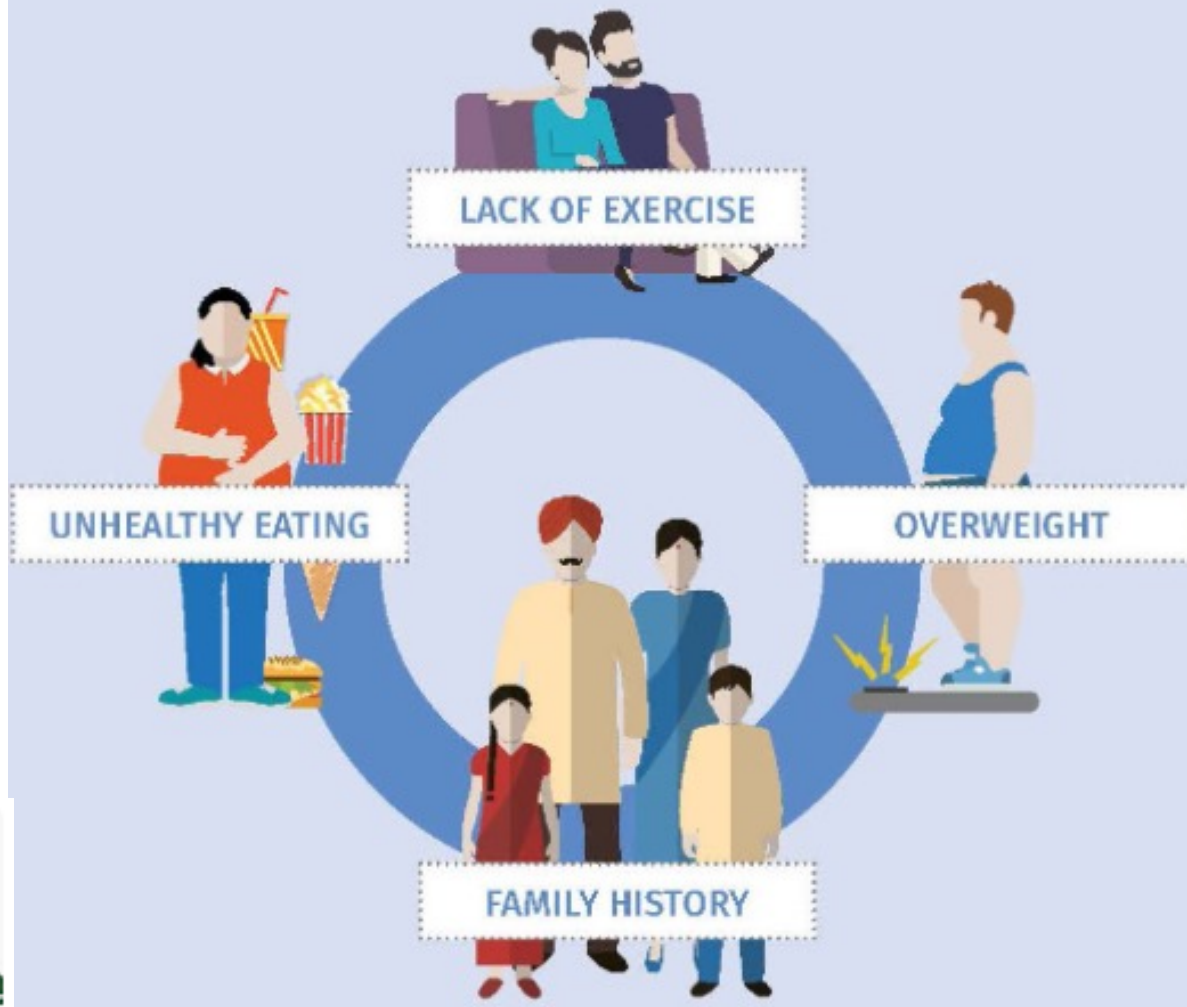


#	Country	Income group	% obesity
19	United States	High income	42.74
20	Saudi Arabia	High income	42.45
21	Palau	High income	42.08
22	Puerto Rico	High income	42.05
23	Iraq	Upper-middle income	41.41
24	Jordan	Lower-middle income	39.93
25	Chile	High income	39.67
26	Barbados	High income	38.90
27	Palestine	Lower-middle income	38.52
28	Libya	Upper-middle income	37.91
29	Bahrain	High income	37.25
30	Panama	High income	37.06
31	Mexico	Upper-middle income	36.86
74	Poland	High income	28.28
75	Peru	Upper-middle income	28.12
76	Tunisia	Lower-middle income	27.71
77	United Kingdom	High income	27.63
78	Greenland	High income	27.58
79	Guatemala	Upper-middle income	27.57
80	Slovakia	High income	27.57
81	Azerbaijan	Upper-middle income	27.33
82	Czechia	High income	26.85
83	Kyrgyzstan	Lower-middle income	26.83
84	Canada	High income	26.73
85	Lithuania	High income	26.02
152	Tanzania	Lower-middle income	12.95
153	Kenya	Lower-middle income	12.87
154	Nigeria	Lower-middle income	12.84
155	Bhutan	Lower-middle income	12.68
156	Switzerland	High income	12.47

# Metabolic syndrome : a public health challenge



## TYPE 2 DIABETES RISK FACTORS



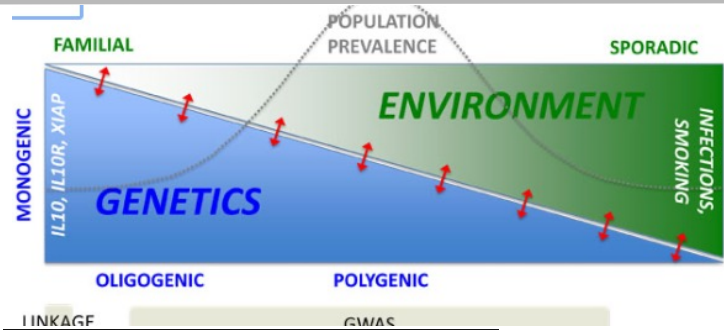
# Metabolic syndrome : when patients become insulin resistant



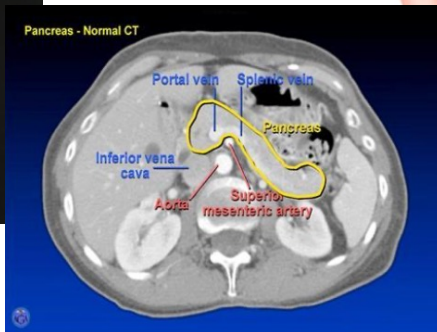
## Metabolic Syndrome and Tissue-Tissue Cross Talk

*MEDICAL CHALLENGE : COMPLEX TRAITS DISEASE : GENETICS AND ENVIRONMENT PLAY A COMBINED ROLE*

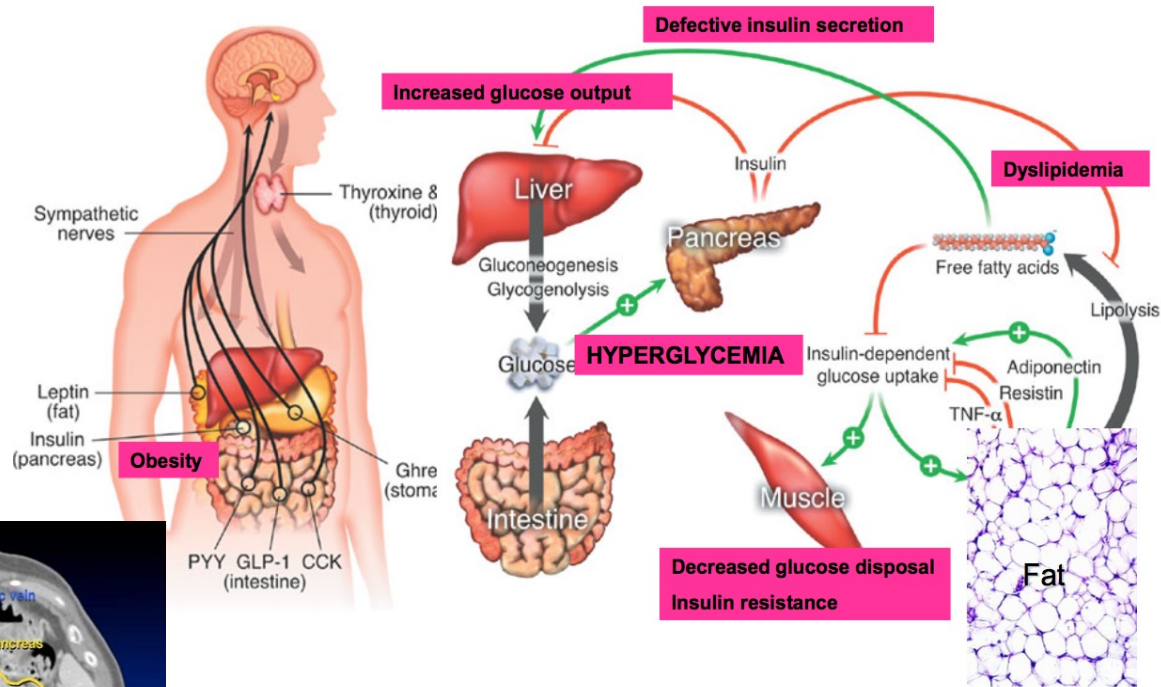
## Metabolic Syndrome and Tissue-Tissue Cross Talk



Gubener Plastinate GmbH  
Guben Germany



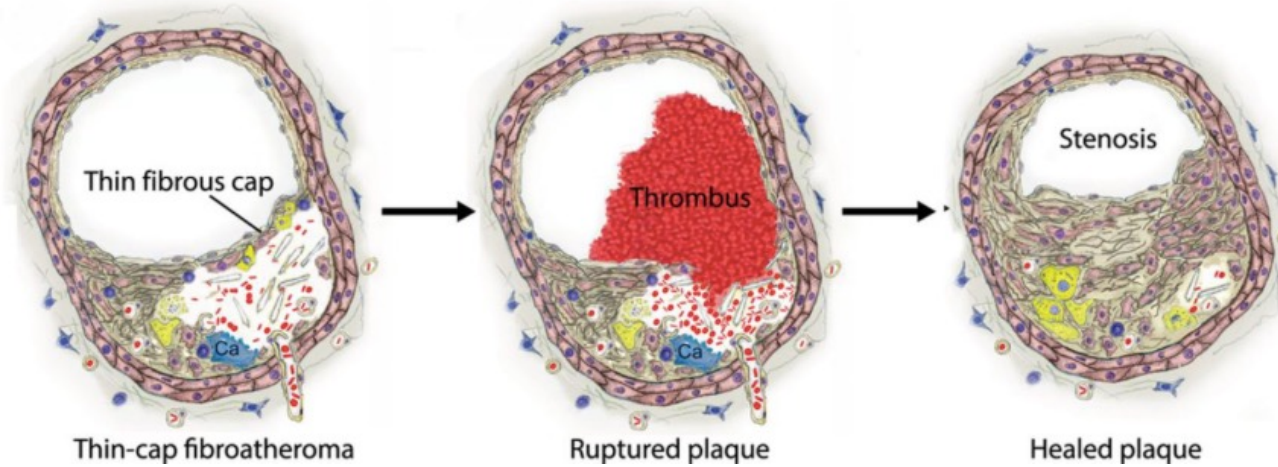
Pancreas - Normal CT



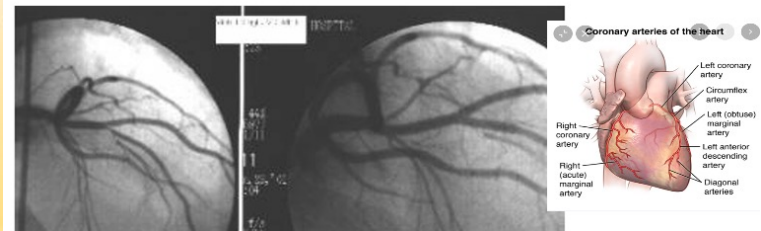
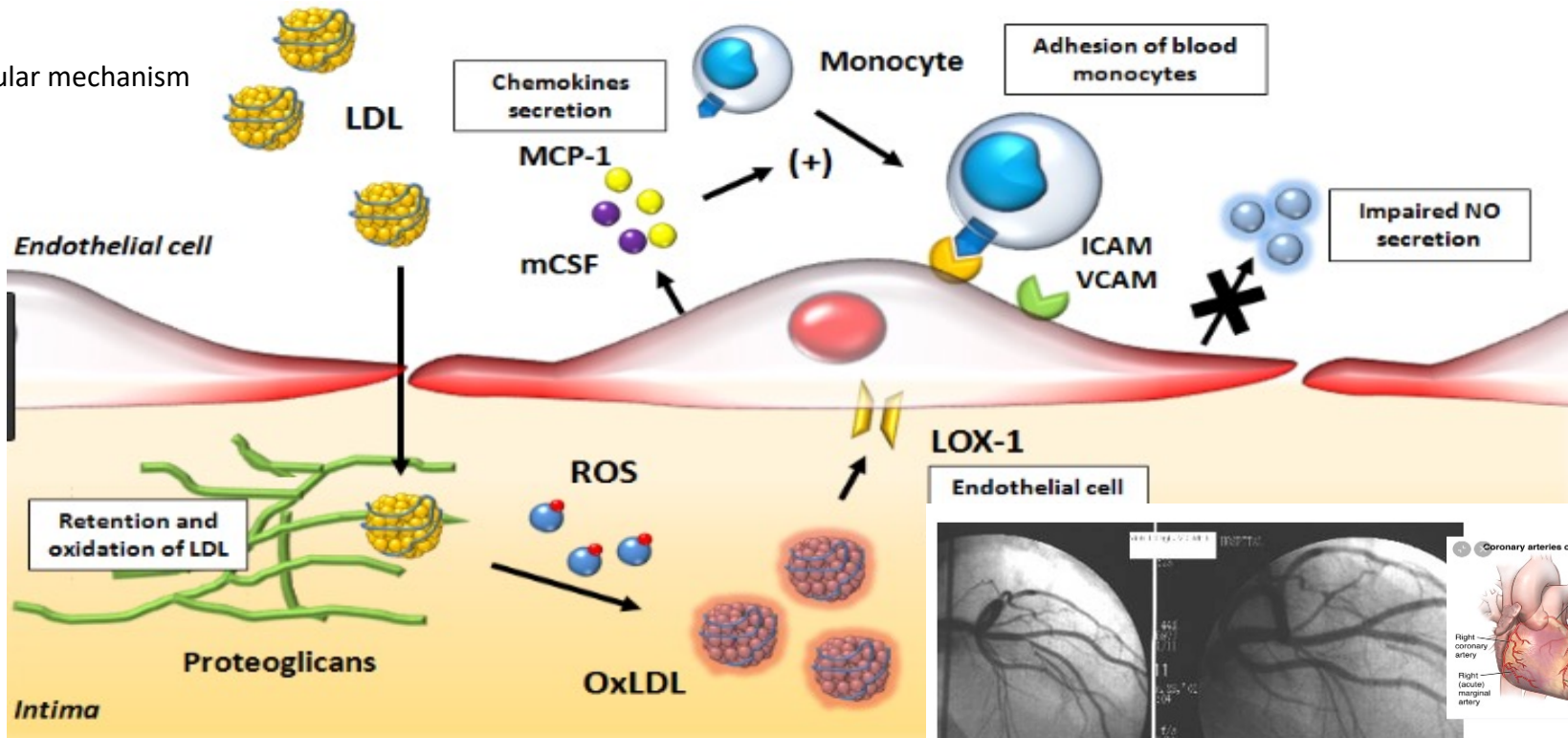
# Stroke and acute heart failure : the unstable atheroma plaque



at histopathological level



at molecular mechanism



**University sport activities :  
my contribution - bike tour  
800 km 5 days on my bike !**

**NUMBER ONE THERAPY**



# Mit dem Rad auf Eucor-Tour

Jedes Jahr radeln Eucor-Studierende die fünf Unistädte am Oberrhein ab

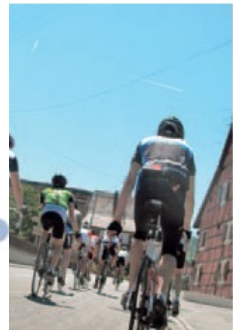
FOTOS: TEAM TOUR EUCOR

## EUCOR KIT



### Wie es geht

Jedes Jahr radeln Eucor-Studierende die fünf Unistädte am Oberrhein ab. Die Tour Eucor, bei der jede Eucor-Uni aufzieht, ist „Die Initial-Idee für die Tour Eucor 1998 war relativ neu. Das ist beeindruckend, wie die das organisieren“, so Roger Clerc. Der Professor für Biomedizin und Molekularbiologie an der Universität Basel fährt selbst seit drei Jahren mit und befürchtet, der einzige Dozent zu sein, der sich für die Eucor-Strecke auf den Sattel schwingt. Denn die Lehrenden machen sich auf den circa 700 Kilometern rar. „Viele haben Bedenken, weil sie dieselben Studenten ja bei den Prüfungen wieder treffen könnten“, sagt Clerc, der als



endet nach wie vor zwar in Karlsruhe, aber teilnehmen können alle Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter, Studierende und Alumni der fünf oberrheinischen Universitäten.

### „Keine Hobbybastler“

Die Pioniere gründeten einen Verein, der mittlerweile zu einem professionellen Organisationsteam herangewachsen ist. Neben Streckenführerinnen und Streckenführern stellt das Team zehn Begleiterinnen und Begleiter zusammen, die mit den Tourmobilen die Radsportlerinnen und Radsportler verpflegen und sich um den Gepäcktransport kümmern. Diese logistische Höchstleistung begeistert so manchen Teilnehmenden. „Das sind keine Hobbybastler, die kommen mit dem Mercedeslaster auf die Minute genau an. Es ist beeindruckend, wie die das organisieren“, so Roger Clerc. Der Professor für Biomedizin und Molekularbiologie an der Universität Basel fährt selbst seit drei Jahren mit und befürchtet, der einzige Dozent zu sein, der sich für die Eucor-Strecke auf den Sattel schwingt. Denn die Lehrenden machen sich auf den circa 700 Kilometern rar. „Viele haben Bedenken, weil sie dieselben Studenten ja bei den Prüfungen wieder treffen könnten“, sagt Clerc, der als

endet nach wie vor zwar in Karlsruhe, aber teilnehmen können alle Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter, Studierende und Alumni der fünf oberrheinischen Universitäten.

Damit jeder auf seine Kosten kommt, gibt es unterschiedliche Routen, die nach Schwierigkeitsgraden eingeteilt sind. In der Kategorie „blau“ fahren gemütlige Stadtradfahrer immer den direktesten Weg zwischen den Etappen. Steigungen werden vermieden, heißt es auf der Homepage. Die „Hellroten“ haben eine ähnliche Strecke zu bewältigen, nehmen aber kleine Steigungen für einen schönen Ausblick in Kauf. Gruppe „mittelrot“ hat etwas mehr Geschwindigkeit und Berge auf der Strecke. „Dunkelrot“ setzt noch eins drauf, aber die Profis und Rennradler befinden sich meist in den schwarzen Gruppen. „Hellschwarz“ eignet sich für Radsportler - die „Dunkelschwarzen“ suchen die ultimative Herausforderung, nehmen jeden Berg mit und legen die längste Strecke zurück.

Einzige Bedingung für die Teilnehmer: Das Rad muss fahrtüchtig sein und jeder sollte einen Ersatzschlauch



im Gepäck haben. Denn Pannen passieren immer wieder. Manchmal aber auch, weil die Räder nicht ausreichend auf solche Strecken vorbereitet wurden. Da wetzen sich schnell Bremsen ab oder alte Schläuche platzen. Deshalb sollte jeder Teilnehmer seinen Drahtesel vor der Tour nochmal gründlich unter die Lupe nehmen, raten die Radprofis vom Team.

### Eucor an der frischen Luft erleben

Und dann kann's losgehen. Ob sportliche Herausforderung, Gruppenerlebnis oder Rheinidylle, den persönlichen Anspruch kann sich jeder Teilnehmer selbst aussuchen. Das Ziel für Michael Winz, Student in Freiburg, war es, fünf Tage auf dem Fahrrad zu sitzen und für die „Vaude Transschwarzwald“ zu trainieren, ein Etappenrennen für Freizeitsportlerinnen und Freizeitsportler und Profis. Auch er findet die Radtour „eine tolle Sache“. Die gemeinsamen Erlebnisse auf der Strecke und das Abendprogramm in den Eucor-Städten schweißen zusammen. Auch wenn die Kontakte nicht immer von Dauer sind, haben sich während der Tour schon interessante Bekanntschaften ergeben. Roger Clerc profitiert gerne von seinen jüngeren Weggefährten, um mit ihnen

# metabolic syndrome pandemic : best preventive medicine : exercise every day !



## VORWORT

### NUMBER ONE THERAPY

«Sparsame Gene»: Trainiere jeden Tag beim Unisport!

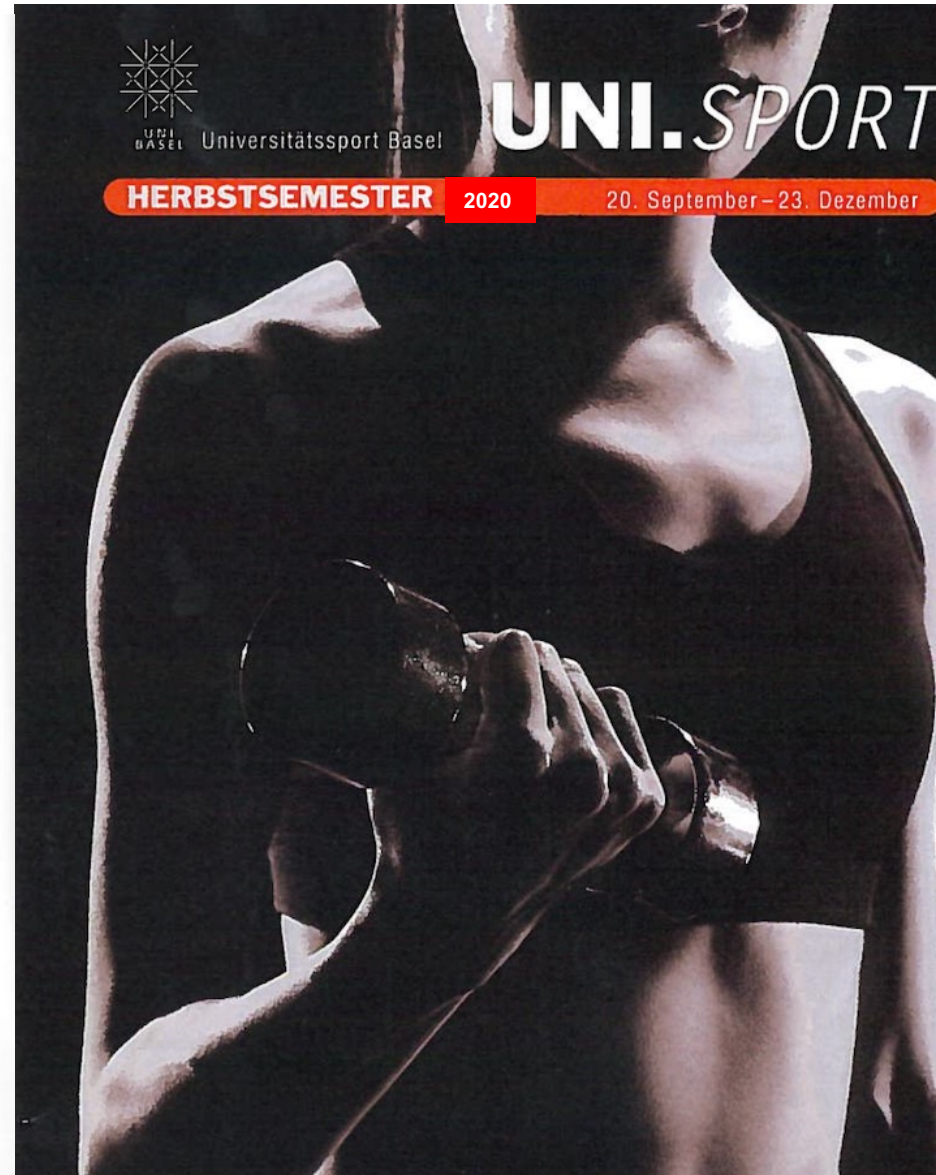
Das Universitätsstudium und insbesondere seine Prüfungen innerhalb bestimmter Fristen sind stressig. Wir sind so mit einem Lebensstil konfrontiert, welcher uns - nicht nur an der Universität - immer mehr geistige Leistungen in immer kurzfristigeren Zeithorizonten abverlangt, wobei wir uns oft nicht mehr ausreichend körperlich aktiv bewegen. Zu dieser Bewegungsarmut gesellt sich oft eine ungesunde Ernährung. Viele Menschen sind daher übergewichtig und entwickeln metabolisches Syndrom mit u.a. erhöhtem Blutzucker, Bluthochdruck und erhöhten Blutfettwerten.

Unser Genom hat sich in Millionen von Jahren entwickelt, in denen Nahrungsmangel herrschte. Der Mensch der Urzeit war ein hoch beweglicher Jäger, der nur selten etwas zum Essen fand. Sein Körper passte sich evolutiv daran an, diese rare kostbare Energie in seinen Geweben dank der "sparsamen Gene" zu speichern. An den erst seit wenigen Jahrzehnten herrschenden „plötzlichen“ Überschuss an sehr kalorienreicher Nahrung und die mangelnde körperliche Bewegung heutzutage, konnte sich unser Genom noch nicht anpassen. Um das empfindliche Gleichgewicht unserer körperlichen und geistigen Gesundheit zu erhalten, ist es deshalb notwendig, regelmässig sportliche Aktivitäten, die Spass machen, zu betreiben. Auch eine intelligente Ernährung, mit wenig Zucker und gesättigten Fetten, dafür aber reich an Ballaststoffen und Eiweiss, und ein nur moderater Alkoholkonsum, sind notwendig, um unsere "sparsamen Gene" so zu trainieren, dass wir kein metabolisches Syndrom entwickeln. Deswegen gibt es Unisport: um die Balance zwischen Körper und Gehirn während dem Studium beizubehalten

Buchen Sie daher jeden Tag einen Sport-Termin im Kalender und geniessen Sie das aussergewöhnliche Sportangebot der Universität! Über 80 verschiedene Sportarten werden im neuen Unisport Programm angeboten. Beteiligen Sie sich aktiv am Unisport. „A day without sport is not a successful day!“



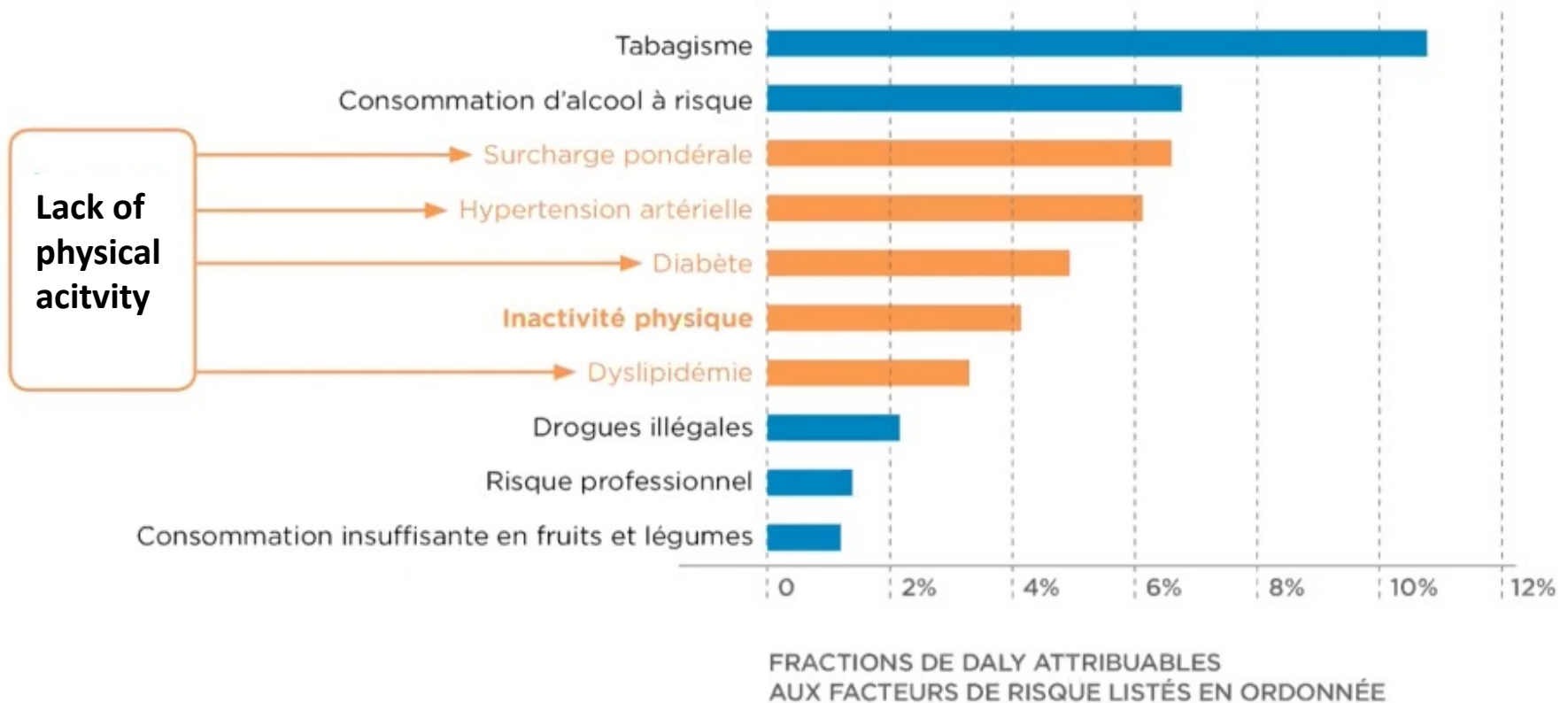
Prof. Dr. Roger G. Clerc



# Type II diabetes and metabolic syndrome pandemia : best preventive medicine : exercise every day !



**FIGURE 3**  
CLASSEMENT DES PRINCIPAUX FACTEURS DE RISQUES RESPONSABLES  
DES ANNÉES DE VIE PERDUES DANS LES PAYS DÉVELOPPÉS, 2004 (ADAPTÉ DE WHO 2009)



Risk factors involved in life expectancy reduction in developed countries (loss of lived years)

(adapted from WHO 2009 from Prof V Gremaux CHUV UNIL)

# Global burden of 87 risk factors in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019

GBD 2019 Risk Factors Collaborators <sup>†</sup> • [Show footnotes](#)

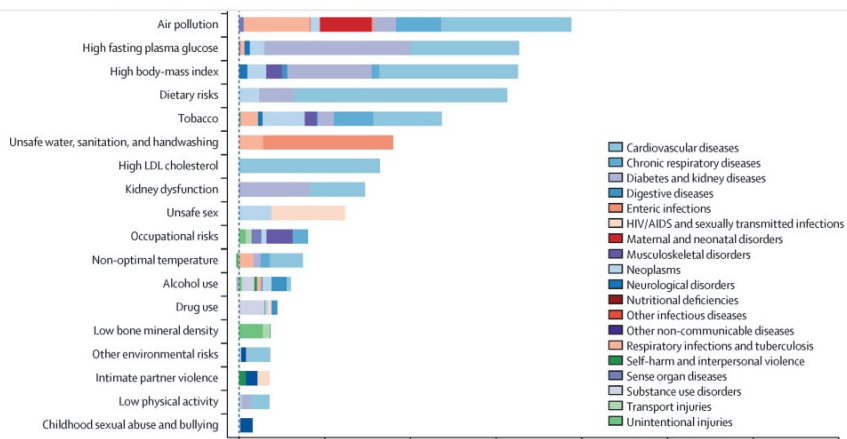
[Open Access](#) • Published: October 17, 2020 • DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30752-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30752-2) •



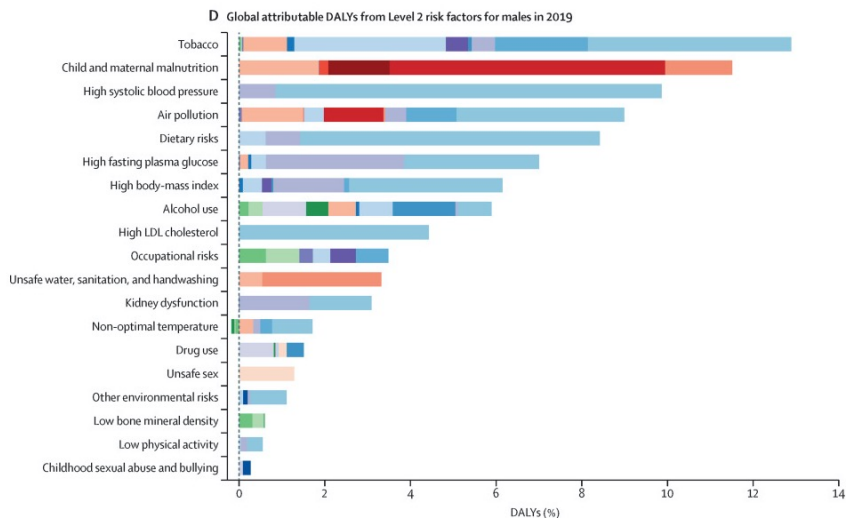
THE LANCET

Global burden of 87 risk factors in 204 countries and territories...

- Summary
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Data sharing
- Supplementary
- Materials
- References
- Article info
- Figures
- Tables



- Linked Articles
- Related Clinics
- Related Specialty Collections



# Type II diabetes and metabolic syndrome pandemia : best preventive medicine : exercise every day !

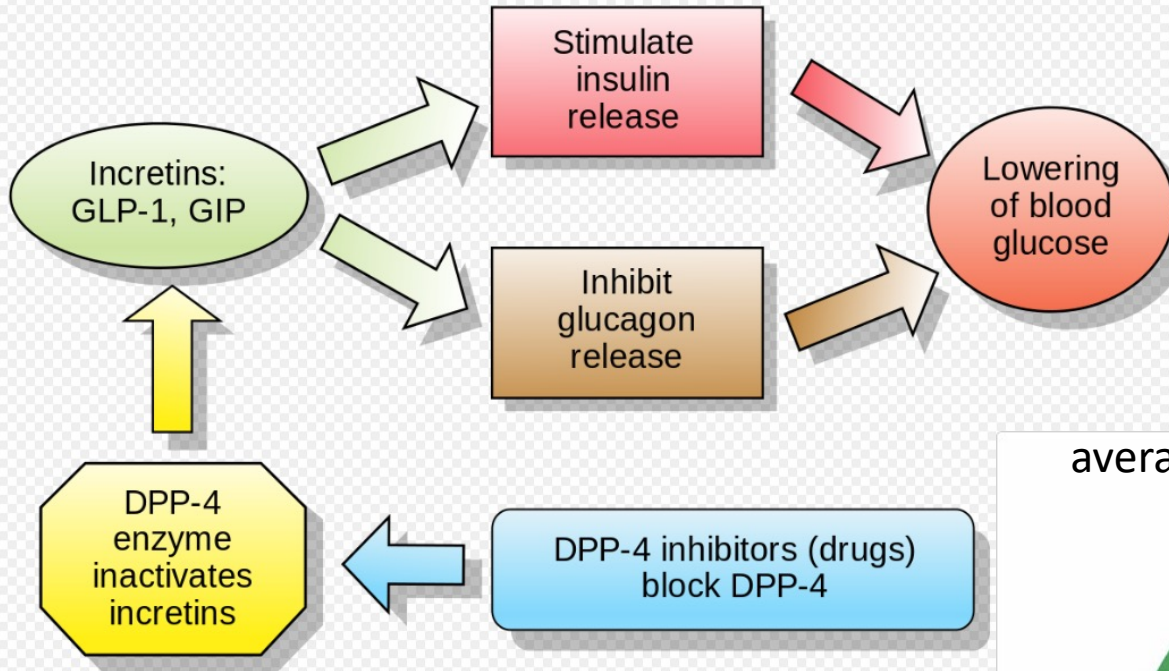


## BENEFITS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY : THE SEDENTARITY DISEASES

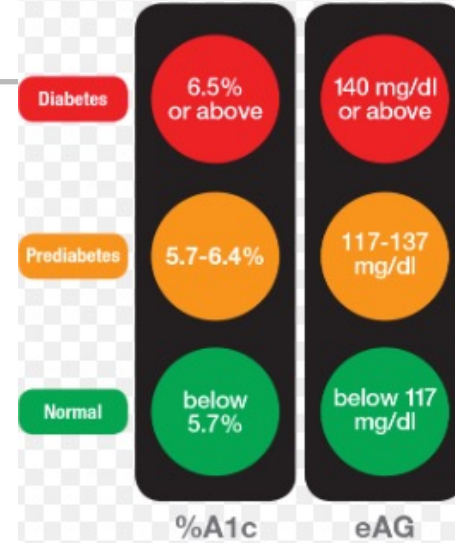
	ADULTES, TOUS ÂGES
MORTALITÉ, TOUTE CAUSE	Diminution du risque
SANTÉ CARDIOMÉTABOLIQUE	Diminution du risque de maladie cardiovasculaire et de mortalité cardiovasculaire Diminution du risque d'hypertension Diminution du risque de diabète de type 2
CANCER	Diminution du risque de cancer de la vessie, du sein, du colon, de l'endomètre, de l'oesophage, du rein, de l'estomac et du poumon
SANTÉ MENTALE	Réduction du risque de démence Amélioration des fonctions cognitives Amélioration de la qualité de vie Amélioration du sommeil Réduction du risque de dépression
STATUT PONDÉRAL	Effet supplémentaire sur la perte de poids lorsque l'activité physique est combinée avec une restriction alimentaire modérée Perte de poids et prévention de la reprise de poids lorsqu'une quantité suffisante d'activité physique d'intensité modérée à élevée est atteinte.
	PERSONNES ÂGÉES
CHUTES	Réduction du risque de chute Réduction du risque de blessure liée à une chute
CAPACITÉ PHYSIQUE	Amélioration de la capacité physique chez la personne âgée avec et sans fragilités.
	FEMMES ENCEINTES OU EN POST-PARTUM
DURANT LA GROSSESSE	Réduction du risque d'une prise de poids excessive Réduction du risque de diabète gestationnel Aucun risque pour le fœtus lié à une activité physique d'intensité modérée
DURANT LA PÉRIODE DU POST-PARTUM	Réduction du risque de dépression post-partum



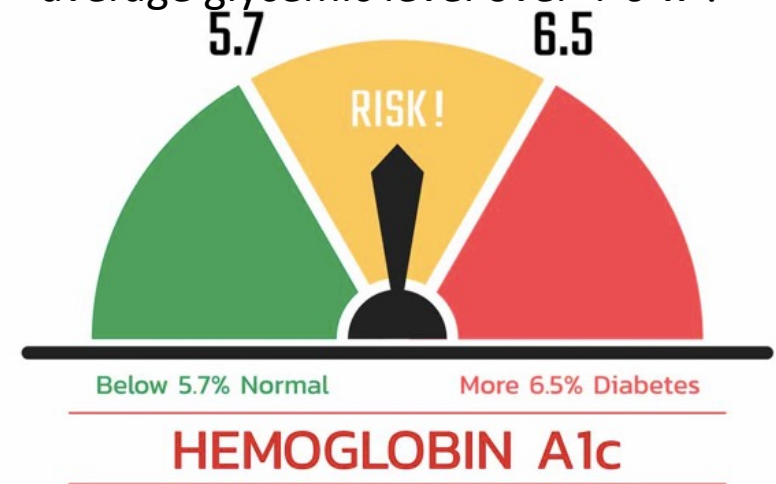
# Peptide drugs – GLP1r and incretins



## Glycemic ranges for diabetes control



average glycemic level over 4-6 w !



HBa1c test chart normal ranges

- GLP1 receptor agonists (incretins) from gut L cells have entered the clinics in the last decade
- for management of diabetes type II and obesity - drawback: short half life, recurrent injections

# Advanced type II diabetes : peripheral ischaemia-necrosis

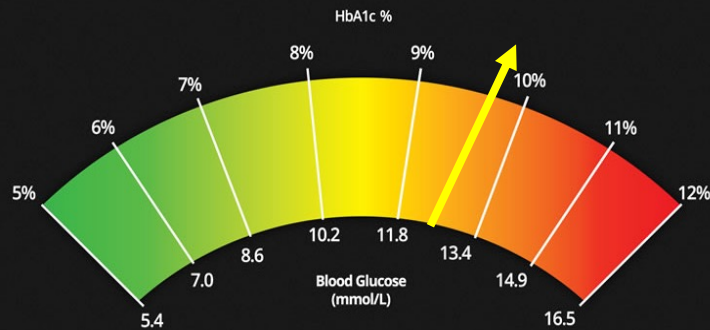
## Insulin resistance as a consequence of obesity



MEDICAL NEED : IMPROVE  
TYPE II DIABETES **USING A  
MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY  
DESIGN**



HbA1c as an indicator of Diabetes Control



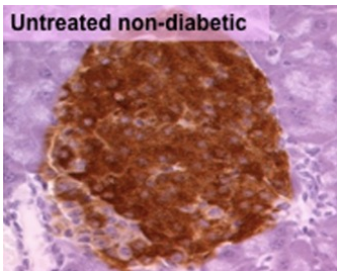
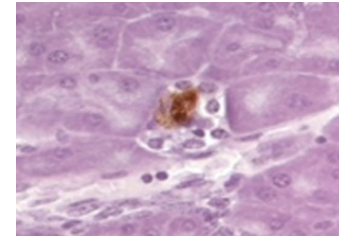
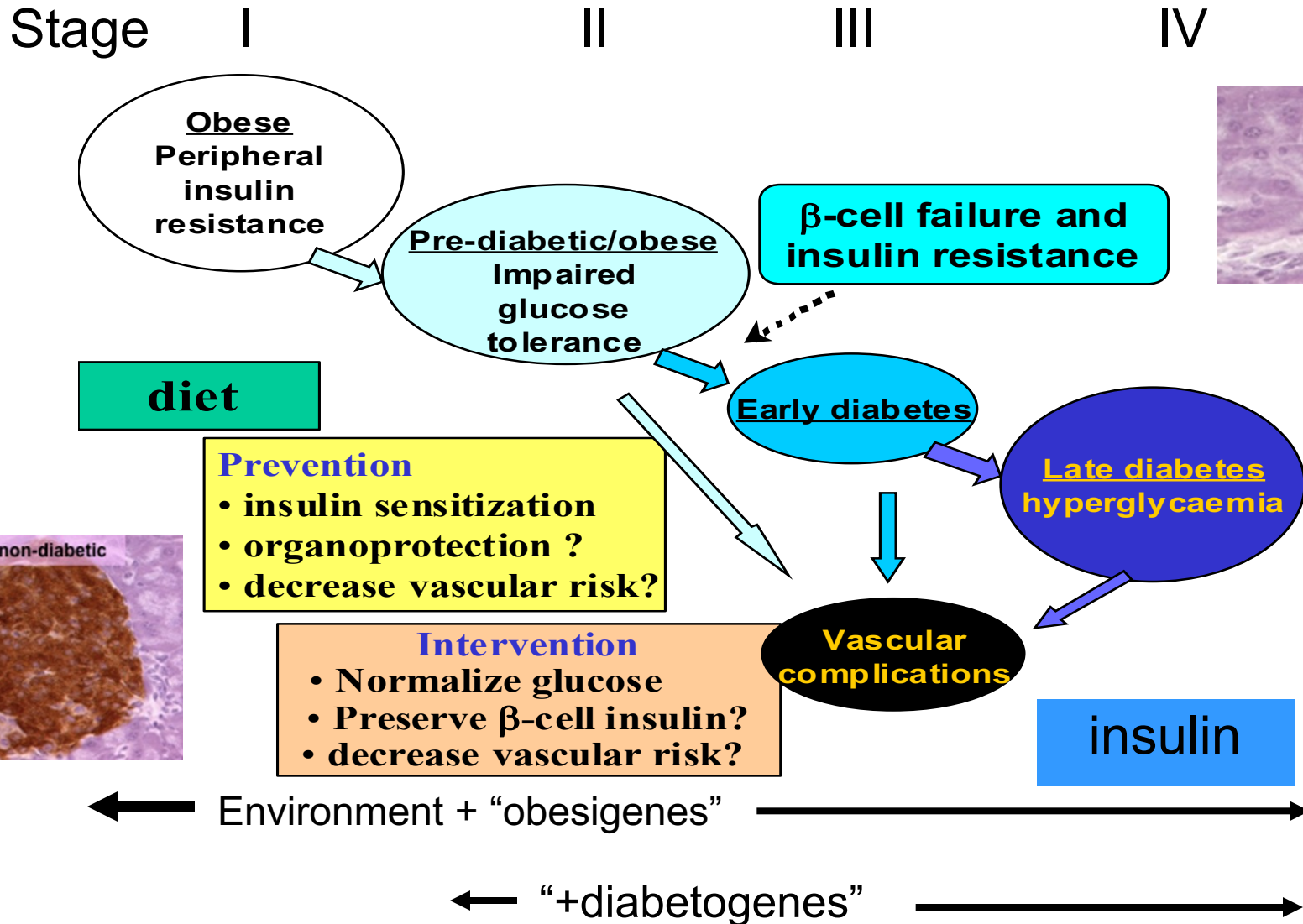
Copyright Medetec (<http://www.medetec.co.uk>)

MACRO- AND MICROVASCULARIZATION IMPAIREMENTS

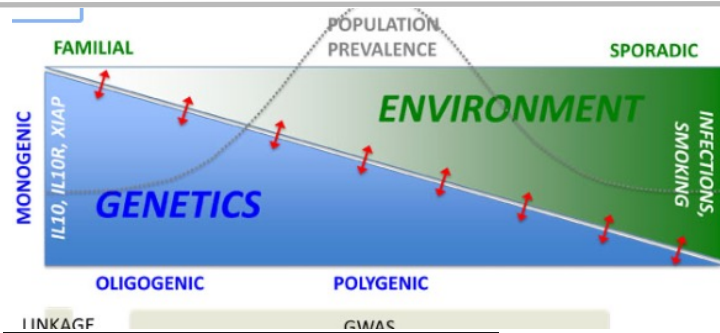
# Progression to type II diabetes : pancreatic beta cells exhaustion



## pathophysiology of an insidious disease

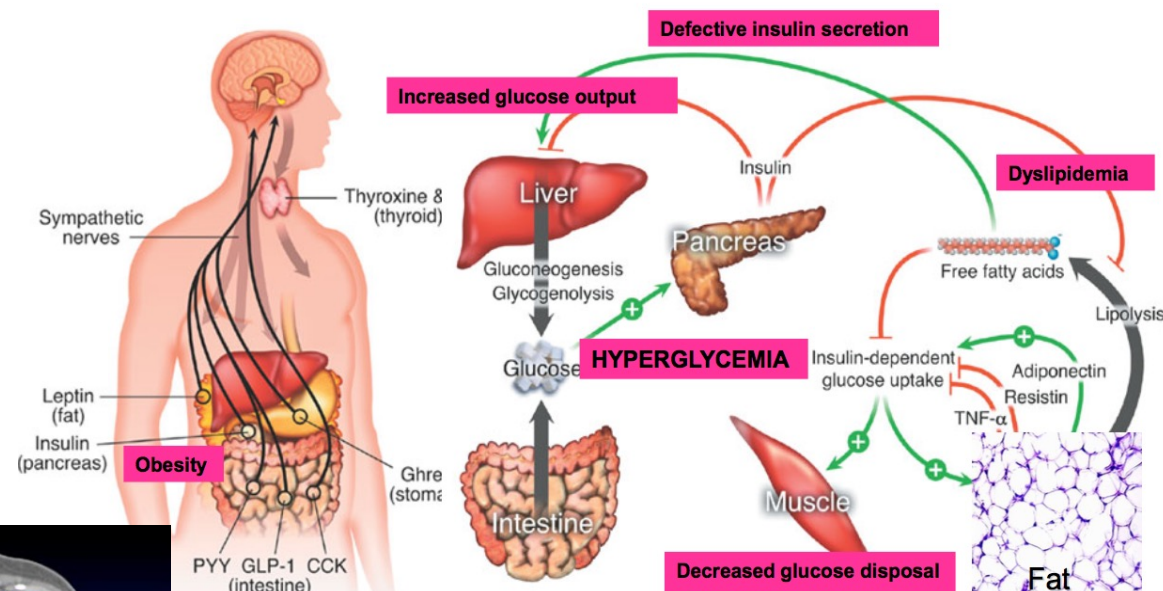
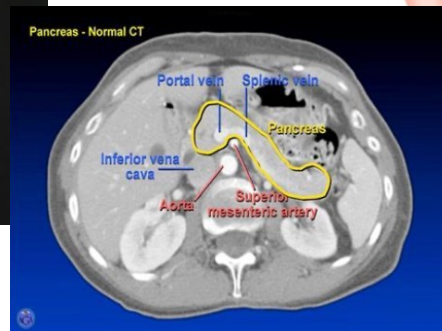


# Physiopathology of metabolic syndrome : when patients become insulin resistant



**Metabolic Syndrome and Tissue-Tissue Cross Talk**  
 MEDICAL CHALLENGE : COMPLEX TRAITS DISEASE :  
 GENETICS AND ENVIRONMENT PLAY A COMBINED ROLE

**Metabolic Syndrome and Tissue-Tissue Cross Talk**



# Type I diabetes develops as an auto immune disease

(prevalence 5-10% of all diabetic patients)



Cases of type 1 diabetes, which is caused by the body's own immune system attacking pancreatic cells, rose in young people during the COVID pandemic Credit: BSIP/Universal Images Group via Getty

# GLP1-2 agonists - originally developed in type 2 diabetes insulin resistance pathologies !



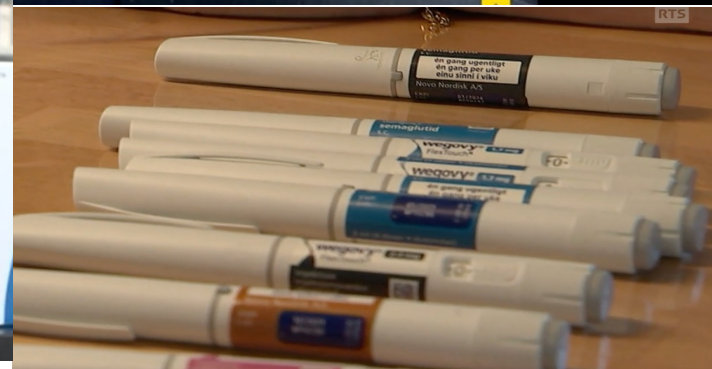
## FONCTIONNEMENT DES GLP-1

GLP-1



⚠️ NEEDLE WARNING ⚠️

Week 3, 3rd dose of Ozempic .25mg



# The advent of the glucagon peptide superfamily – 1980-1990s



## Purification and Structure of Exendin-3, a New Pancreatic Secretagogue Isolated from *Heloderma horridum* Venom\*

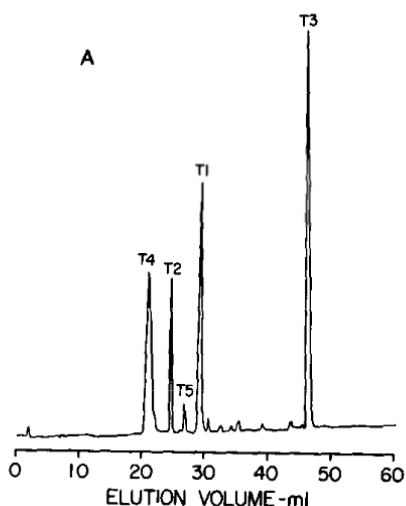
(Received for publication, April 10, 1990)

John Eng<sup>†§¶</sup>, P. C. Andrews<sup>||</sup>, Wayne A. Kleinman<sup>‡</sup>, Latika Singh<sup>\*\*</sup>, and Jean-Pierre Raufman<sup>\*\*</sup>

From the <sup>‡</sup>Solomon A. Berson Research Laboratory, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Bronx, New York 10468, the <sup>§</sup>Department of Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, New York 10029, the <sup>||</sup>Department of Biological Chemistry, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, and the <sup>\*\*</sup>Department of Medicine, State University of New York-Health Science Center, Brooklyn, New York 11203

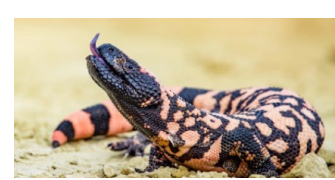
An amino-terminal histidyl structure (His<sup>1</sup>) is characteristic of most peptides in the glucagon superfamily.

terminal sequencing was used to screen for new His<sup>1</sup> peptides that might be members of the glucagon superfamily. Gila



	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45																																				
% HOMOLOGY	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+																																				
100 EXENDIN-3	H	S	D	G	T	F	T	S	D	L	S	K	O	M	E	E	E	A	V	R	L	F	I	E	W	L	K	N	G	G	P	S	S	G	A	P	P	P	S	#					
32 HELOSPECTIN	H	S	D	A	T	F	T	A	E	Y	S	K	L	L	A	K	L	A	L	Q	K	Y	L	E	S	I	L	G	S	S	T	S	P	R	P	P	S	S	#						
26 HELODERMIN	H	S	D	A	I	F	T	E	E	Y	S	K	L	L	A	K	L	A	L	Q	K	Y	L	A	S	I	L	G	S	R	T	S	P	P	P	#									
41 SECRETIN	H	S	D	G	T	F	T	S	E	L	S	R	L	R	D	S	A	R	L	Q	R	L	L	Q	G	L	V	#																	
48 GLUCAGON	H	S	Q	G	T	F	T	S	D	Y	S	K	Y	L	D	S	R	R	A	Q	D	F	V	Q	W	L	M	N	T																
50 GLP-1	H	A	E	G	T	F	T	S	D	V	S	S	Y	L	E	G	Q	A	A	K	E	F	I	A	W	L	V	K	G	R	#														
29 GLP-2	H	A	D	G	S	F	S	D	E	M	N	T	I	L	D	N	L	A	A	R	D	F	I	N	W	L	I	Q	T	K	I	T	D	R											
37 PHI	H	A	D	G	V	F	T	S	D	F	S	R	L	L	G	Q	L	S	A	K	K	Y	L	E	S	L	I	#																	
29 VIP	H	S	D	A	V	F	T	D	N	Y	T	R	L	R	K	Q	M	A	V	K	K	Y	L	N	S	I	L	N	#																
26 GIP	Y	A	E	G	T	F	I	S	D	Y	S	I	A	M	D	K	I	R	Q	O	D	F	V	N	W	L	L	A	O	K	G	K	K	S	D	W	K	H	N	I	T	Q			
13 GRF	Y	A	D	A	I	F	T	N	S	Y	R	K	V	L	G	Q	L	S	A	R	K	L	L	Q	D	I	M	S	R	O	Q	G	E	S	N	O	E	R	G	A	R	A	R	L	#
24 PACAP38	H	S	D	G	I	F	T	D	S	Y	S	R	Y	R	K	Q	M	A	V	K	K	Y	L	A	A	V	L	G	K	R	Y	K	Q	R	V	K	N	K	#						

# Papers : the advent of the glucagon peptide superfamily - 1990s



THE JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY

Vol. 265, No. 33, Issue of November 25, pp. 20259-20262, 1990  
Printed in U.S.A.

THE JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY

Vol. 267, No. 11, Issue of April 15, pp. 7402-7405, 1992  
Printed in U.S.A.

## Purification and Structure of Exendin-3, a New Pancreatic Secretagogue Isolated from *Heloderma horridum* Venom\*

(Received for publication, April 10, 1990)

John Eng<sup>†</sup>§, P. C. Andrews<sup>||</sup>, Wayne A. Kleinman<sup>‡</sup>, Latika Singh<sup>\*\*</sup>, and Jean-Pierre Raufman<sup>\*\*</sup>

From the <sup>†</sup>Solomon A. Berson Research Laboratory, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Bronx, New York 10468, the <sup>§</sup>Department of Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, New York 10029, the <sup>||</sup>Department of Biological Chemistry, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, and the <sup>\*\*</sup>Department of Medicine, State University of New York-Health Science Center, Brooklyn, New York 11203

An amino-terminal histidyl structure (His<sup>1</sup>) is characteristic of most peptides in the glucagon superfamily. An assay for His<sup>1</sup> peptides performed by amino-terminal amino acid sequencing was used to screen venom from the Gila monster lizard, *Heloderma horridum*. Two His<sup>1</sup> peptides were identified: helospectin and a new His<sup>1</sup> peptide that has been named exendin-3 to indicate that it is the third peptide to be found in an exocrine secretion of *Heloderma* lizards which has endocrine activity, the first two being helospectin (exendin-1) and helodermin (exendin-2). In the lot of *H. horridum* venom tested, exendin-3 was 5–10-fold more abundant in molar concentration than helospectin. The structure of exendin-3 was analyzed by amino acid sequencing and mass spectrometry. Exendin-3 is a 39-amino acid peptide with a mass of 4200. It contains a carboxyl-terminal amide and has a strong homology with secretin at its amino-terminal 12 amino acids. The complete structure of exendin-3 is His-Ser-Asp-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Leu-Ser-Lys-Glu-Met-Glu-Glu-Glu-Ala-Val-Arg-Leu-Phe-Ile-Glu-Trp-Leu-Lys-Asn-Gly-Gly-Pro-Ser-Ser-Gly-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ser-amide. It is 32 and 26% homologous with helospectin and helodermin, respectively. It has greatest homology with glucagon (48%) and human glucagon-like peptide-1 (50%). Exendin-3 (3 μM) stimulated increases in cellular cAMP and amylase release from dispersed guinea pig pancreatic acini.

The glucagon superfamily consists of a diverse group of biologically active peptides that are structurally related by having an amino-terminal histidine residue (His<sup>1</sup>) and a phenylalanine residue at position 6 (Phe<sup>6</sup>) (1) or one of several variant structures such as Tyr<sup>1</sup>-Phe<sup>6</sup> (2, 3), His<sup>1</sup>-Tyr<sup>6</sup> (4), or His<sup>1</sup>-Leu<sup>6</sup> (5). An assay for His<sup>1</sup> can potentially be used to identify peptides belonging to this family. Although special chemical methods have been reported for the detection of His<sup>1</sup> peptides (6, 7), a more general method of assaying for His<sup>1</sup> is amino-terminal amino acid sequencing. This assay was used recently to monitor the purification of glucagon from chinchilla pancreas (8). To test the hypothesis that His<sup>1</sup> is a chemical marker for biologically active peptides, amino-terminal amino acid sequencing was used to screen venom from the Gila monster lizard, *Heloderma horridum*.

\* This work was supported in part by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The costs of publication of this article were defrayed in part by the payment of page charges. This article must therefore be hereby marked "advertisement" in accordance with 18 U.S.C. Section 1734 solely to indicate this fact.

† To whom correspondence should be sent: Solomon A. Berson Research Laboratory, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Bronx, New York 10468. Tel.: 212-584-9000 (ext. 1710).

minal sequencing was used to screen for new His<sup>1</sup> peptides that might be members of the glucagon superfamily. Gila monster venom was chosen for screening because venoms from *Heloderma suspectum* and *Heloderma horridum* had been shown previously to contain two biologically active His<sup>1</sup>-Phe<sup>6</sup> peptides, helospectin (9) and helodermin (10). When *H. horridum* venom was examined with the His<sup>1</sup> assay, a previously unrecognized His<sup>1</sup>-Phe<sup>6</sup> peptide was detected. In this study, we report the purification and structural characterization of this new peptide. It is named exendin-3 to identify it as the third peptide found in an exocrine secretion of *Heloderma* lizards which has endocrine activity. Like the earlier exendins, it is a pancreatic secretagogue.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

*H. horridum* venom (lot 74F-0240), diphenylcarbamyl chloride-treated trypsin, carboxypeptidase Y, and carboxypeptidase P were purchased from Sigma. Endoproteinase Glu-C (V8 protease) was purchased from Boehringer Mannheim.

**His<sup>1</sup> Assay and Amino Acid Sequencing**—Amino-terminal amino acid analysis was performed by a single cycle of Edman degradation using an automated gas-phase protein sequencer in combination with an on-line PTH<sup>1</sup>-derivative analyzer (Applied Biosystems). The molarity of the analyzer's weak solvent was adjusted to position PTH-His to elute between PTH-Ala and PTH-dehydro-Ser. Purified peptides and peptide fragments were sequenced with the gas-phase sequencer.

**Isolation of His<sup>1</sup> Peptides from *Heloderma* Venom**—Venom (25 mg) was dissolved in water to a concentration of 10 mg/ml and passed through a C<sub>18</sub> Sep-Pak cartridge (Waters Associates, Milford, MA). The C<sub>18</sub> cartridge was washed with 5 ml of water and eluted with 2 ml of 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid, 60% acetonitrile. Peptides in the eluate were separated by HPLC on an 8-mm × 10-cm MB C<sub>18</sub> Radial-Pak column (Waters Associates). The column was eluted with a linear gradient from 20 to 60% acetonitrile in 0.13% heptafluorobutyric acid at a flow rate of 2 ml/min. One-minute fractions were collected. Aliquots from each fraction were assayed for His<sup>1</sup> content.

**Enzyme Cleavages**—Purified exendin-3 (10 nmol) was dried and digested separately with 0.2 μg of trypsin or 2 μg of V8 protease in 0.1 ml of 0.1 M ammonium bicarbonate overnight at room temperature. Peptide fragments were purified by HPLC on a Nova C<sub>18</sub> Radial-Pak column (Waters Associates). The elutions were performed with a linear gradient from 0 to 40% acetonitrile in 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid at a flow rate of 1 ml/min.

Exendin-3 (1 nmol) was incubated with carboxypeptidase Y or carboxypeptidase P (1 μg each) in 0.05 ml of 0.05 M sodium acetate, pH 5.5, at room temperature for timed intervals up to 6 h. Aliquots from the mixtures were analyzed for release of free amino acids.

**Amino Acid Analysis**—Peptides were dried and hydrolyzed with gas-phase 6 M HCl at 150 °C for 60 min. Amino acids were analyzed with an automated amino acid derivatizer (Applied Biosystems) connected to an on-line phenylthio-carbamyl-derivative analyzer.

† The abbreviations used are: PTH, phenylthiohydantoin; HPLC, high pressure liquid chromatography; FAB-MS, fast atom bombardment-mass spectrometry; VIP, vasoactive intestinal peptide.

## Isolation and Characterization of Exendin-4, an Exendin-3 Analogue, from *Heloderma suspectum* Venom

FURTHER EVIDENCE FOR AN EXENDIN RECEPTOR ON DISPERSED ACINI FROM GUINEA PIG PANCREAS\*

(Received for publication, August 12, 1991)

John Eng<sup>†</sup>§, Wayne A. Kleinman<sup>‡</sup>, Latika Singh<sup>||</sup>, Gurcharn Singh<sup>||</sup>, and Jean-Pierre Raufman<sup>||</sup>

From the <sup>†</sup>Solomon A. Berson Research Laboratory, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Bronx, New York 10468, the <sup>§</sup>Department of Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, New York 10029, and the <sup>||</sup>Department of Medicine, Division of Digestive Diseases, State University of New York-Health Science Center, Brooklyn, New York 11203-2098

The recent identification in *Heloderma horridum* venom of exendin-3, a new member of the glucagon superfamily that acts as a pancreatic secretagogue, prompted a search for a similar peptide in *Heloderma suspectum* venom. An amino acid sequencing assay for peptides containing an amino-terminal histidine residue (His<sup>1</sup>) was used to isolate a 39-amino acid peptide, exendin-4, from *H. suspectum* venom. Exendin-4 differs from exendin-3 by two amino acid substitutions, Gly<sup>2</sup>-Glu<sup>1</sup> in place of Ser<sup>2</sup>-Asp<sup>2</sup>, but is otherwise identical. The structural differences make exendin-4 distinct from exendin-3 in its bioactivity. In dispersed acini from guinea pig pancreas, natural and synthetic exendin-4 stimulate a monophasic increase in cAMP beginning at 100 pM that plateaus at 10 nM. The exendin-4-induced increase in cAMP is inhibited progressively by increasing concentrations of the exendin receptor antagonist, exendin-(9–39) amide. Unlike exendin-3, exendin-4 does not stimulate a second rise in acinar cAMP at concentrations >100 nM, does not stimulate amylase release, and does not inhibit the binding of radiolabeled vasoactive intestinal peptide to acini. This indicates that in dispersed pancreatic acini, exendin-4 interacts only with the recently described exendin receptor.

An assay for His<sup>1</sup> peptides was recently used to identify the presence of helospectin and a new, previously unrecognized His<sup>1</sup>-Phe<sup>6</sup> peptide in *Heloderma horridum* venom (1). This new peptide, designated exendin-3, is a pancreatic secretagogue. At concentrations greater than 100 nM, exendin-3 interacts with VIP<sup>1</sup> receptors on guinea pig pancreatic acini to stimulate an increase in cellular cAMP and amylase release (2). At lower concentrations (0.1–10 nM), however, exendin-3 interacts with a putative exendin receptor that causes an increase in acinar cAMP but not amylase release. This conclusion is based on the observation that increasing concentrations of a specific antagonist, exendin-3-(9–39) amide, produces

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† The abbreviations used are: VIP, vasoactive intestinal peptide; PTH, phenylthiohydantoin; HPLC, high performance liquid chromatography.

gressively inhibit exendin-3-induced increases in cAMP (2). Because venom from a closely related lizard, *Heloderma suspectum*, has been shown to contain helodermin (3), a peptide closely related in structure to helospectin (4), a search was undertaken for a His<sup>1</sup> peptide in *H. suspectum* venom that might be analogous to exendin-3. We report the isolation from *H. suspectum* venom of such an analogue that has been named exendin-4. Exendin-4, unlike exendin-3, is not a pancreatic secretagogue. Instead, it interacts exclusively with the newly described exendin receptor (2) to increase pancreatic acinar cAMP.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

*H. suspectum* venom (lots HSI95Z and HS20S2) was purchased from Miami Serpenterium Laboratories (Salt Lake City, UT). Diphenylcarbamyl chloride-treated trypsin was purchased from Sigma. Endoproteinase Asp-N was purchased from Boehringer Mannheim.

**His<sup>1</sup> Assay and Amino Acid Sequencing**—Amino-terminal amino acid analysis was performed by a single cycle of Edman degradation using an automated gas phase protein sequencer in combination with an on-line PTH-amino acid analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). PTH-His was positioned to elute between PTH-Ala and PTH-dehydro-Ser. Purified peptides and peptide fragments were sequenced with the gas phase sequencer.

**Isolation of His<sup>1</sup> Peptides from *Heloderma* Venom**—Venom (25 mg) was dissolved in distilled water (10 mg/ml) and passed through a C<sub>18</sub> Sep-Pak cartridge (Waters Associates, Milford, MA). The C<sub>18</sub> cartridge was washed with 5 ml of water and eluted with 2 ml of 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid, 60% acetonitrile. Peptides in the eluate were separated by HPLC on an 8 mm × 10-cm μBondapak C<sub>18</sub> Radial-Pak column (Waters Associates). The column was eluted with a linear gradient (20–60%) of acetonitrile in 0.13% heptafluorobutyric acid at a flow rate of 1 ml/min. One-minute fractions were collected, and aliquots were assayed for His<sup>1</sup> content.

**Enzyme Cleavages**—Purified exendin-4 (5–20 nmol) was digested with 0.2 μg of trypsin or with 0.2 μg of endoproteinase Asp-N. The peptide fragment exendin-(9–39) amide was prepared as described previously (2). Although this fragment was previously referred to as exendin-3-(9–39) amide (2), the name has been shortened to exendin-(9–39) amide to indicate that the carboxyl-terminal 31 amino acids of exendin-3 and exendin-4 are identical. Peptide fragments were purified by HPLC on a Nova C<sub>18</sub> Radial-Pak column (Waters Associates).

**Amino Acid Analysis**—Peptides were dried and hydrolyzed with gas phase 6 M HCl at 150 °C for 60 min. Amino acids were analyzed with an automated amino acid derivatizer (Applied Biosystems) connected to an on-line phenylthio-carbamyl-derivative amino acid analyzer.

**Mass Spectrometry**—The mass of the COOH-terminal fragment generated by trypsin digestion of exendin-4 was determined by fast atom bombardment-mass spectrometry. Mass accuracy of greater than ±0.1 unit was achieved by peak matching to appropriate cesium chloride cluster ions. Fast atom bombardment-mass spectrometry was performed by the Laboratory for Macromolecular Analysis at the

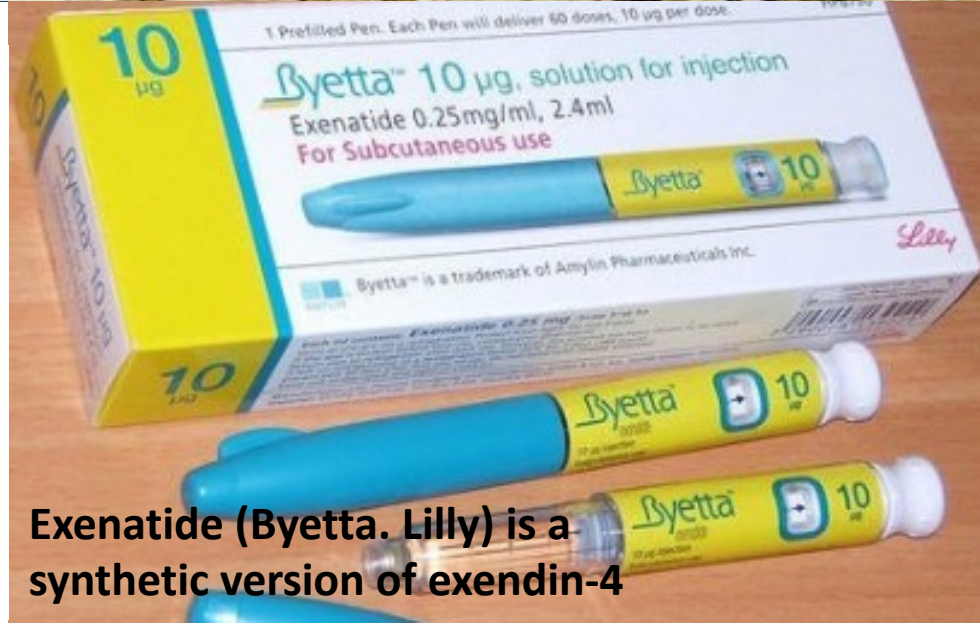
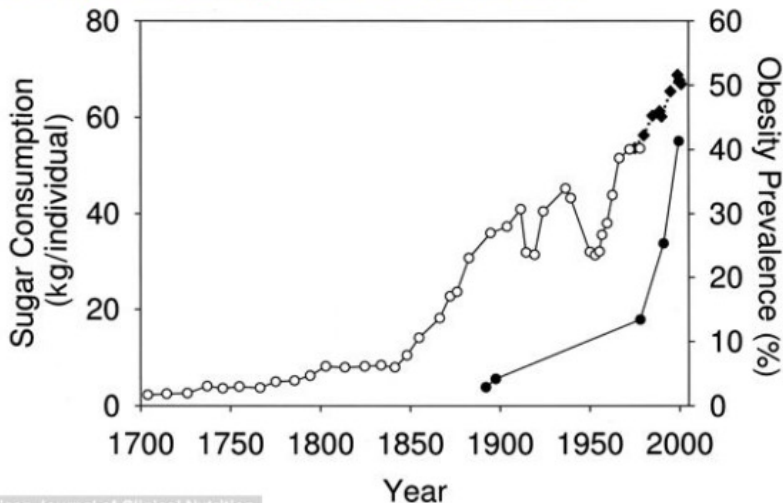
# Peptide drugs – when pharmaceutical sciences grab into the wild



- ▶ Gila monster: a species of venomous lizard; Mexico
- ▶ Eats only 4 times a year
- ▶ When fasting, it shuts down the pancreas, stopping insulin
- ▶ When its time to eat, it restarts pancreas with exendin-4 in its saliva - a GLP-1R agonist



## 1. Total Sugar Intake Has Skyrocketed in The Past 160 Years

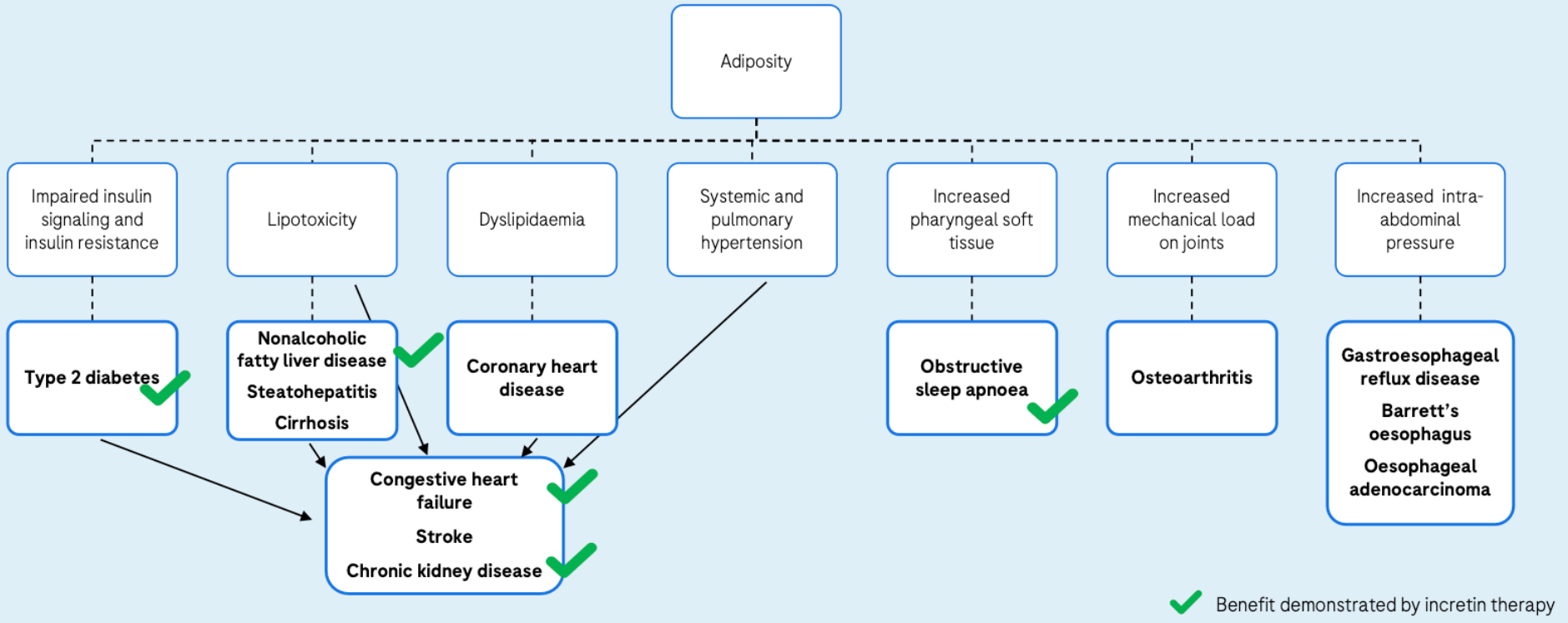


Exenatide (Byetta, Lilly) is a synthetic version of exendin-4



# Obesity is associated with multiple complications

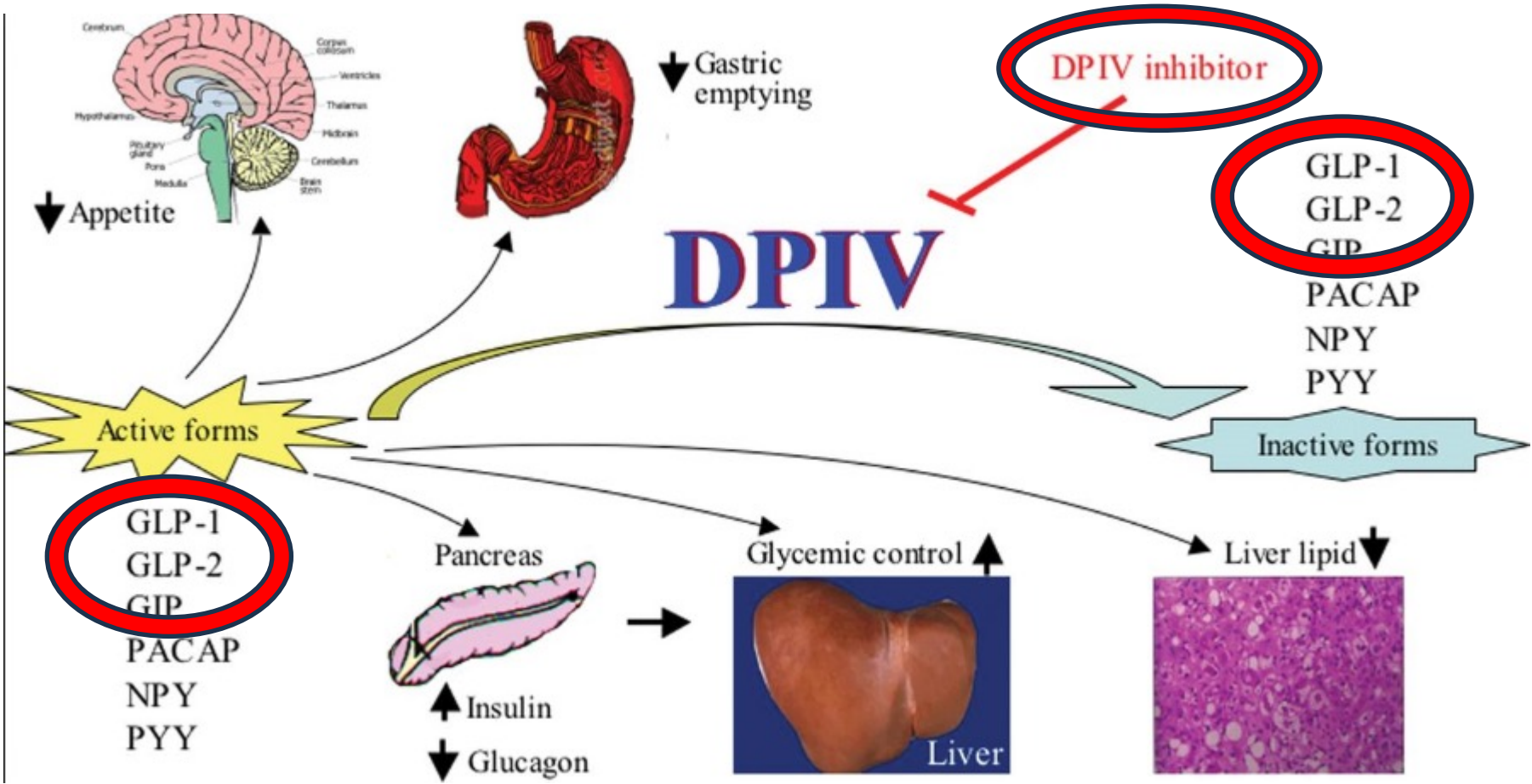
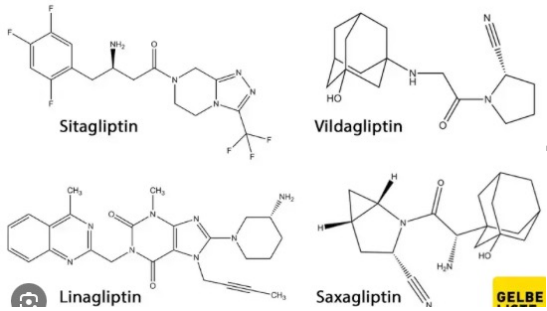
BMI>30 carry hazard ratio for overall mortality elevated more than 40%



**A critical threshold of weight loss is needed for disease modification ( $\geq 10\%$  body weight loss)<sup>2</sup>**

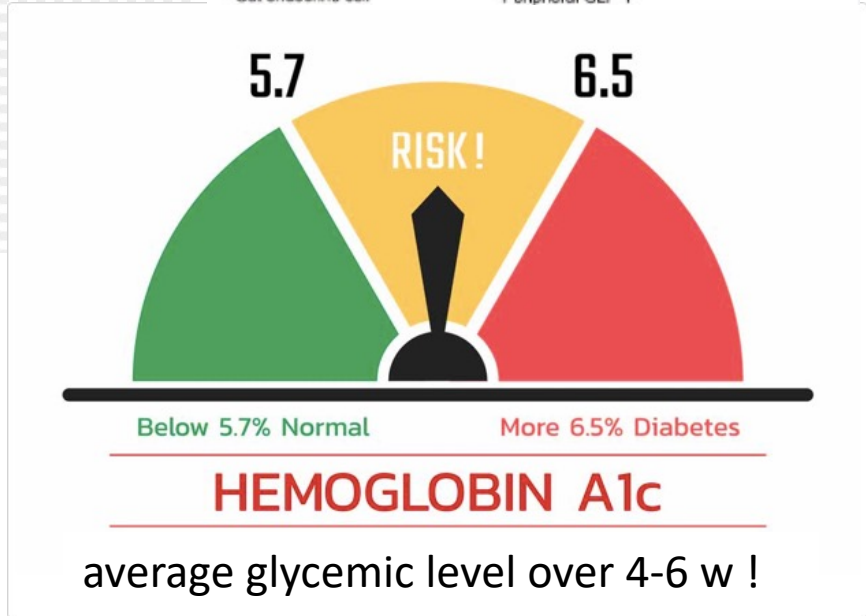
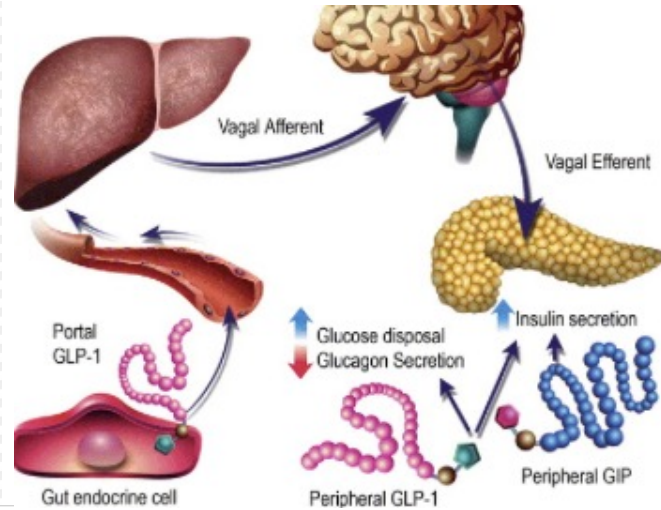
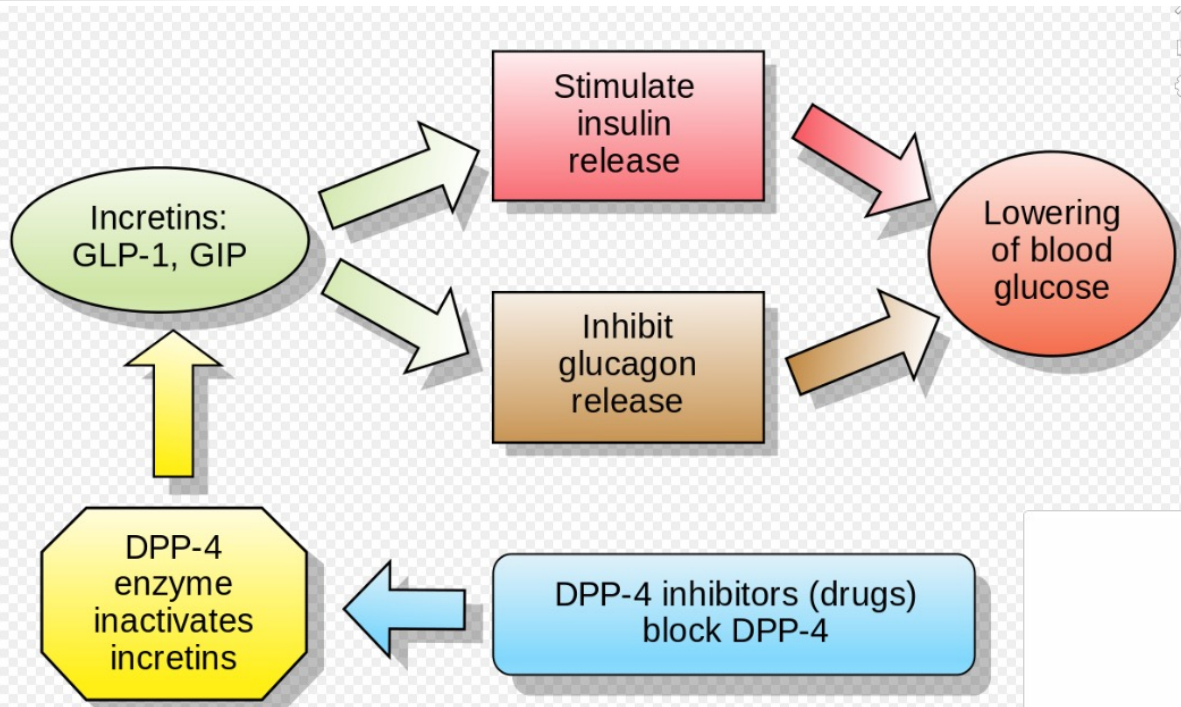
1. Müller et al. Anti-obesity drug discovery: advances and challenges. Nat Rev Drug Discov 21,2. Ryan et al, Weight Loss and Improvement in Comorbidity: Differences at 5%, 10%, 15%, and Over. Curr Obes Rep. 2017, Obesity Reviews, Volume: 22, Issue: 1. First published: 07 September 2020. DOI: 10.1111/obr.13112

# Peptide drugs – incretins – GLP1 GLP2 agonists in diabetes – vs DPP4 inhibitors - gliptins



# Peptide drugs – GLP1r incretins

## lowering blood glucose, gastric emptying and body weight control



GLP1 GIP1 receptor agonists (incretins) from gut cells have entered the clinics in the last decade in the management of diabetes type II and as a "surprise" during late phase clinical trials in the obesity (BMI>30) first approved peptides drawback: short half life, hence recurrent injections (invalidating patient care)

# Peptide drugs – GLP1 receptor and incretins

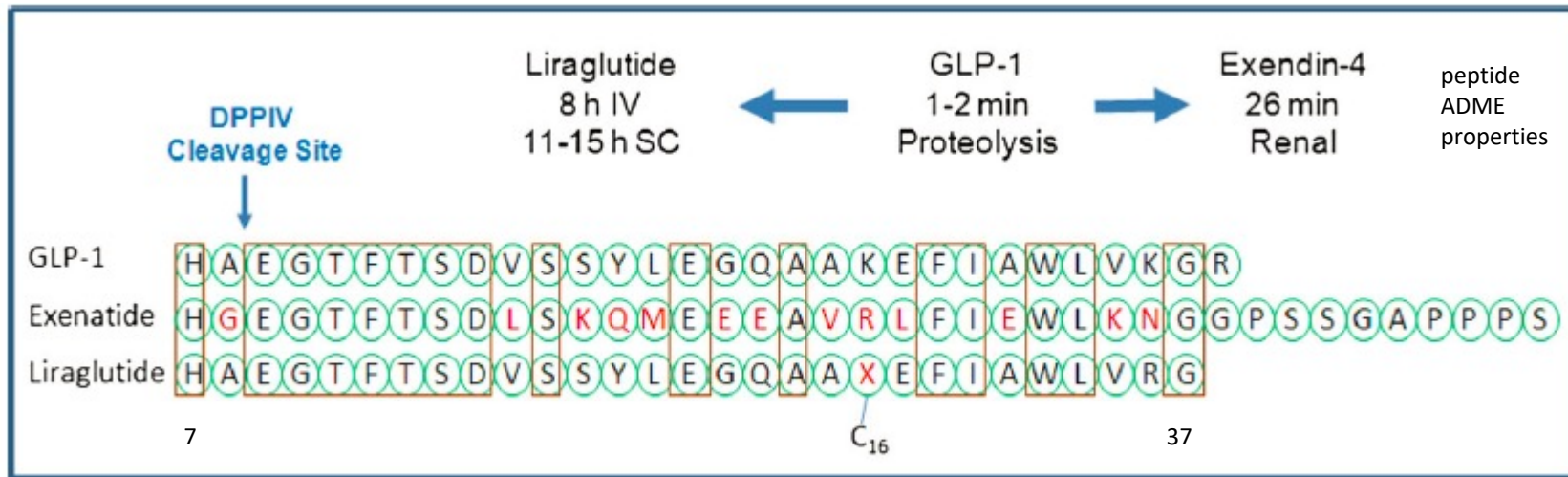
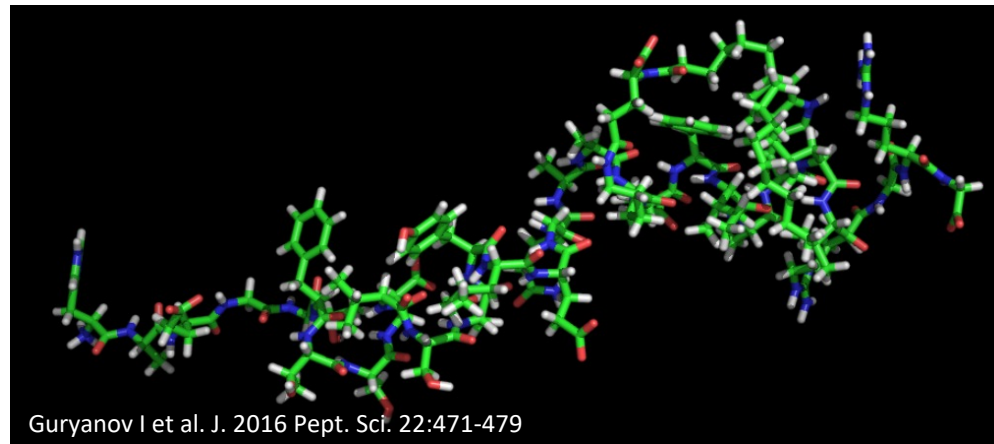
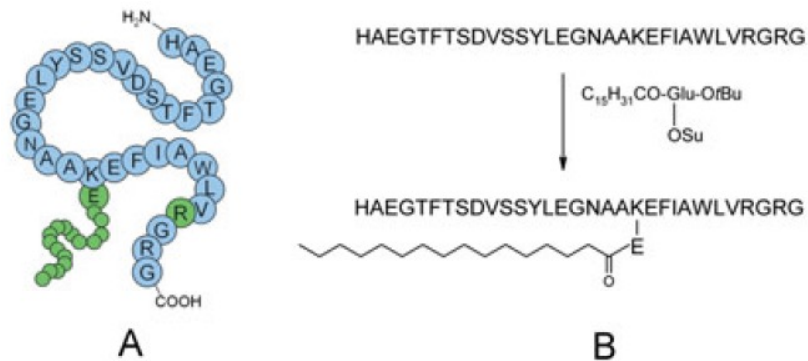


Fig. 2. Strategies to enhance peptide stability: GLP-1 peptide has a half-life of 1–2 min.

- **GLP1 receptor agonists (incretins) from gut L cells-ileum/colon- have entered the clinics in the treatment of diabetes type II, drawback: short half life**
- **Exenatide (synthetic Exenatide) has improved PK PD properties (lower clearance) allowing once a week dosing as compared to GLP1 (rapidly cleaved by peptidase DDPIV)**
- **Major challenges with the development of peptide drugs are stability and cost of goods (now about 2% of drug market)**

# GLP1 peptides in drug research and development

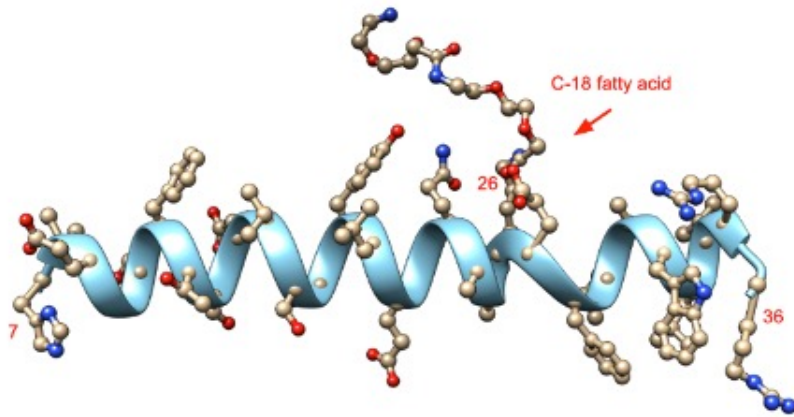


**Figure 1.** (A) The amino acid sequence of liraglutide. The changes with respect to glucagon-like peptide-1 (7-37) are shown in green; (B) A scheme of preparation of liraglutide by chemical modification of a recombinant peptide precursor (OSu, 1-oxysuccinimidoyl).

- Example **LIRAGLUTIDE** GLP1 (7-37) receptor agonist linked to 16C fatty acid residues (lipopeptide binds to albumin (not covalently) to stabilize the peptide)
- Example **DULAGLUTIDE** GLP1 receptor agonist linked to Fc fragment of antibody human IgG4
- Both medication for Type II diabetes, with improved administration (stabilized GLP1 peptide (compliance ! ) Liraglutide which mimics the action of glucagon-like peptide is also clinically approved as an obesity treatment.



# INCRETINS : a salamander saliva poison peptide is turning a « game changer » in the management of metabolic diseases – T2D/pandemia



1. 2D and 3D structures of Semaglutide. a. The amino acid sequence of Semaglutide (PubChem) is numbered from 7 to 37. The sequen

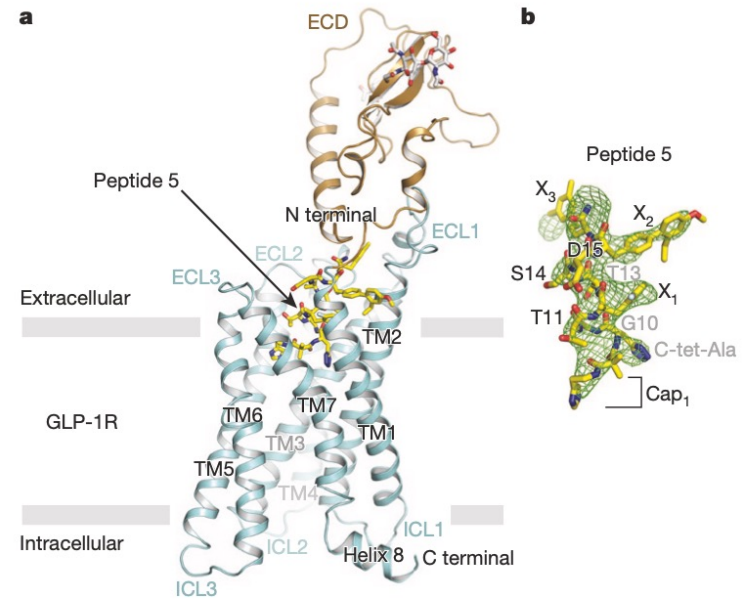


Figure 1 | The overall structure of GLP-1R in complex with peptide 5.

*incretins : the wonder medicines ?!*



# Semaglutide ; synthetic peptide with improved PK PD



IUPAC Name	Semaglutide is a synthetic peptide (see the amino acid sequence below)
3D Structure of Semaglutide	Chain P in PDB ID 7ki0

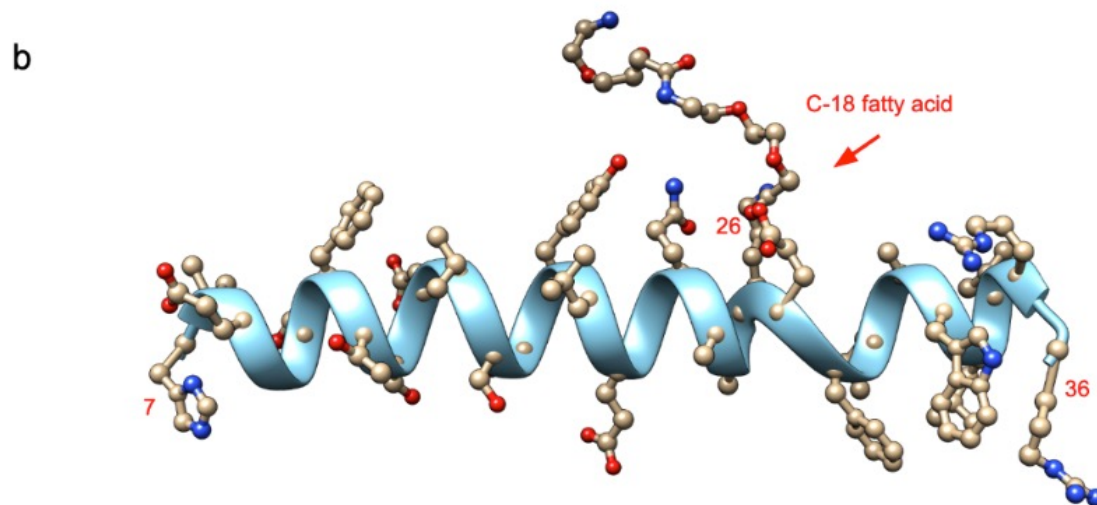
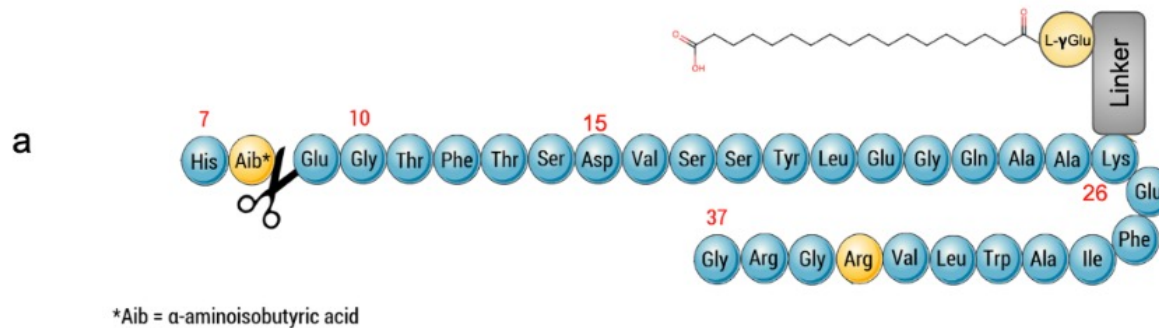
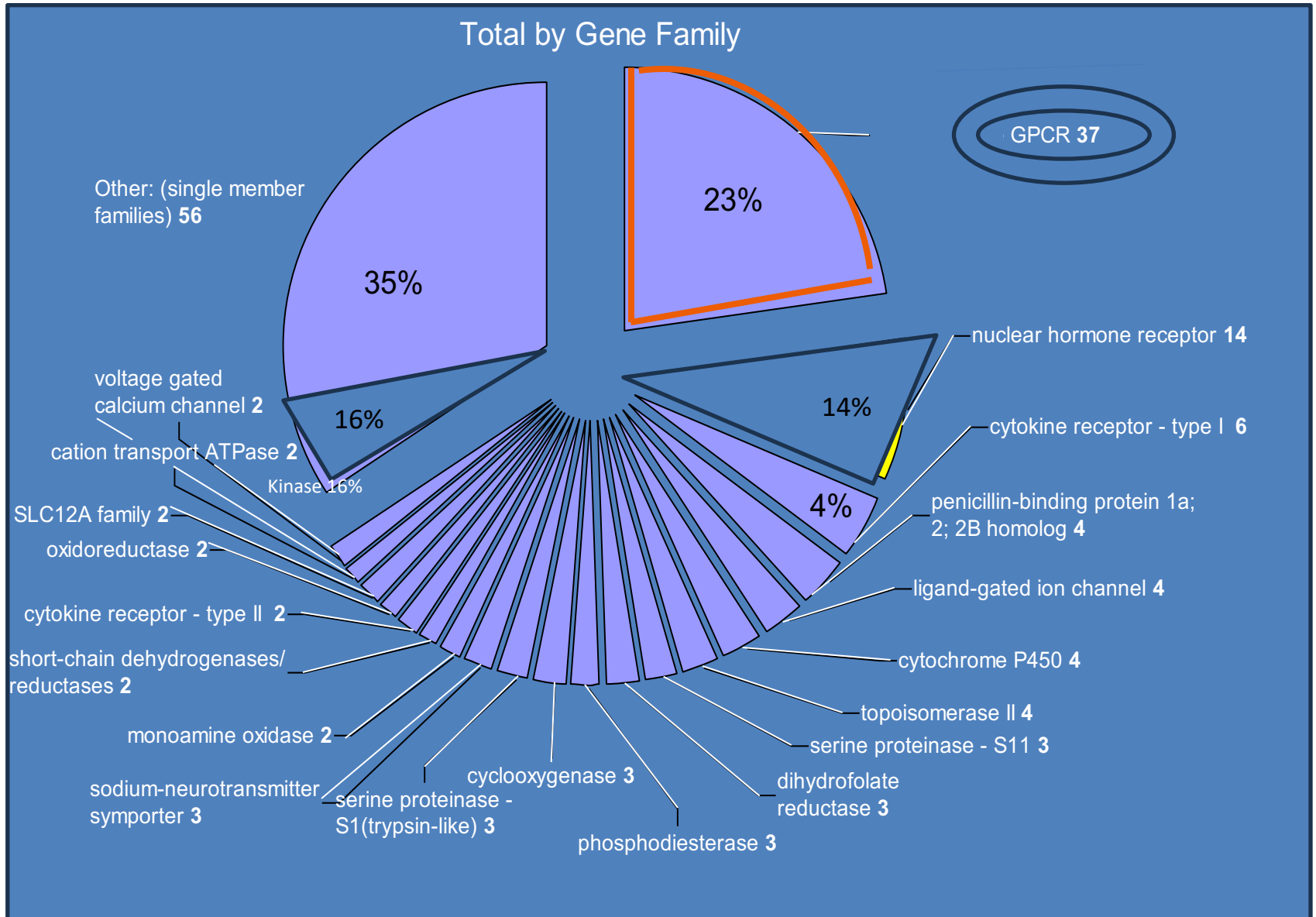


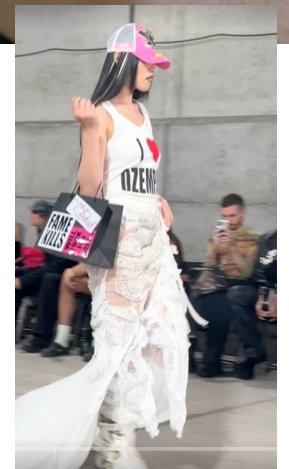
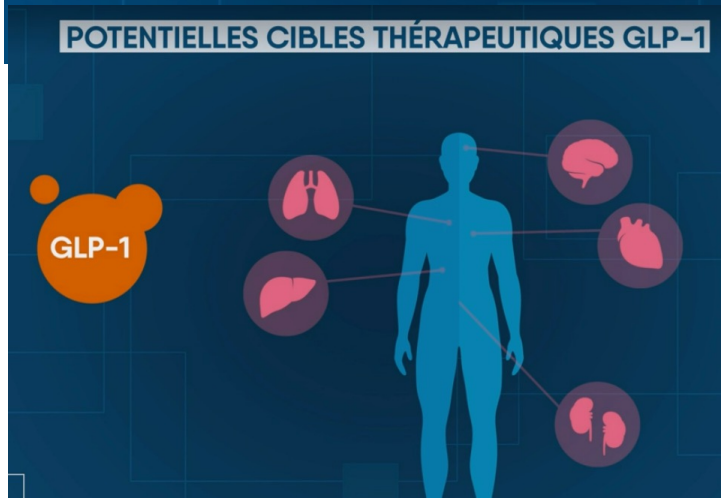
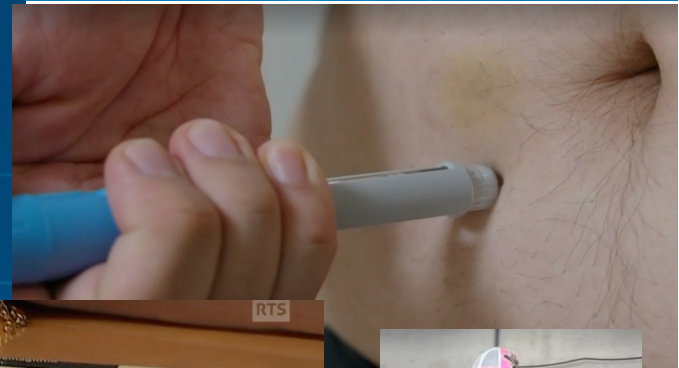
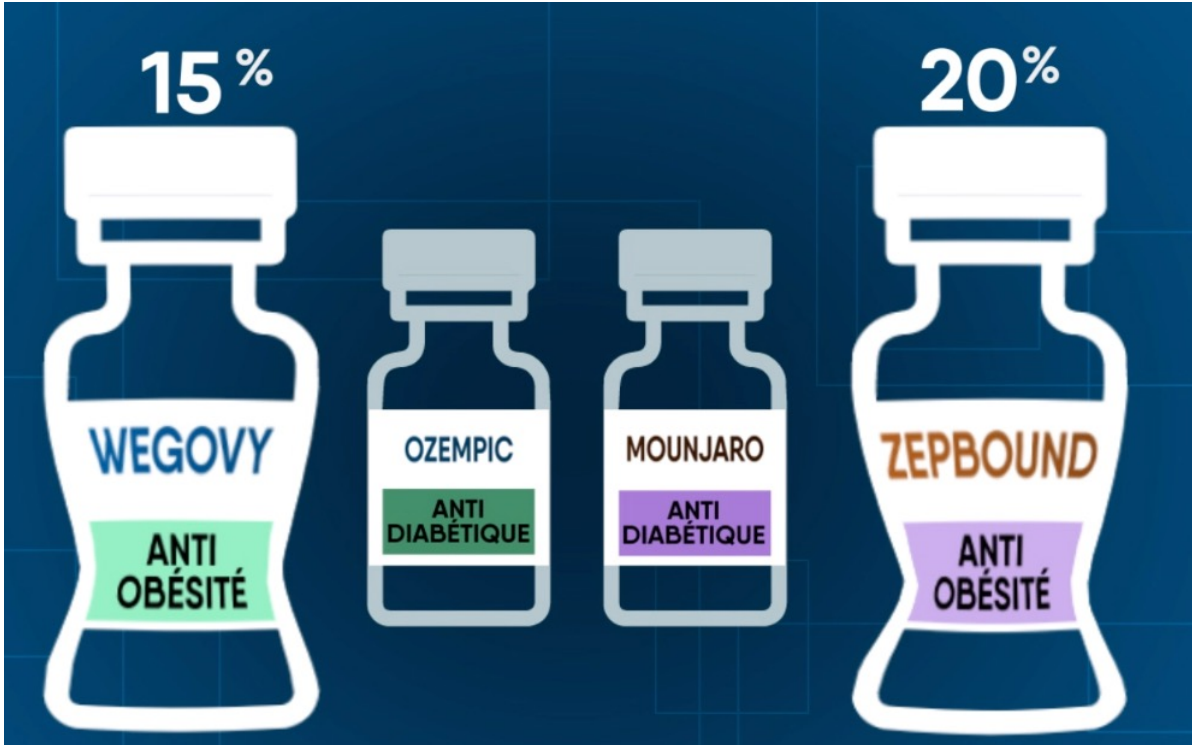
Figure 1. 2D and 3D structures of Semaglutide. a. The amino acid sequence of Semaglutide (PubChem) is numbered from 7 to 37. The sequence schematic shown is based on information presented in Knudsen and Lau, 2019. Amino acid modifications are highlighted in yellow and the DPP4 cleave site is indicated with the scissors. b. 3D structure of Semaglutide (PDB ID 7ki0, Zhang et al., 2021). Note: The C-18 fatty acyl chain shown here

# GPCRs are the most precedented drug target family





# GLP1-2 agonists – turning «unexpected» during the clinical trials an obesity medicine and perhaps more !



# Tennis star effect on biologicals production – incretins shortage



Die perfekte Botschafterin: Serena Williams wirbt für Abnehmspritzen.



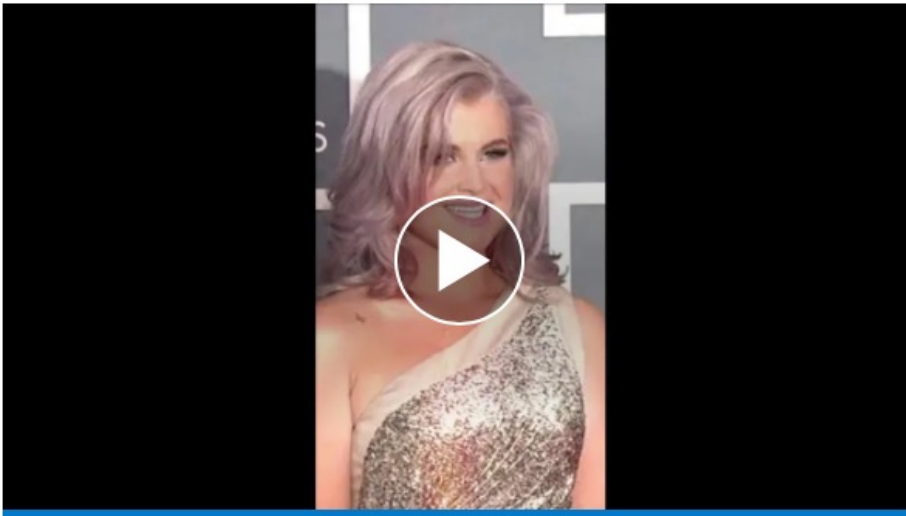
- **Redirect/misuse of incretins have jeopardized drug makers production lines of life threatening medicines : T2D patients in danger !**
- **Incretins are designed for patients suffering from metabolic diseases such as diabetes and not for popstars and social media influencers promulgating pharmacological solutions in weight loss by convenience (instead of promoting diet and exercise !)**
- **Pharma/Biotech production shortage !!**

# Popstars effect and biologicals - incretins



## Kelly Osbourne says Ozempic use is 'amazing' after mom Sharon's negative side effects

JAY STAHL USA TODAY



Show Caption ▾

Kelly Osbourne is making headlines again for her controversial comments.

This time, the TV personality and daughter of Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne defended her use of Ozempic, a drug that is intended to treat those with Type 2 diabetes. On the Dolly Parton Pet Gala red carpet, Osbourne opened up about her opinions on Ozempic in an interview with E! News.

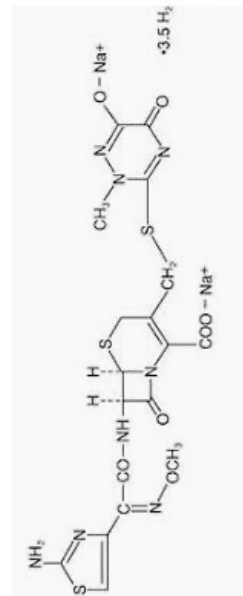
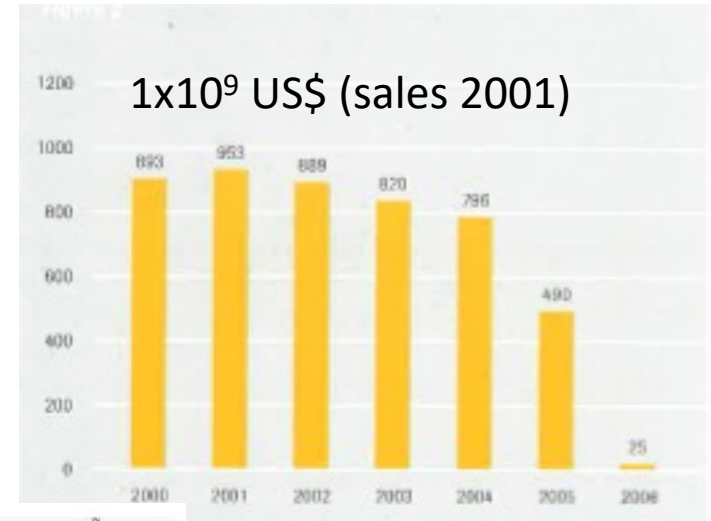


- **Redirect/misuse of incretins have jeopardized drug makers production lines of life threatening medicines**
- **Incretins are designed for patients suffering from metabolic diseases such as diabetes and not for popstars and social media influencers promulgating pharmacological solutions in weight loss by convenience (instead of promoting diet and exercise !)**

# Overall sales of «blockbusters»: medicines reaching yearly $\geq 1$ billion US\$ revenue



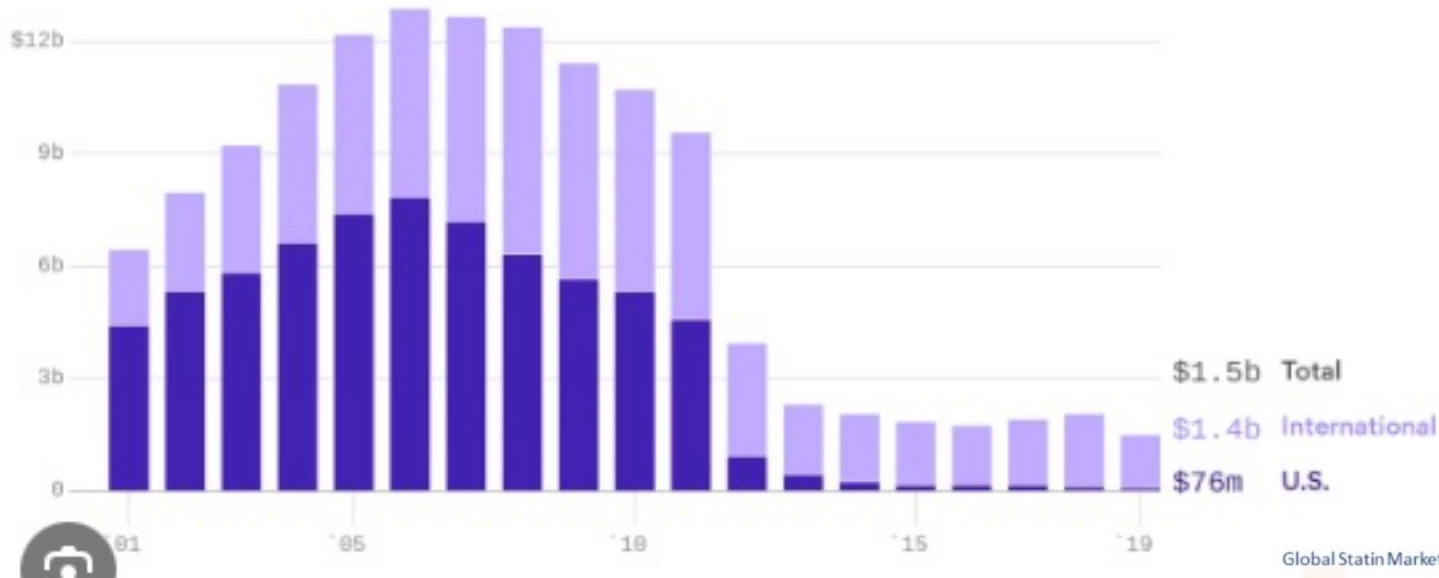
Yearly sales of Roche Rocephin from 2000 to 2006



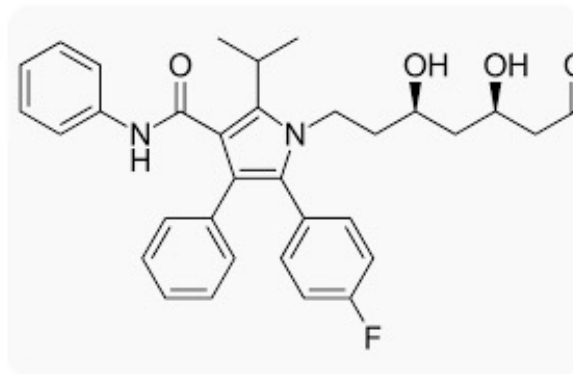
# Overall sales of «blockbusters» : medicines reaching yearly $\geq 1$ billion US\$ revenue statins still most ever sold medicine

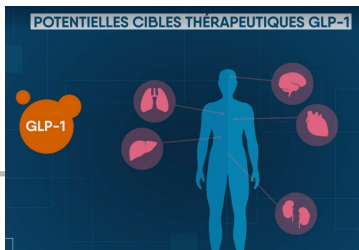


Lipitor sales, 2001-19  $12 \times 10^9$  US\$ (sales 2006)



Global Statin Market is Expected to Account for USD 23.25 Billion by 2031





# when new «reversed» therapeutic modalities arise ?!



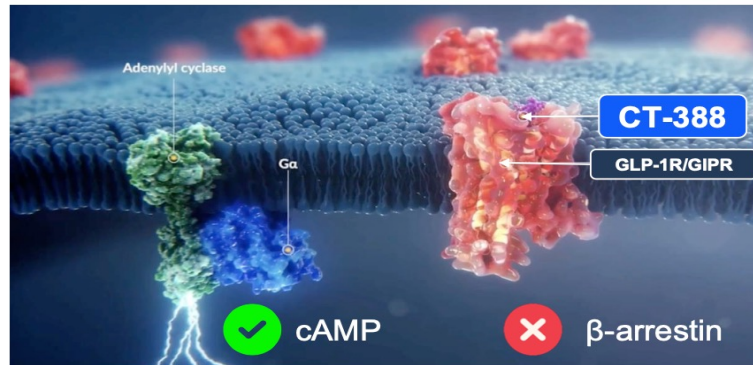
## SMW GLP1 agonists in clinical trials : new oral incretin mimetics work in progress !

### ■ Obesity

- Heterogenous, chronic, relapsing disease affecting millions worldwide<sup>1,2</sup>
- Additional treatment options are needed

### ■ CT-388

- *Dual GLP-1/GIP receptor agonist* being developed for obesity, type 2 diabetes (T2D), and other weight-related comorbidities<sup>3</sup>
- *Potent with minimal-to-no β-arrestin recruitment on both receptors*, which leads to reduced receptor internalization and potentially prolonged pharmacological activity<sup>3</sup>

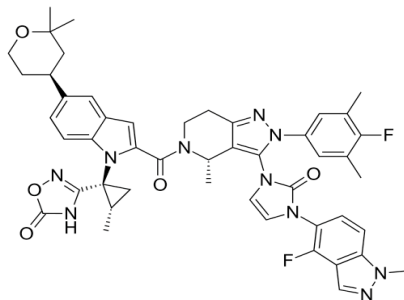


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*The* NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812      SEPTEMBER 7, 2023      VOL. 389 NO. 10

Daily Oral GLP-1 Receptor Agonist Orforglipron for Adults with Obesity

Sean Wharton, M.D., Thomas Blevins, M.D., Lisa Connery, M.D., Julio Rosenstock, M.D., Sohini Raha, Ph.D., Rong Liu, Ph.D., Xiaosu Ma, Ph.D., Kieren J. Mather, M.D., Axel Haupt, M.D., Deborah Robins, M.S., Edward Pratt, M.D., Christof Kazda, M.D., and Manige Konig, M.D., Ph.D., for the GZGI Investigators\*

ABSTRACT

# SMW oral GLP1 agonists : away from biologics !

## developing nonpeptidic small-molecule drugs targeting GLP-1R remains a challenge



771-P

### Efficacy of CT-996, an Oral Small Molecule GLP-1 Receptor Agonist, in Human GLP-1 Receptor Knock-in Mice and Obese Cynomolgus Monkeys

Jian Luo<sup>1</sup>, Ruben Rodriguez<sup>1</sup>, Anne Hørgarden<sup>1</sup>, Ted Tracy<sup>1</sup>, Davina Lam<sup>1</sup>, Sumanta Garai<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Marshall<sup>1</sup>, Stig Hansen<sup>2</sup>, Manu Chakravarthy<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Carmot Therapeutics, a member of the Roche group; <sup>2</sup>Kimia Therapeutics.

#### Purpose

In the present studies we characterize CT-996, a potent, oral, small molecule, signal-biased GLP-1 receptor agonist, and evaluate its effect on glucose response, weight loss, and food intake in pre-clinical models.

#### Conclusions

- CT-996 is a small molecule GLP-1RA that exhibits biased cAMP signaling and reduced receptor internalization.
- Daily oral dosing of CT-996 enhanced glucose homeostasis and reduced weight and fat mass after 4-week treatment in obese cynomolgus monkeys.
- All doses of CT-996 were well-tolerated in cynomolgus monkey studies.
- These observations corroborate the continued development of CT-996 as a next-generation GLP-1RA. CT-996 is currently being evaluated in a Phase 1 clinical trial.

#### Introduction

- ▶ Injectable GLP-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1RA) have demonstrated significant efficacy in glycemic control and weight management.
- ▶ While semaglutide is available in an oral peptide formulation, it requires specific timing and administration conditions.
- ▶ The increasing use of injectable incretin therapies underscores the urgent need for simpler, cost-effective solutions.
- ▶ Here, we describe CT-996, a potent, oral small molecule GLP-1RA, and present preclinical efficacy studies to support its development for daily oral use in humans.

#### Methods

##### In Vitro Characterization

- ▶ cAMP accumulation was measured in HEK293 cells expressing either human or cynomolgus monkey GLP-1R 30 minutes after stimulation. Maximal  $\beta$ -arrestin recruitment after stimulation was measured in HEK293 cells expressing human GLP-1R-LgBit and SmBit-human- $\beta$ -arrestin-2. Internalization was measured in HEK293 cells expressing HiBIT-tagged human GLP-1R 60 minutes after stimulation.
- ▶ Insulin secretion was measured in Endo-bH5<sup>®</sup> cells, a human pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell line, 40 minutes after stimulation in the presence of 11 mM glucose. Curves depict non-linear regression analysis of data normalized to vehicle and a high dose of GLP-1. Insulin data is also normalized to total protein content. Data are mean  $\pm$  SD of 2-3 replicates per concentration.

##### Mixed Meal Tolerance Test (MMTT) in Humanized GLP-1R Knock-in Mice

- ▶ Male humanized GLP-1R knock-in (hGLP-1R KI; Taconic) mice, aged 8-14 weeks, were fasted overnight. Vehicle and CT-996 were administered orally 30 minutes before the MMTT (Ensure, 10 ml/kg).

##### Glucose Stimulated Insulin Secretion (GSIS) in Obese Monkeys

- ▶ Male obese cynomolgus monkeys, > 8 years old (KBI), were fasted overnight.
- ▶ Vehicle and CT-996 were administered orally 2-3 hours prior to intravenous glucose tolerance test (IVGTT; 0.5 g/kg).

##### 28-Day Daily Dose Study in Obese Monkeys

- ▶ Twenty-four (24) male cynomolgus monkeys, each weighing > 8 kg with BMI > 40 were included. Some of the animals had plasma glucose above 6 nmol/L.
- ▶ CT-996 was administered once daily.
- ▶ MMTT (Ensure, 5 ml/kg) was administered on Day 1, 3 hours post dose.
- ▶ Chow intake was recorded at each meal, and body weight was assessed weekly.
- ▶ Body composition was measured using dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) at baseline and Day 29.

#### Results

##### CT-996 is a potent and cAMP-biased GLP-1R agonist

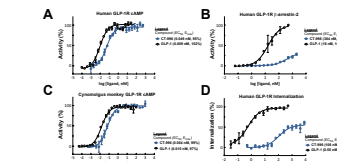


Figure 1. Dose response curves for human GLP-1R cAMP accumulation (A), Human GLP-1R  $\beta$ -arrestin recruitment (B), Cynomolgus monkey GLP-1R cAMP accumulation (C), and human GLP-1R internalization (D) in response to endogenous ligand GLP-1 (black circles) or CT-996 (blue circles).

##### CT-996 improved glucose following MMTT in hGLP-1R KI mice

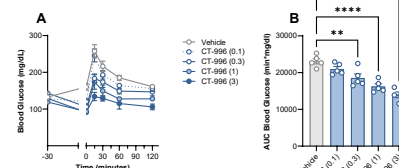


Figure 3. Mean ( $\pm$  SE) (A) glucose response to a MMTT and (B) the area under the glucose curves in hGLP-1R KI mice 30 minutes after vehicle and CT-996 administration. Statistical differences were evaluated using a one-way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni post hoc test. \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ .

##### CT-996 improved postprandial glucose following MMTT in obese monkeys

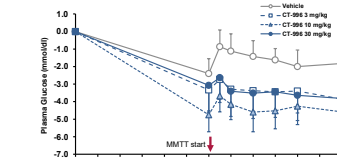


Figure 5. Effects of oral CT-996 on postprandial glucose in obese cynomolgus monkeys. Plasma glucose change is represented as mean ( $\pm$  SE) from baseline. N = 6/group. MMTT was administered on Day 1, 3 hours post CT-996 administration.

##### CT-996 preferentially reduced fat mass in obese monkeys

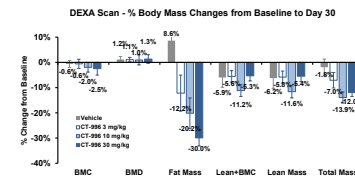


Figure 7. Effects of daily oral CT-996 on body composition in obese cynomolgus monkeys. Percent change from baseline (Mean  $\pm$  SE). N = 6/group. Abbreviations: BMC is bone mineral content and BMD is bone mineral density.

##### CT-996 dose-dependently enhanced GSIS in human $\beta$ -cells

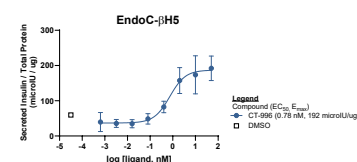


Figure 2. Dose response curves of insulin secretion after stimulation with CT-996 in the presence of 11 mM glucose. Abbreviations: nM is nanomolar,  $\mu$ g is microgram, and microIU is microinternational unit.

##### CT-996 dose-dependently enhanced GSIS in obese monkeys

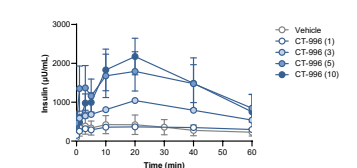


Figure 4. Effects of oral CT-996 on GSIS during IVGTT in obese cynomolgus monkeys. Plasma insulin concentrations are represented as mean ( $\pm$  SE) following intravenous glucose challenge (2-3 hours after vehicle and CT-996 administration).

##### CT-996 progressively lowered body weight in obese monkeys

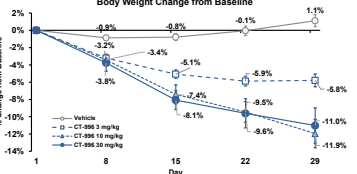


Figure 6. Effects of CT-996 on body weight in obese cynomolgus monkeys following once-daily oral administration. Weekly body weight percent change is represented as mean ( $\pm$  SE) from baseline. N = 6/group.

##### CT-996 drastically suppressed chow intake in obese monkeys

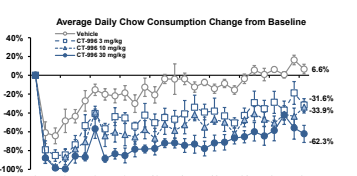


Figure 8. Effects of daily oral CT-996 on chow intake in obese cynomolgus monkeys. Daily chow consumption percent change is represented as mean ( $\pm$  SE) from baseline. N = 6/group.



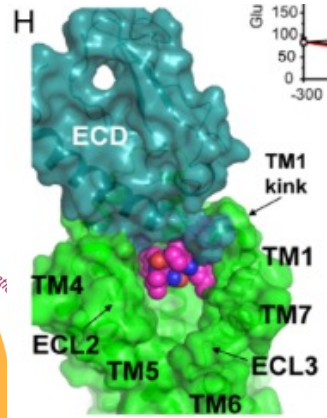
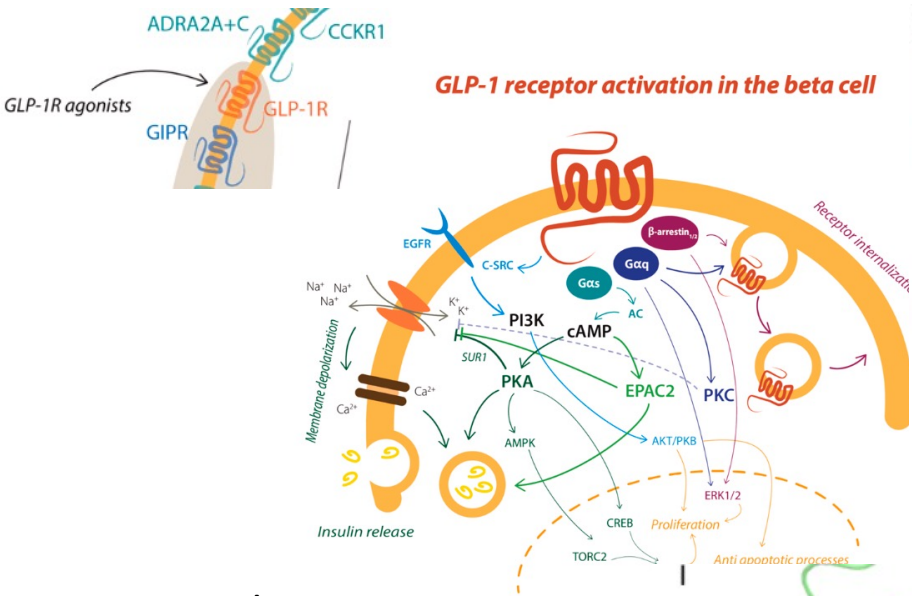
#### Acknowledgements

- Contribution to discovery: Sean Zhou, Ray Fucini, Xiaohu Du, and David Lloyd
- Presentation support: Damian Bialonczyk

#### Disclosures

- All authors are current or former employees of Carmot Therapeutics, a member of the Roche group.

# GLP1R\_incretins : from biologicals to small Mr compound

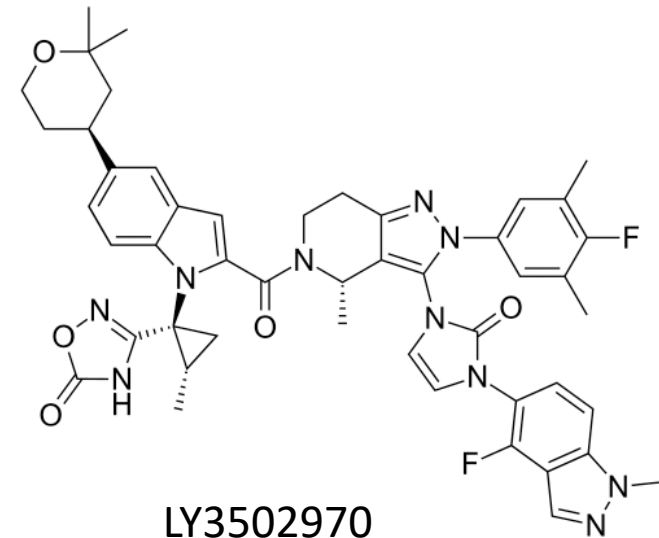


Wikimedia Commons est dispo

File:Orforglipron.svg

File Discussion

File File history File usage on Commons F



LY3502970  
MW 882 Da

A high-resolution structure of LY3502970 in complex with active-state GLP-1R revealed a unique binding pocket in the upper helical bundle where the compound is bound by the extracellular domain (ECD), extracellular loop 2, and transmembrane helices 1, 2, 3, and 7.

MW 4,2 kDa

IUPAC Name	Semaglutide is a synthetic peptide (see the amino acid sequence below)
3D Structure of Semaglutide	Chain P in PDB ID 7J00

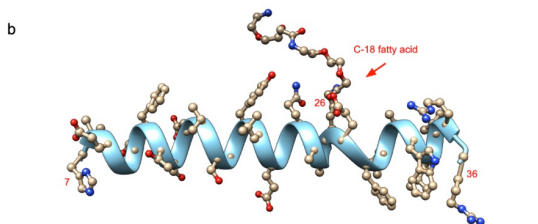
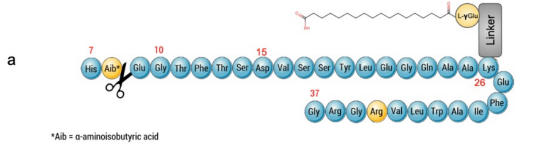
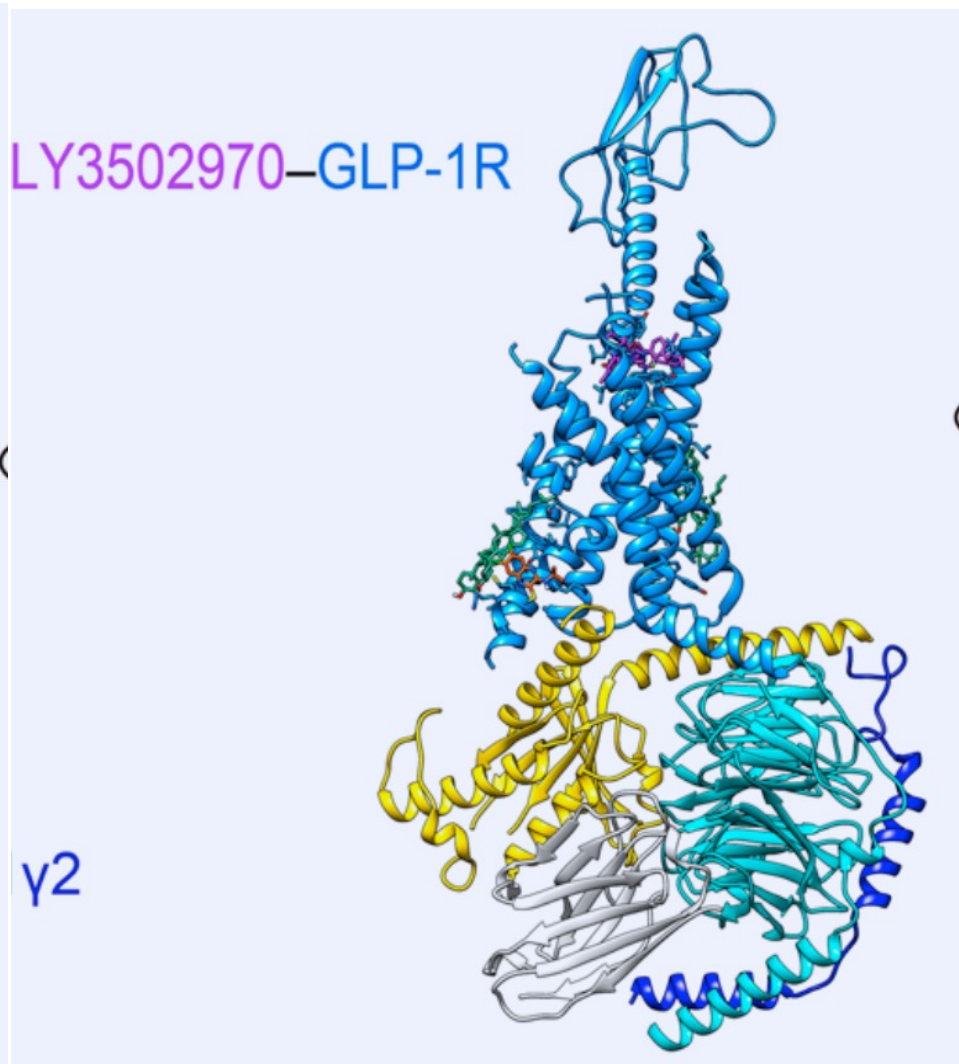
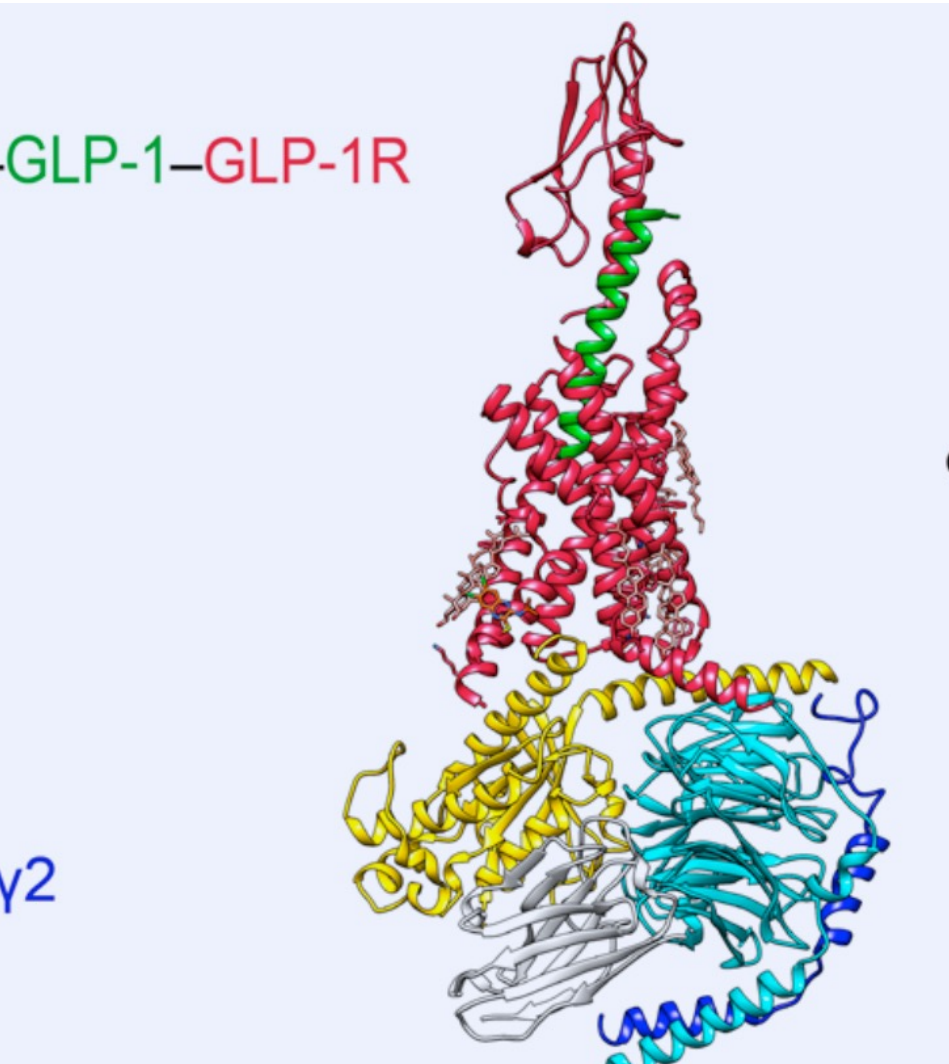


Figure 1. 2D and 3D structures of Semaglutide. a. The amino acid sequence of Semaglutide (PubChem) is numbered from 7 to 37. The sequence schematic shown is based on information presented in Knudsen and Lau, 2019. Amino acid modifications are highlighted in yellow and the DPP4 cleavage site is indicated with the scissors. b. 3D structure of Semaglutide (PDB ID 7J00, Zhang et al., 2021). Note: The C-18 fatty acid chain shown is

# Cryo EM : GLP-1 peptide vs Orforglipron (LY3502970)



# Session 7 - when new therapeutic modalities arise

## Plug and Play with PyMOL !

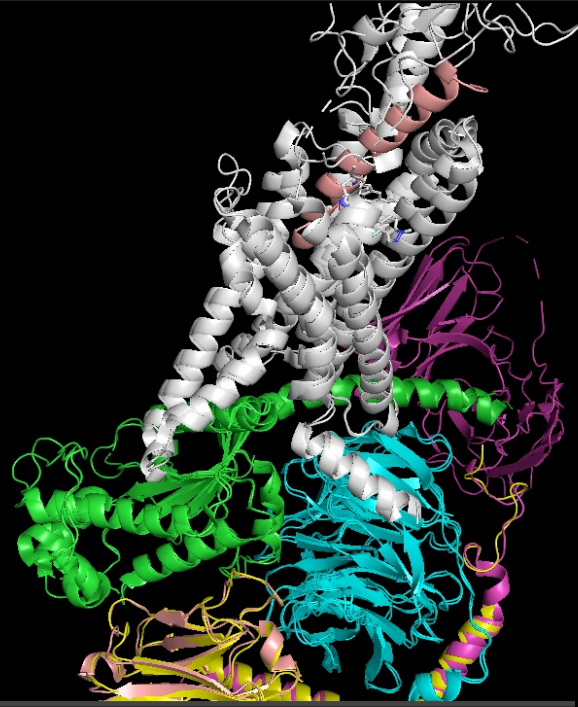


Residues Zoom Orient Rock Presets... Builder... Scenes Draw/Ray- ...

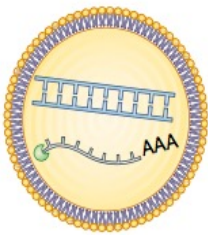
```
/5vai 266 271 276 281 286 291 296 301 306 311 316 321 326 331 336 341 346 351 356 361 366 371 376 381 386 391 396 401 406 411 416 /B/P/7 11 16 21 26 31 /C/A/  
FSEQRIFKLYLSIGWVPLLPVIVPVGIVKLYEDEGQTRNSNMNYLILRPLPILPAIGVNFILFIRVICIVVSKLKNLMCKTDIKCLAKSTLTLPLLGTHEVIFAFVMEHARGTLRFVKLFTLSTFSFQGLMVAIYCFVNNVEQMEFRKSWERJRL HAEGTFTSDVSSYLEGGAQKEFIAMLVKGRG  
/6xox 321 326 331 336 341 346 351 356 361 366 371 376 381 386 391 /B/B/-9 -4 1 6 11 16 21 26 31 36 41 46 51 56 61 66 71 76 81 86 91 96 101  
YFPEFARYTTPEDATPEPGEDPRVTRAKYFIRDEFRLISTHSGDGRHYCPHFTRCVDTENIRRVFNDCRDIIQRMALRQYELL MHHHHHGGSSGSELQDLRQEAQLKNIQDARKACADATLSQITNNIDPVGRIQMRTRRTLRGHLAKIYAMHWGTDSELLVSAQDGKLIWDSYTTNKVHAIPLRSSVMVTCAY
```

No License File - For Evaluation Only (15 days remaining)

- All A S H L C
- 6ln2 A S H L C
- 5vai A S H L C
- (sele) A S H L C
- 6nx2 A S H L C
- 6xox A S H L C



```
ExecutiveRMS: 69 atoms rejected during cycle 1 (RMSD=31.17).  
ExecutiveRMS: 272 atoms rejected during cycle 2 (RMSD=29.98).  
ExecutiveRMS: 435 atoms rejected during cycle 3 (RMSD=23.25).  
ExecutiveRMS: 104 atoms rejected during cycle 4 (RMSD=5.21).  
ExecutiveRMS: 142 atoms rejected during cycle 5 (RMSD=1.48).  
Executive: RMSD = 1.011 (3125 to 3125 atoms)  
You clicked /6xox/F/R/ILE 357/CA  
Selector: selection "sele" defined with 8 atoms.  
You clicked /6xox/F/R/ILE 357/CA  
Selector: selection "sele" defined with 0 atoms.  
PyMOL>util.color_chains("5vai and elem O"),_self=cmd  
PyMOL>util.color_chains("6xox and elem O"),_self=cmd  
PyMOL > fetch 5vai
```



# Nucleic acid based medicines: a new therapeutic modality



ASOs  
(antisense oligonucleotides)  
RNAs  
(miRs, siRNAs etc)

## STARTING POINT : THE “UNDRUGGABLE GENOME” EXPLOITED BY DNA DRUGS !

The human genome project 1990-2003

1996: The human genome project may reveal «3000-10'000 new drug targets» (*J Drews*)

2002: Release of Human Genome

out of 20'500 proteins encoded in the human genome ~400 proteins bind to “drug-like molecules” ~200 proteins are targets of marketed small molecule drugs	<b>The druggable genome</b> <i>Andrew L. Hopkins and Colin R. Groom</i> NATURE REVIEWS   DRUG DISCOVERY VOLUME 1   SEPTEMBER 2002
---	--

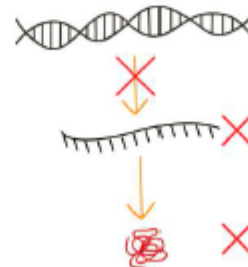
*Have we identified all viable drug targets already ?*

**No!**

The undruggable genome is a huge space:

Human genome: 3 Billion Bases

- 76% of DNA is transcribed into mRNA
  - 3% into Protein
  - 73% is 'non-coding' RNA

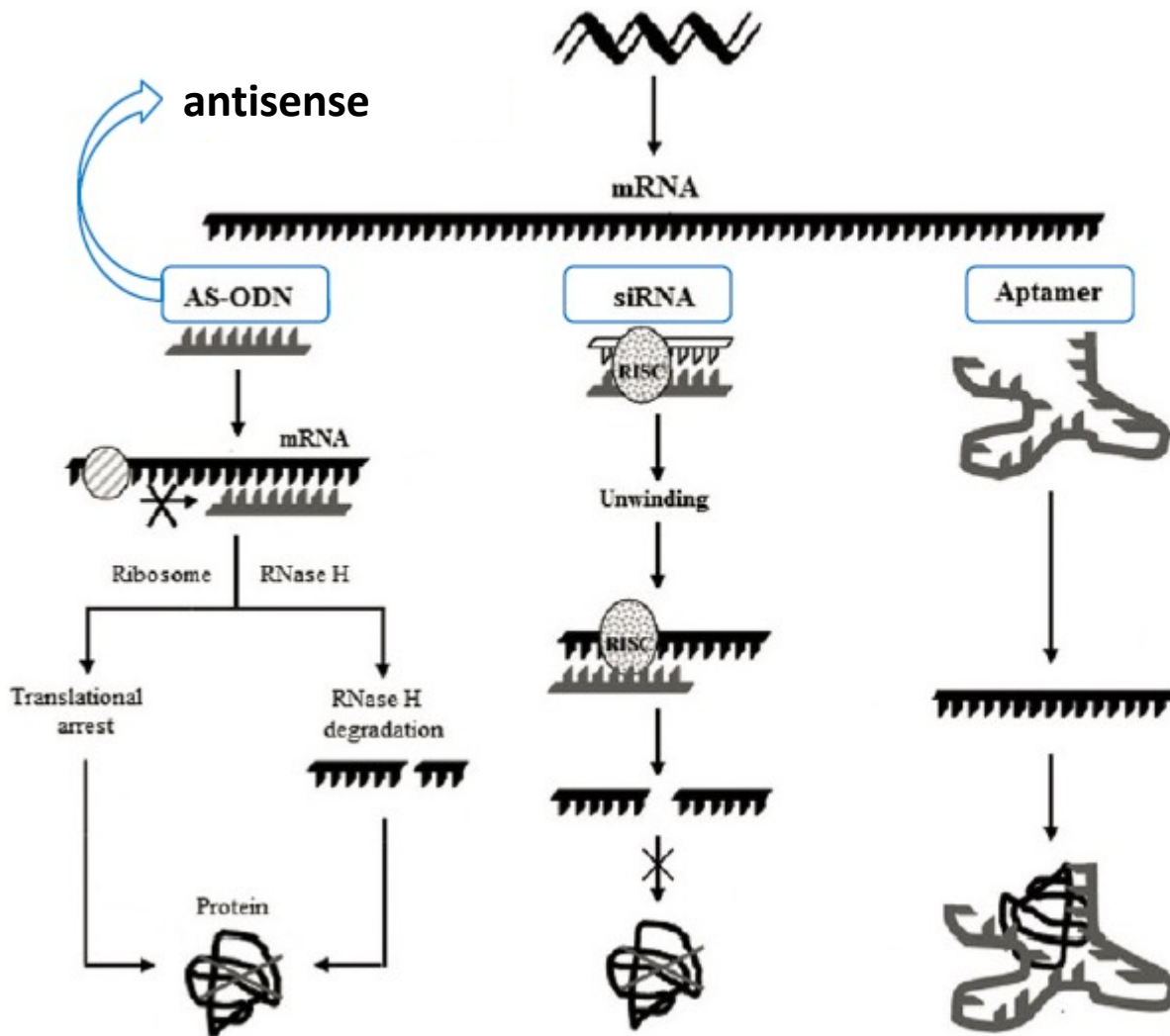


Nucleic Acid based Therapeutics aim to exploit druggable & undruggable genome

# DNA RNA therapeutics



## “undruggable” genome



### Basic concept:

Instead of binding to a mature protein and thereby alter its function

- **Synthesis** of a protein is inhibited by blocking / degrading mRNA
- **Noncoding/regulatory** regions are targeted
- A **Protein’s function** is blocked via mechanism other than targeting ligand binding

# Antisense oligonucleotides (single stranded)



## Modulation of mRNA functionality by specific hybridization of ASO

### CELL ENTRY : HOW ?

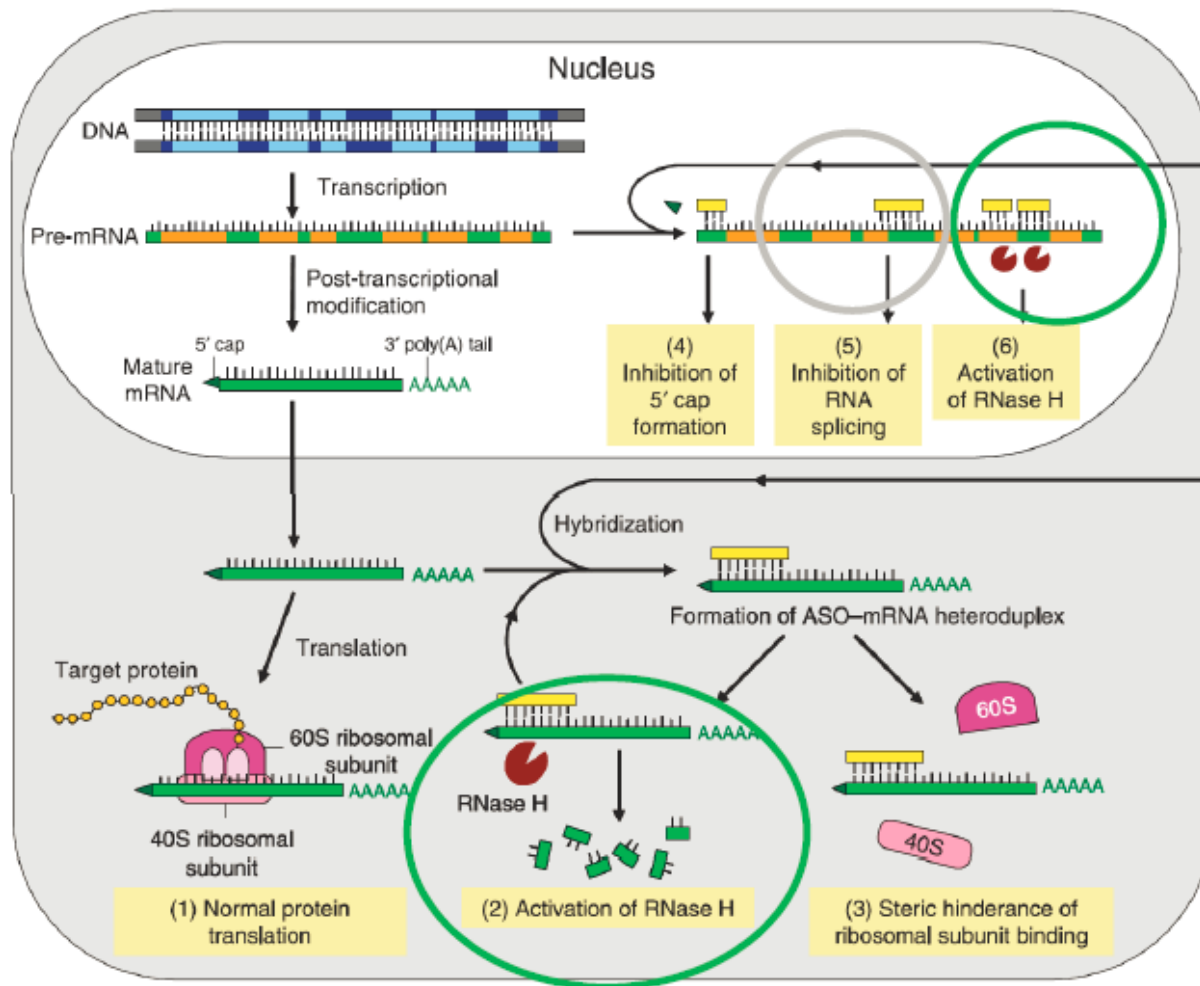
- **Endocytosis:** Non-specific or receptor-mediated uptake of ASO into endosomes (1)
- Endosomes mature into lysosomes (2)
- Majority of ASO accumulate in lysosomes (2):

#### 'non-productive' pathway

- Small amount of ASO escapes into cytosol and nucleus (3) and is pharmacologically active:

#### 'productive' pathway

- Exact mechanisms of escape poorly understood



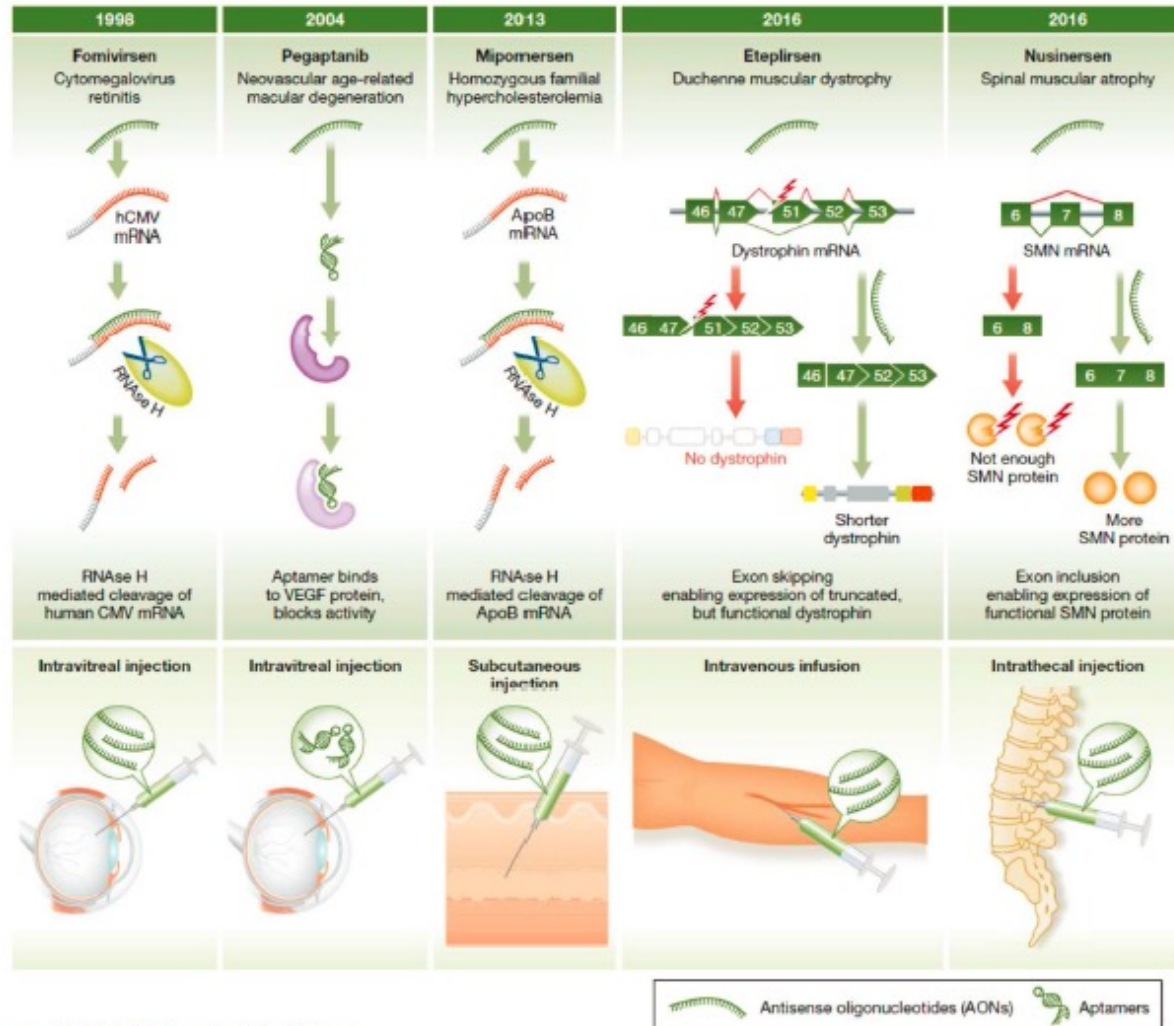
RNaseH degradation

Splice switching

# Antisense DNA oligonucleotides in the clinical setting



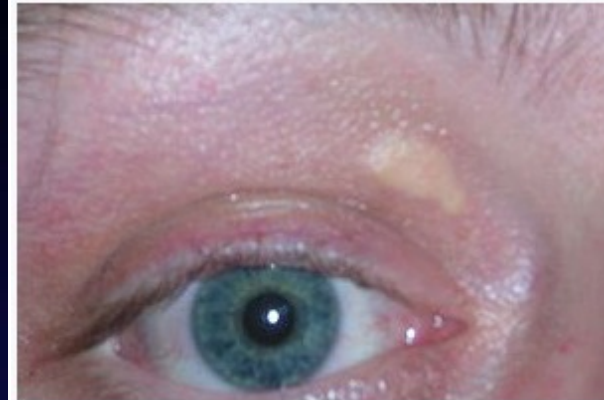
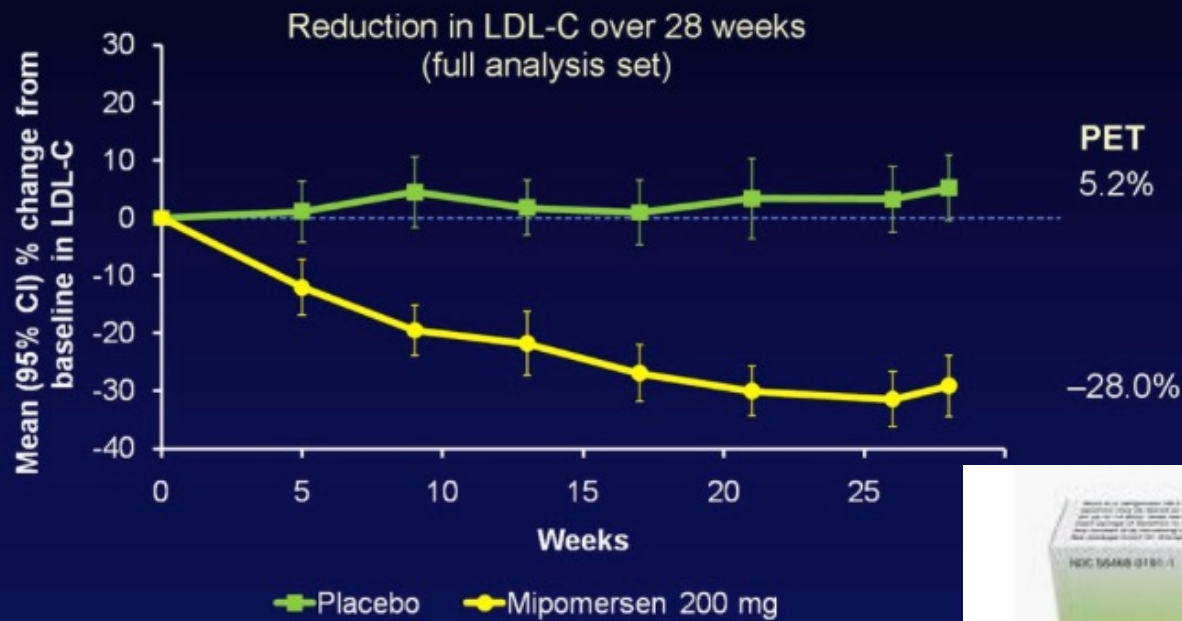
## FDA Approved drugs:



# Mipomersen ASO in eg. fam. hypercholesterolemia



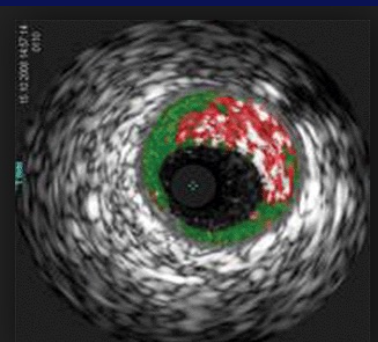
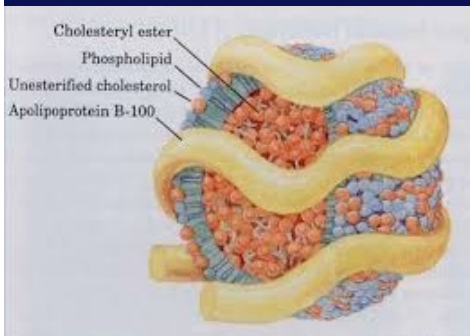
## Mipomersen Significantly Reduced LDL-C



FH: cholesterol deposit on eyelid;  
80% carry LDLr loss-of-function mutations



Genzyme Inc



**Antisense DNA oligonucleotides : route of administration**  
**main issue : poor biodistribution (target organ exposure) and toxicity**



**SEARCHING FOR THE OPTIMAL SEQUENCE IN SILICO AND TESTING IN VITRO**

- Classical delivery is by injection:
- **Intravenous (iv)** or **subcutaneous (sc)** for systemic delivery
- **Intramuscular (IM), intratumoral (ITM), intravitreal (IVI)** injection of ASOs have been used to achieve more tissue-specific delivery.
- ASOs do not readily cross the blood brain barrier when administered peripherally
- GalNAc conjugation is the most mature effort so far: a method to reduce dose by a factor 20 or more for hepatocyte specific targets

# Antisense DNA oligonucleotides : route of administration

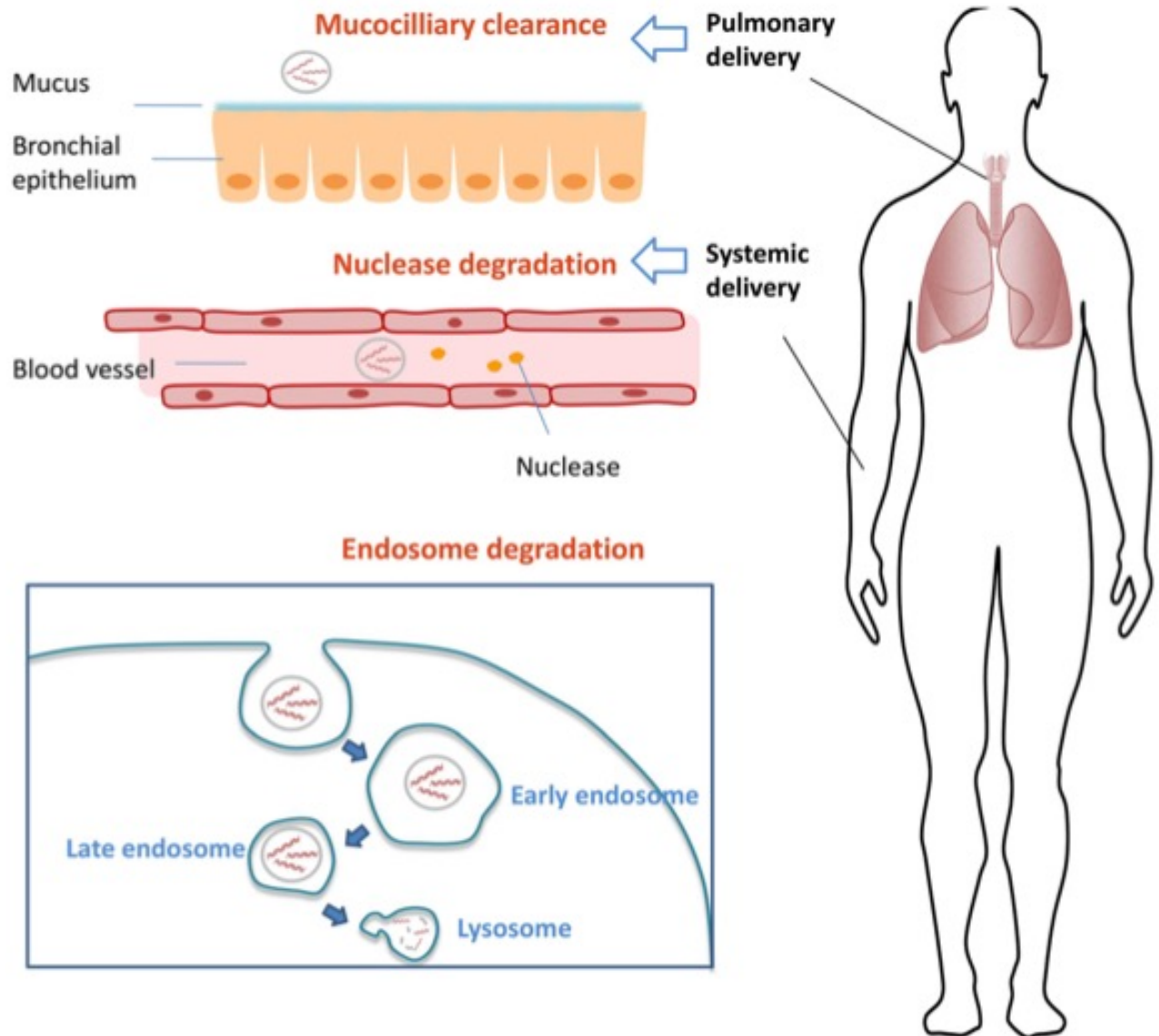
main issue : poor biodistribution (target organ exposure) and toxicity



ASO are given iv, sc, for systemic exposure

ASO do not readily pass the blood brain barrier

Organ exposure include intramuscular and oral administration



# Antisense DNA oligonucleotides

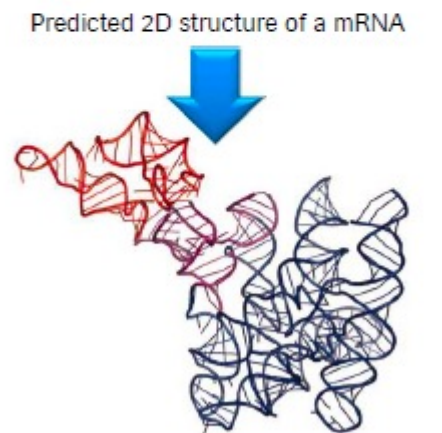
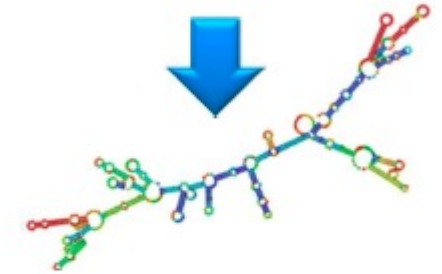
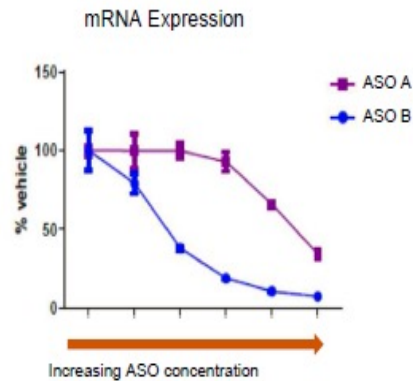


## SEARCHING FOR THE OPTIMAL SEQUENCE IN SILICO AND TESTING IN VITRO RNA FOLDS INTO 3D STRUCTURE WHICH DETERMINES ITS ACCESSIBILITY !

- Synthesize ASOs along the mRNA sequences



- Test activity in vitro in a cell based assay:
- Cell line expressing the intended mRNA
- Determine IC50



**Huge differences in activity can be obtained!**

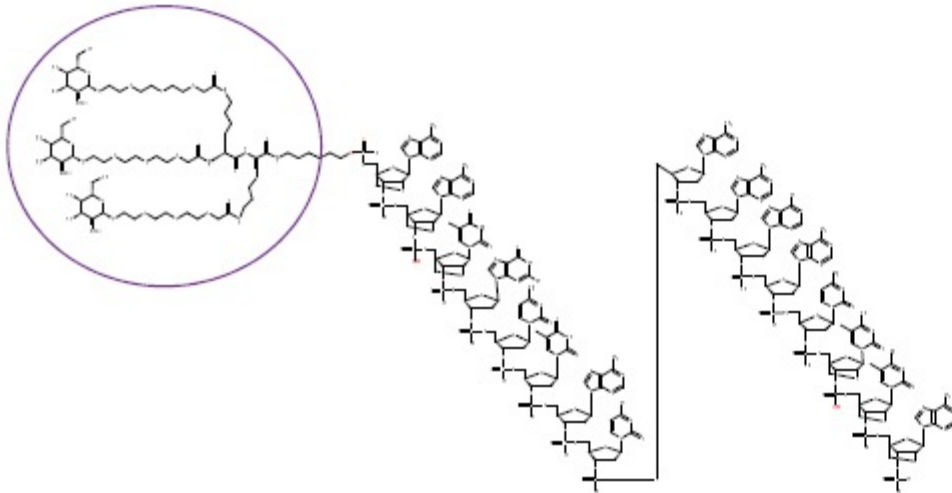
Crystal structure of a bacterial RNA



## SEARCHING FOR THE OPTIMAL SEQUENCE IN SILICO AND TESTING IN VITRO

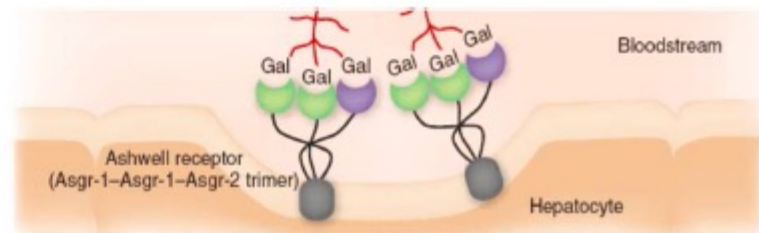
- GalNAc conjugation is the most mature effort so far: a method to reduce dose by a factor 20 or more for hepatocyte specific targets

GalNAc cluster



N-acetyl-D-Galactosylamine (GalNAc)

- GalNAc conjugate:
  - Asialoglycoprotein receptor is used **to target hepatocytes**
  - Trimeric GalNAc cluster is recognized by the receptor and internalized together with the cargo (ASO)



# Antisense DNA oligonucleotides : spinal muscular atrophy : the nusinersen trials



# Antisense DNA oligonucleotides : spinal muscular atrophy



- Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a degenerative rare disease of the motor nuclei in the spinal cord and lower brain stem
- SMA presents in childhood with muscle weakness and most severely fatal respiratory failure (10-20'000 kids in US)
- Mutations of the SMN locus on 5q13 (survival of motor neuronal gene 1 and 2) are the cause of SMA rare disease
- In humans the locus contains splice site mutations at both the telomeric SMN1 gene and the centromeric homologous SMN2 gene
- Prevalence is 1.2 over 100 000 individuals (1/6000 babies)
- Carrier rates for the autosomal recessive is 1 in 40 for genetic counselling purposes (one copy of the altered gene)
- Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) type I (Hoffmann Disease) was found in 4:1,600 (1:400) infants of the egyptian Karaite community (endemistic propagation)

# SMA : spinal muscular atrophy



SEARCHING FOR THE OPTIMAL SEQUENCE IN SILICO AND TESTING IN VITRO

**BUT...** IN SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY

↳ RNA SPLICING  → THE **7<sup>TH</sup> EXON** IS LOST!



↳ **SMN2** PRODUCES A FAULTY MESSAGE:

DRAW A BIG HOUSE ON THE ? OF THE WIDE STREET

1 2 3 4 5 6 8 9 10 11

↳  DEFECTIVE PROTEINS



# SMA : alternate RNA splicing defects by exon7 skipping of SMN2 pre mRNA



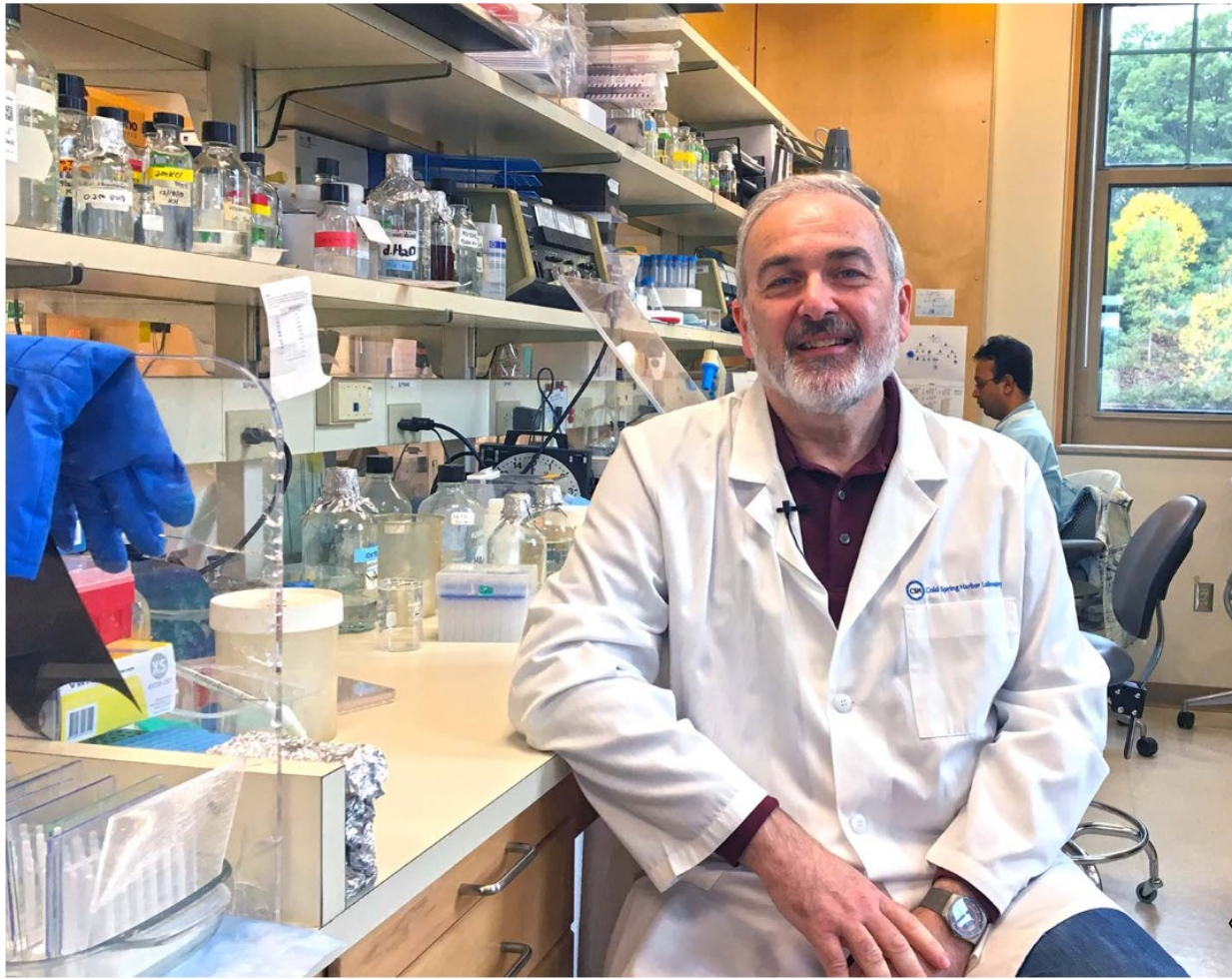
## SEARCHING FOR THE OPTIMAL SEQUENCE IN SILICO AND TESTING IN VITRO



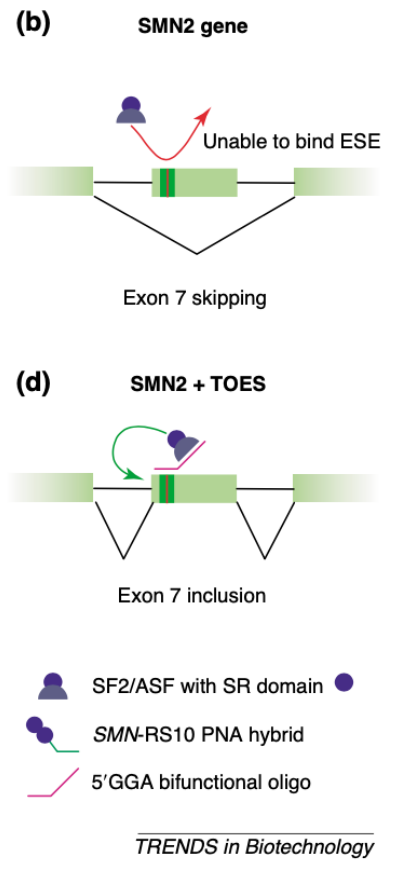
Intronic silencing sequence regulate splicing of SMN2 exon 7

Tricyclo DNA molecules to improve on stability of AOS (RNaseH resistance) and BBB exposure

# SMA : pre mRNA splicing research leads to therapeutics



CSHL Professor Adrian Krainer, winner of the 2019 Breakthrough Prize in Life Science, in his laboratory.



« Cold Spring Harbour lab 2017 medicine « 2017

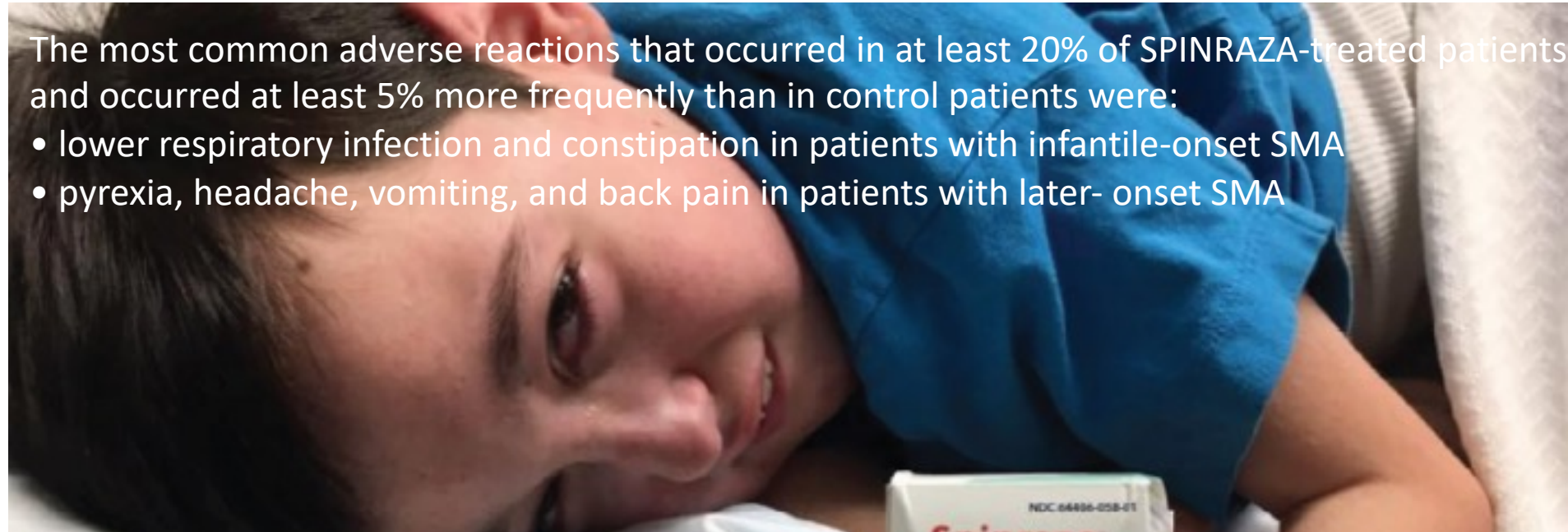
Cartegni, L. Krainer, A. (2002) Nat. Genet. 30, 377–384. Disruption of an SF2/ASF-dependent exonic splicing enhancer in SMN2 causes spinal muscular atrophy in the absence of SMN1.

# Spinraza: spinal muscular atrophy innovative medicine 12mg AOS dosis as intrathecal injections (spine puncture)



The most common adverse reactions that occurred in at least 20% of SPINRAZA-treated patients and occurred at least 5% more frequently than in control patients were:

- lower respiratory infection and constipation in patients with infantile-onset SMA
- pyrexia, headache, vomiting, and back pain in patients with later-onset SMA



## INITIAL DOSES



## 3x/year

SPINRAZA is directly delivered to the central nervous system (CNS) where motor neuron loss begins.

After 4 initial loading doses, SPINRAZA is given 3 times a year.

## DOSE 3X/YEAR



**Spinraza: correcting RNA splicing defects by targeting splice factor at genomic site**

# SMA : spinal muscular atrophy splicing ailment



Biomedical scientists with Biogen Inc receive the prestigious « Prix Galien » for innovative medicine



Global development Football Tech Business Environment Obituaries

## \$2.1m Novartis gene therapy to become world's most expensive drug

**US approves the one-time treatment for deadly spinal muscular atrophy in infants**



▲ Swiss drugmaker Novartis has gained US approval for its \$2.1m spinal muscular atrophy gene therapy Zolgensma.



BIOTECH AND PHARMA

## FDA approves Novartis' \$2.1 million gene therapy — making it the world's most expensive drug

PUBLISHED FRI, MAY 24 2019 • 1:03 PM EDT | UPDATED FRI, MAY 24 2019 • 3:11 PM EDT



Berkeley Lovelace Jr.  
@BERKELEYJR



Angelica LaVito  
@ANGELICALAVITO

SHARE   

### KEY POINTS

- The FDA approved Novartis' Zolgensma, a one-time treatment for spinal muscular atrophy.
- Zolgensma, a gene therapy, will cost \$2.1 million.
- Novartis had previously said it could price the treatment between \$1.5 million and \$5 million.



**Adeno-associated viral dependent SMN expression gene therapy** indicated for the treatment of pediatric patient less than 2 years of age with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) with bi-allelic mutations in the survival motor neuron 1 (*SMN1*) gene.

# Zolgensma safety scare hits Novartis again as FDA halts spinal injection trial

by [Angus Liu](#) | Oct 30, 2019 10:42am

According to Novartis, its gene therapy unit AveXis alerted regulators about dorsal root ganglia mononuclear cell inflammation, sometimes accompanied by neuronal cell body degeneration or loss, that cropped up in a preclinical study. It's a new finding in Zolgensma animal testing.

The condition can be associated with sensory changes, the Swiss drugmaker said, adding that it has not cropped up in humans so far.

In a Wednesday note to clients, SVB Leerink analyst Mani Foroohar suspected the clinical halt is “likely reflective of FDA taking a more stringent attitude towards [Zolgensma] review” after a recent data scandal.

The company said it's working with the FDA to “identify any additional actions necessary to resume dosing” in the spinal-injection trial, dubbed Strong, and will continue to monitor safety events in patients.

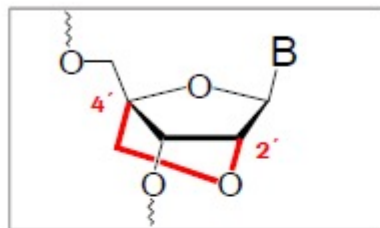
Known as intrathecal delivery, the direct injection into the spine is one avenue Novartis is pursuing to expand Zolgensma's patient base. The gene therapy is currently only approved for SMA patients younger than two, but the Strong trial is testing it in older SMA type 2 patients up to five years of age.



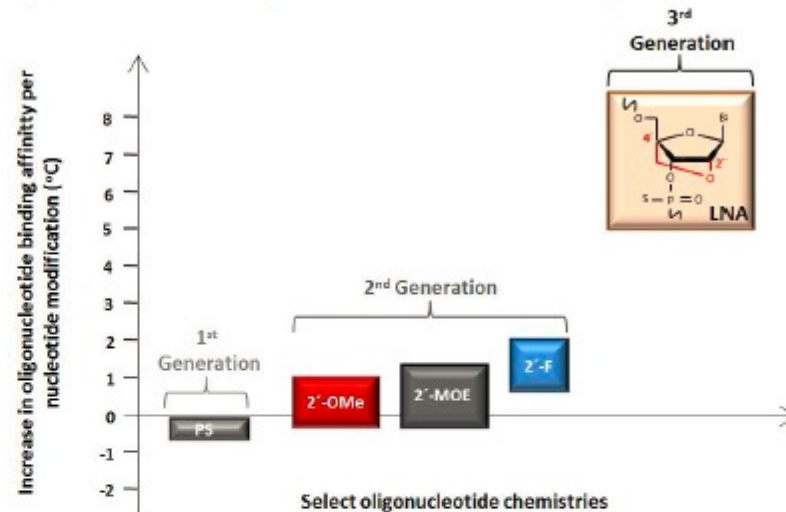
# Antisense DNA oligonucleotides (single stranded)



## LNA – locked nucleic acid



..provides unprecedented target affinity



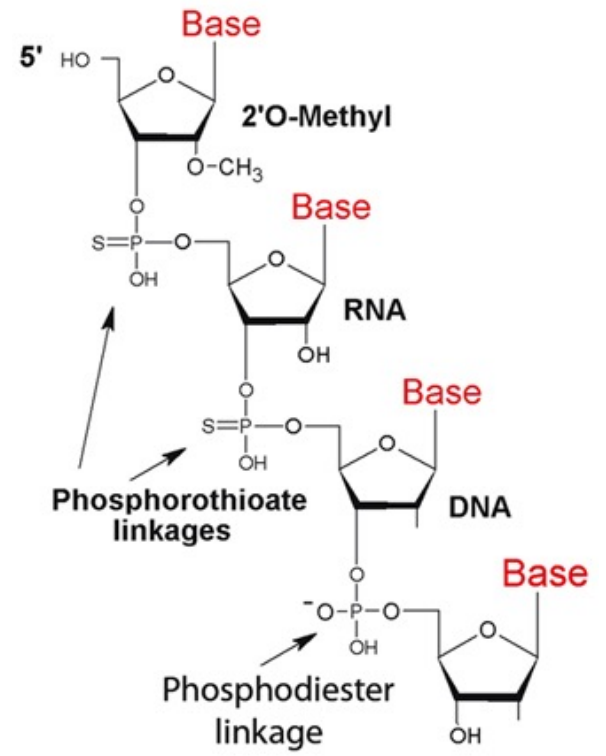
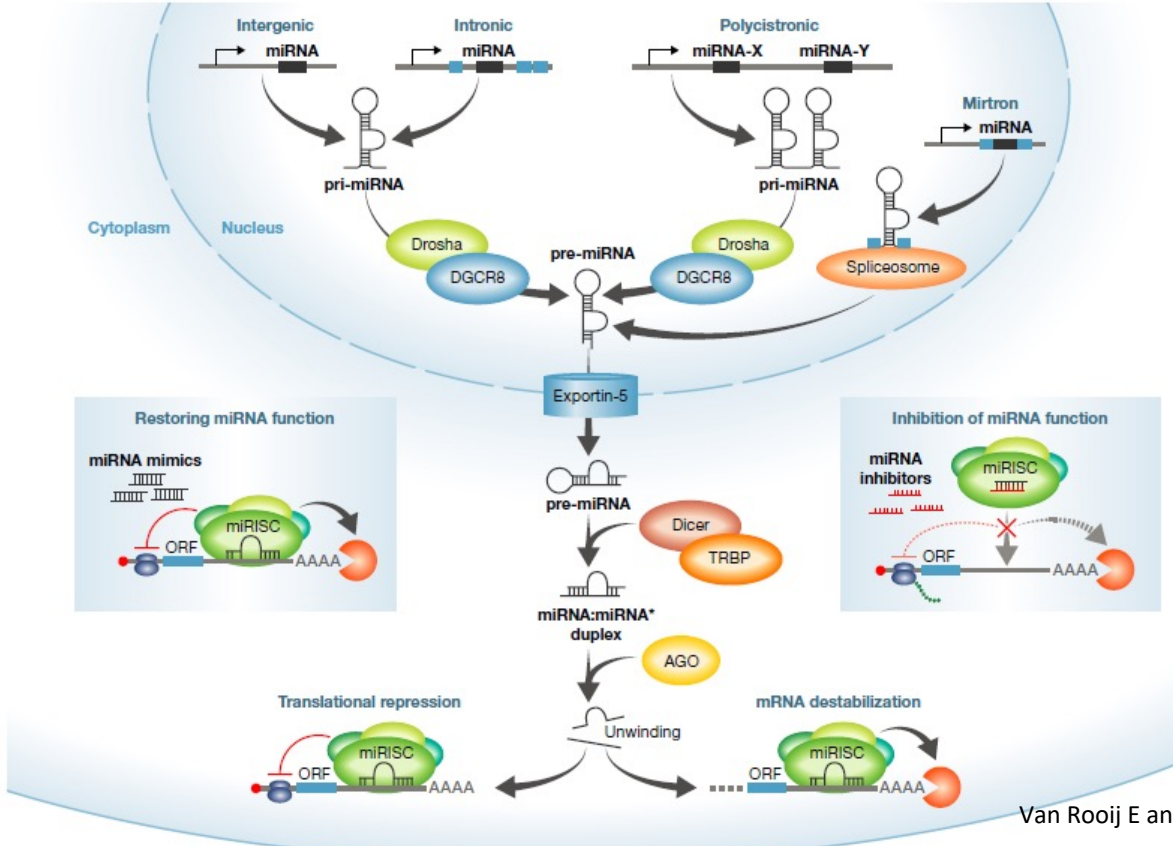
.. resulting in oligos with:

- Substantially improved potency and specificity
- Multiple *modes-of-action*
- Activity in multiple tissues
- Potential for good tolerability profiles
- Lower cost of goods

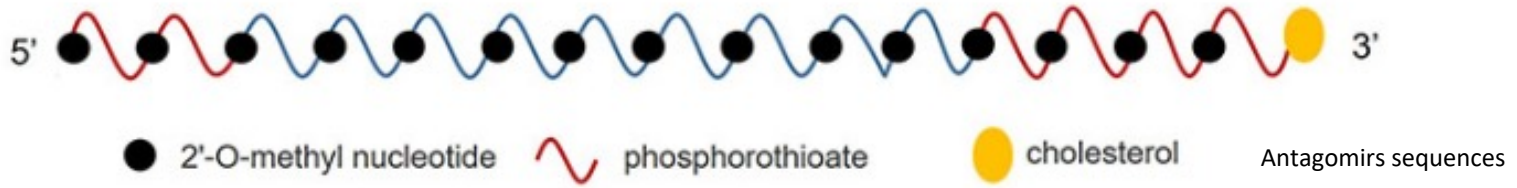
.. enables smaller and diverse designs

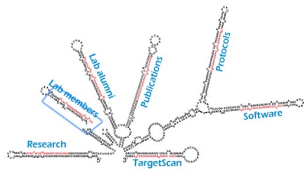
- 5'- [■] [■] [□] [□] [□] [□] [□] [□] [■] [■] [■] -3'
- LNA gapmers**  
mRNA degradation  
→ reduction of disease causing proteins
- 5'- [■] [■] [■] [□] [■] [□] [■] [□] [■] [■] [■] -3'
- LNA mixmers /antimiRs**  
Splice modulation of pre-mRNAs  
→ creation of disease ameliorating protein  
Steric inhibition of miRNA  
→ upregulation of protein pathways

# Development of microRNA therapeutics (agomirs – antagomirs) is coming of age >30 % of human genes regulated by miRs !



Van Rooij E and Kauppinen S. 2014 EMBO Mol Med J 6:851-864





We study post-transcriptional gene regulation—why some cellular mRNAs are a thousand times more stable than others, and why some are translated better than others. These differences dramatically influence the amount of protein produced from each gene, which is critical for proper cellular function, as well as organismal development and survival. A major focus of our research is microRNAs, which are ~22-nt RNAs that pair to mRNAs to specify their repression. Another focus is mRNAs, with particular interest in their untranslated regions and tails, and how these regions recruit and mediate regulatory phenomena. In the course of our work, we develop new tools for high-throughput molecular measurements, which help to inform our computational analyses and in-depth mechanistic studies.

# Antagomirs - RNA therapeutics in drug development



© The American Society of Gene Therapy

original article

**The Bartel lab**

- Manolis Kellis, MIT, and Eric Lai, Sloan Kettering (not shown)**: MicroRNA genomics and targets in flies
- Lee Lim, Rosetta Inpharmatics (Merck)**: MicroRNA target recognition in human cells
- Harvey Lodish, Whitehead**: MicroRNAs in blood cell development
- Craig Mello, University of Massachusetts/Worcester**: Small RNAs in worms
- Michael Hemann, MIT**: MicroRNAs involved in cancer
- Bonnie Bartel, Rice University**: Roles and targets of plant microRNAs
- Cliff Tabin, Harvard**: MicroRNAs in mammalian development
- Chris Burge, MIT**: Exploring genomics and functions of microRNAs computationally
- Hazel Sive, Whitehead**: MicroRNAs in zebrafish and frog development
- Victor Ambros, Dartmouth, and Robert Horvitz, MIT**: MicroRNAs in worm development
- Fernando Camargo, Whitehead**: MicroRNA target recognition in blood cells
- Chad Nusbaum, Broad, and Hui Ge, Whitehead**: High-throughput sequencing of microRNAs, analysis of small interfering RNAs in worms

## Incorporation of Pseudouridine Into mRNA Yields Superior Nonimmunogenic Vector With Increased Translational Capacity and Biological Stability

Katalin Karikó<sup>1</sup>, Hiromi Muramatsu<sup>1</sup>, Frank A Welsh<sup>1</sup>, János Ludwig<sup>2</sup>, Hiroki Kato<sup>3</sup>, Shizuo Akira<sup>3</sup> and Drew Weissman<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA; <sup>2</sup>Laboratory of RNA Molecular Biology, The Rockefeller University, New York, New York, USA; <sup>3</sup>Department of Host Defense, Research Institute for Microbial Diseases, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan; <sup>4</sup>Department of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA



**Katalin Karikó**



**Biographie**

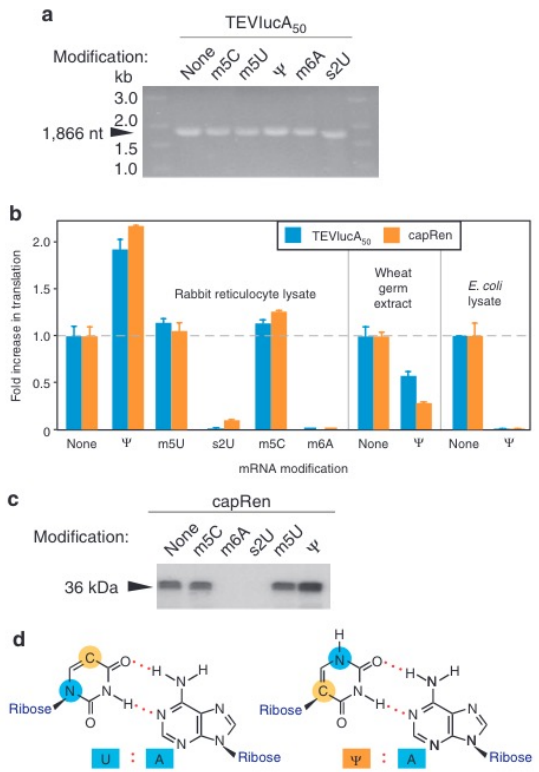


Figure 1 In vitro transcription and translation of nucleoside-modified mRNAs. (a) Aliquots of *in vitro*-transcribed TEVlucA<sub>50</sub> containing no

## The RNA connection

A snapshot of joint projects by David Bartel's lab highlights the crucial role of collaborations

MORE THAN A THIRD of the human genome is partially regulated by microRNAs—tiny snippets of RNA that can disable a gene's ability to create proteins. So it's no surprise that the lab of Whitehead Member David Bartel, the first to report this surprisingly widespread role for microRNAs, has found many colleagues happy to collaborate. At the same time, "as our lab looks at the particular targets of particular microRNAs, then we become interested in what's going on in other labs that specialize in those targets," Bartel says. Here's a glimpse at some current connections for the 20-person lab—and it is just a glimpse. It shows only the principal investigators, not the postdocs and students who do all the bench work, let alone the ongoing streams of informal discussions. <sup>W</sup>

# Antagomirs (anti miRs) therapeutics in drug development



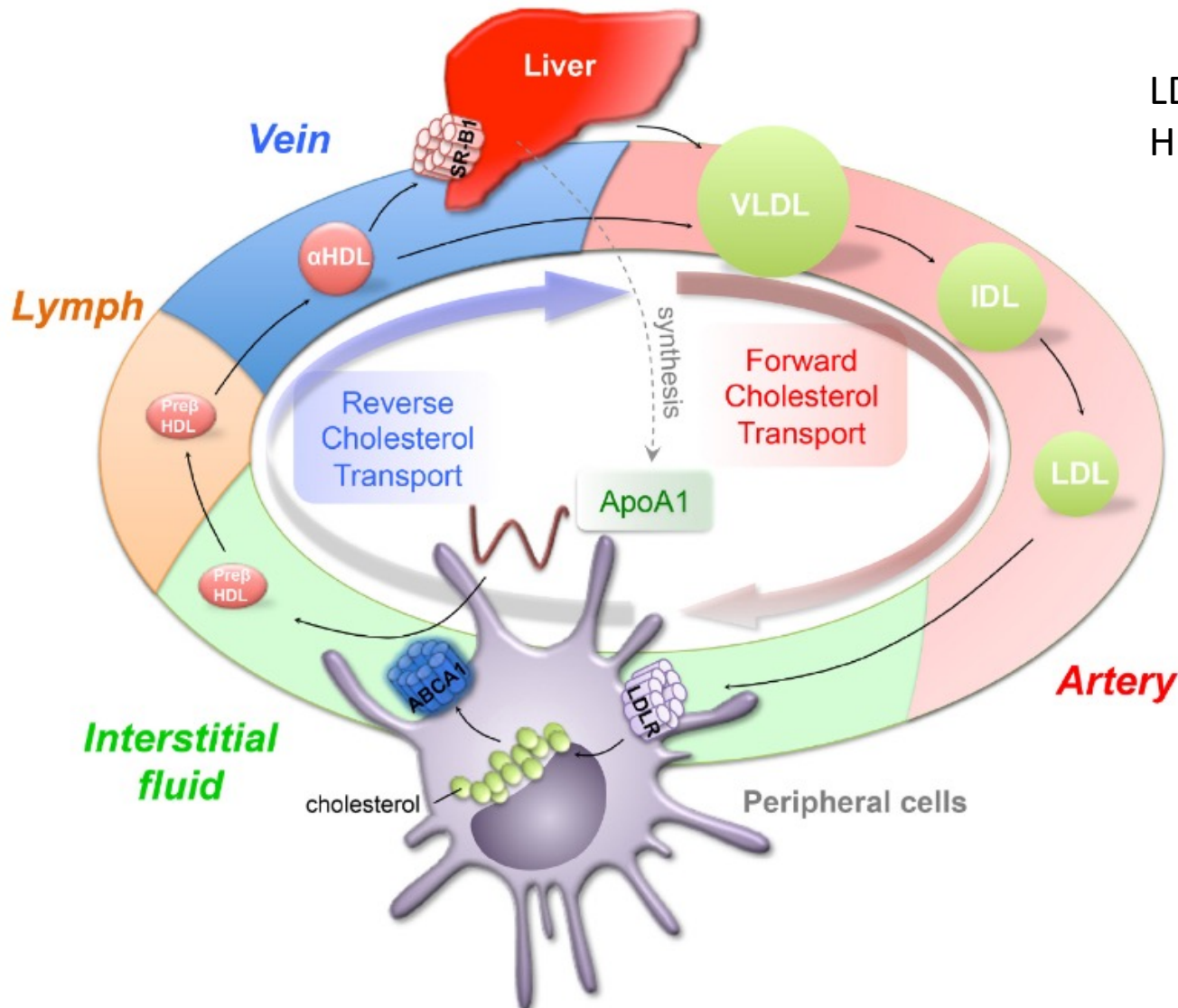
**Table 1. MicroRNA-based therapeutics in development**

Company	miRNA target	Mode of action	Indication	Status
Santaris Pharma	miR-122	antimiR	HCV	Clinical Phase II
Mirna Therapeutics	miR-34	mimic	Unresectable primary liver cancer	Clinical Phase I
	let-7	mimic	Cancer	Preclinical
Regulus Therapeutics	miR-122	antimiR	HCV	Clinical Phase I
	miR-221	antimiR	Hepatocellular carcinoma	Preclinical
	miR-10b	antimiR	Glioblastoma	Preclinical
	miR-21	antimiR	Hepatocellular carcinoma	Preclinical
	miR-21	antimiR	Kidney fibrosis	Preclinical
	miR-33	antimiR	Atherosclerosis	Preclinical
miRagen Therapeutics	miR-208	antimiR	Heart failure	Preclinical
	miR-15/195	antimiR	Post-MI remodeling	Preclinical
	miR-145	antimiR	Vascular disease	Preclinical
	miR-451	antimiR	Myeloproliferative disease	Preclinical
	miR-29	mimic	Fibrosis	Preclinical
	miR-208	antimiR	Cardiometabolic disease	Preclinical
	miR-92	antimiR	Peripheral artery disease	Preclinical

Antagomir (anti-miRNAs) are antisense oligonucleotides that silence endogenous microRNA from their gene target binding capabilities

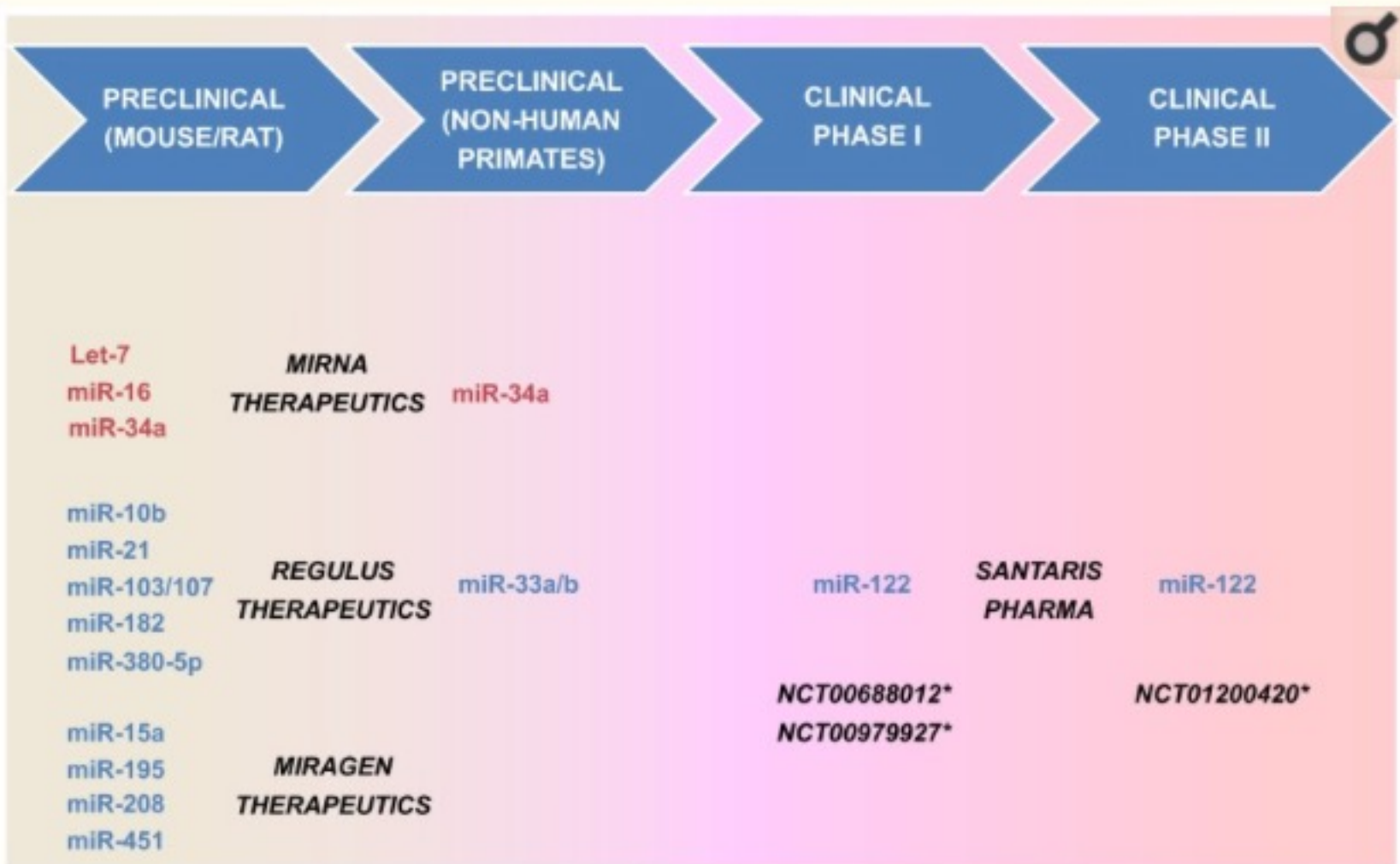
eg. miR33a intron encoded in the SREBP2 locus (miR33a on SREBP1 locus) inhibit the expression of ATP binding cassette transporter ABCA1, a cholesterol efflux pump essential in RCT (reverse cholesterol transport)

# Antagomirs (anti miR33a) therapeutics in CVD drug development

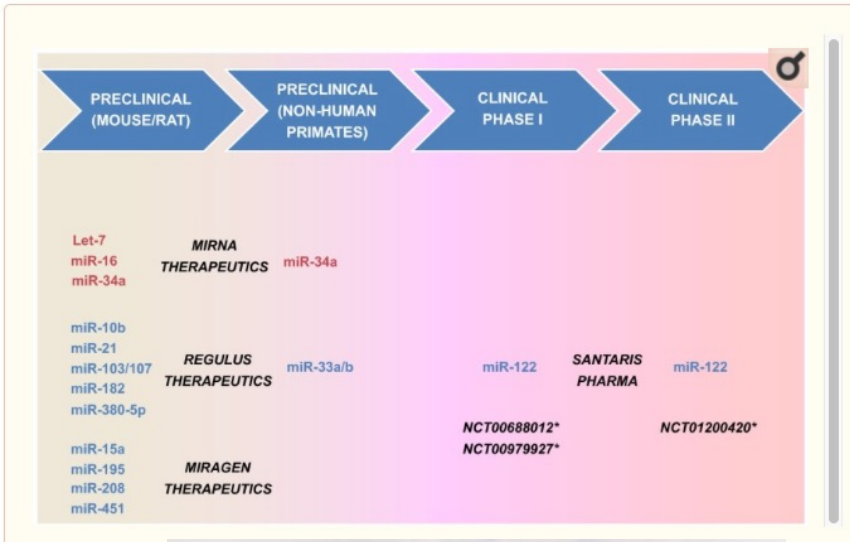


eg. miR33a intron encoded in the SREBP2 locus (miR33b on SREBP1 locus) inhibit the expression of ATP binding cassette transporter ABCA1, a cholesterol efflux pump essential in RCT (reverse cholesterol transport) (SREBP = sterol response binding protein)

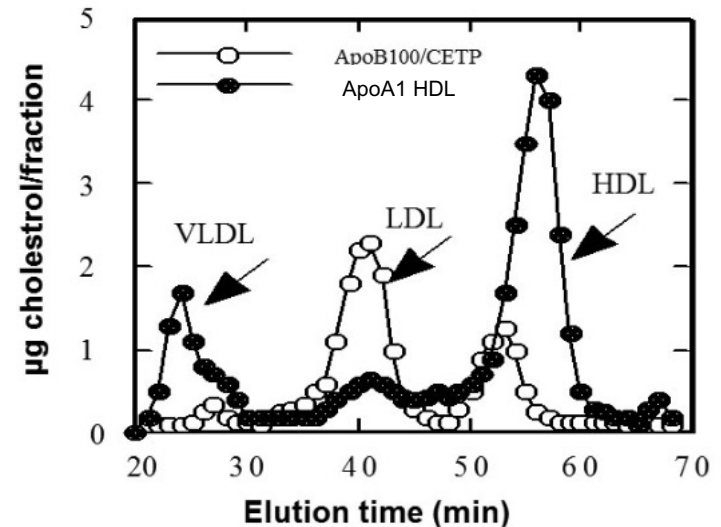
# Development of microRNA therapeutics is coming of age



# Development of miR33a antagonists therapeutics in CVD



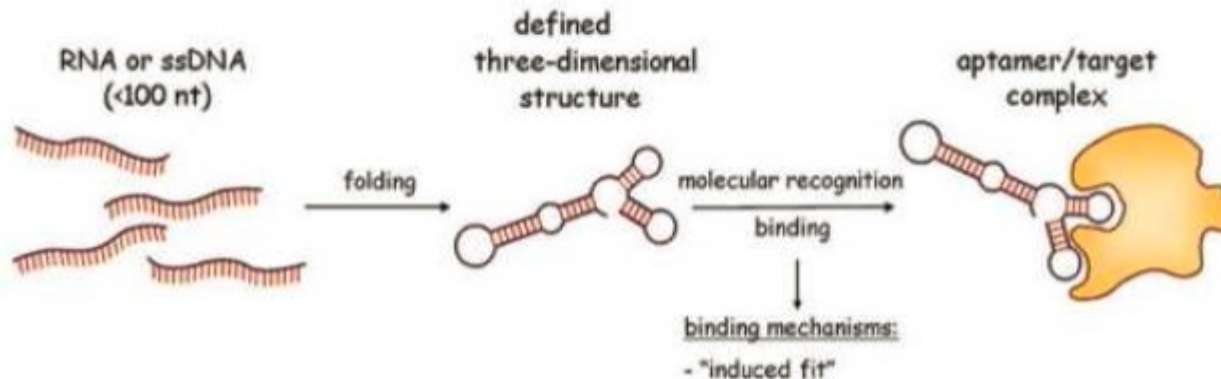
SUBSTANTIAL PRECLINICAL WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED INCLUDING A NON-HUMAN PRIMATE STUDY OF INHIBITING miR-33A/B FOR THE TREATMENT OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS. BY TREATING AFRICAN GREEN MONKEYS SUB CUT WITH ANTI miR-33, A DECREASE IN VLDL AND LDL AND AN INCREASE OF HDL WAS OBSERVED. REDUCED REPRESSION OF ABCA1 GENE OBSERVED (MOA VERIFIED !!)



# DNA RNA therapeutics : aptamers



- Oligonucleotides (DNA or RNA, 15-60 Bp) having high affinity and specificity in identifying target molecules (typically proteins)
- can be selected to bind any given target by chemical recognitions different from Watson–Crick base pairing.
- Interaction to target based on 3-Dimensional folding of the single stranded oligonucleotide (intramolecular hybridization) into particular shape.



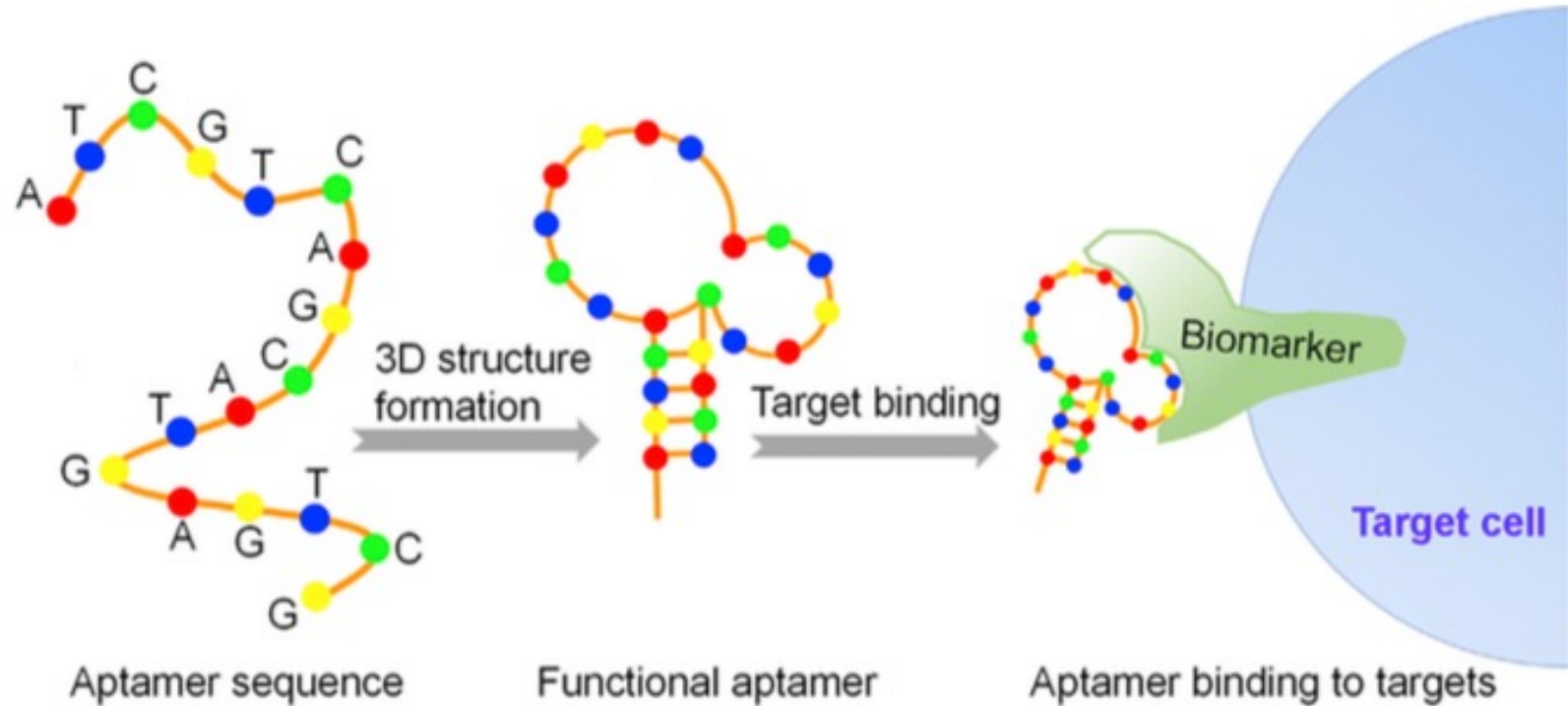
SELEX (systematic evolution of ligands by exponential enrichment) allows over several rounds of selection from a pool of sequences against the therapeutic target high affinity and specificity cdp to the target : similar affinities as ABs with low immunogenitcity however

# DNA RNA therapeutics : aptamers



www.moleculartherapy.org  
Review

Yang S et al.(2018) Molecular Therapy Nucleic Acids 13:164-175. Oligonucleotide aptamer-mediated precision therapy of hematological malignancies.



# DNA RNA therapeutics : aptamers



Table 2   Aptamers in the clinic				
Name (company)	Composition	Target	Indication	Current phase
Pegaptanib sodium/Macugen (Pfizer/Eyetech)	2'-O-methyl purine/2'-fluoro pyrimidine with two 2'-ribo purines conjugated to 40 kDa PEG, 3' inverted dT	Vascular endothelial growth factor	Age-related macular degeneration	Approved in the US and the EU
AS1411/ AGRO001 (Antisoma)	G-rich DNA	Nucleolin	Acute myeloid leukaemia	Phase II
REG1/RB006 plus RB007 (Regado Biosciences)	2'-ribo purine/2'-fluoro pyrimidine (RB006)/40 kDa PEG plus 2'-O-methyl antidote (RB007)	Coagulation factor IXa	Percutaneous coronary intervention	Phase II
ARC1779 (Archemix)	DNA and 2'-O-methyl with a single phosphorothioate linkage conjugated to 20 kDa PEG, 3' inverted dT	A1 domain of von Willebrand factor	Thrombotic microangiopathies and carotid artery disease	Phase II
NU172 (ARCA biopharma)	Unmodified DNA aptamer	Thrombin	Cardiopulmonary bypass to maintain steady state of anticoagulation	Phase II
ARC1905 (Ophthotech)	2'-ribo purine/2'-fluoro pyrimidine conjugated to 40 kDa PEG, 3' inverted dT	Complement component 5	Age-related macular degeneration*	Phase I
E10030 (Ophthotech)	DNA and 2'-O-methyl 5'-conjugated to 40 kDa PEG, 3' inverted dT	Platelet-derived growth factor	Age-related macular degeneration*	Phase I
NOX-A12 (NOXXON Pharma)	L-RNA with 3'-PEG	CXCL12	Multiple myeloma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma*	Phase I
NOX-E36 (NOXXON Pharma)	L-RNA with 3'-PEG	CCL2	Type 2 diabetes, diabetic nephropathy	Phase I

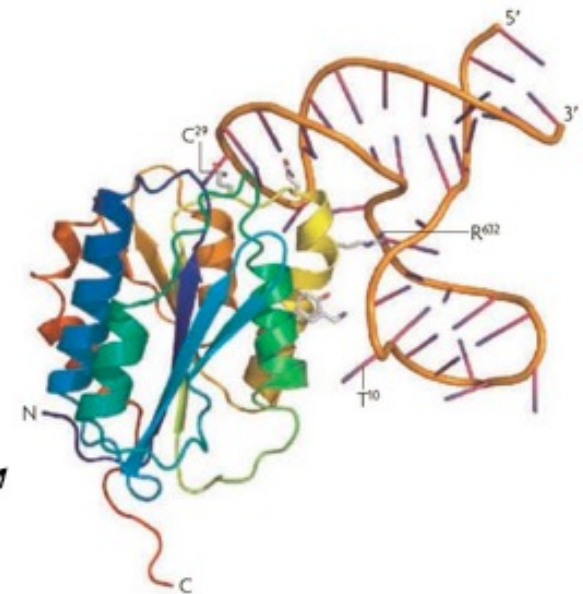


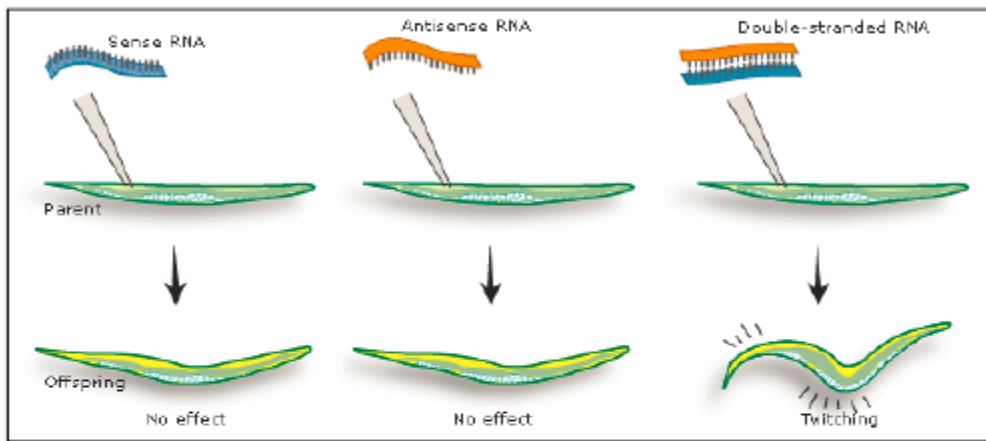
Figure 3 | Crystal structure of the all-DNA parent of ARC1779 bound to the A1 domain of von Willebrand factor.\*

\*part of the coagulation cascade, important for thrombus formation



## RNA INTERFERENCE : A RECENT MOLECULAR EXPLANATION ON AN OLD OBSERVATION

1998 • Andrew Fire and Craig Mello publish groundbreaking work done in *C. elegans*.



*unc-22* encodes a myofilament protein. Decrease in *unc-22* activity is known to produce severe twitching movements

1. silencing triggered efficiently by injected dsRNA, but weakly or not by single-stranded RNAs.
2. silencing specific for mRNA homologous to the dsRNA (other mRNAs were unaffected)
3. dsRNA had to correspond to the mature mRNA sequence; neither intron nor promoter sequences triggered a response → a posttranscriptional, presumably cytoplasmic mechanism
4. the targeted mRNA disappeared suggesting that it was degraded
5. only a few dsRNA molecules per cell were sufficient to accomplish full silencing.

 **The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2006**  
 "for their discovery of RNA interference - gene silencing by double-stranded RNA"



Photo: L. Cloon/Stanford

**Andrew Z. Fire**

1/2 of the prize

USA

Stanford University  
 School of Medicine  
 Stanford, CA, USA

b. 1959



Photo: R. Carlis/UMMS

**Craig C. Mello**

1/2 of the prize

USA

University of  
 Massachusetts Medical  
 School  
 Worcester, MA, USA

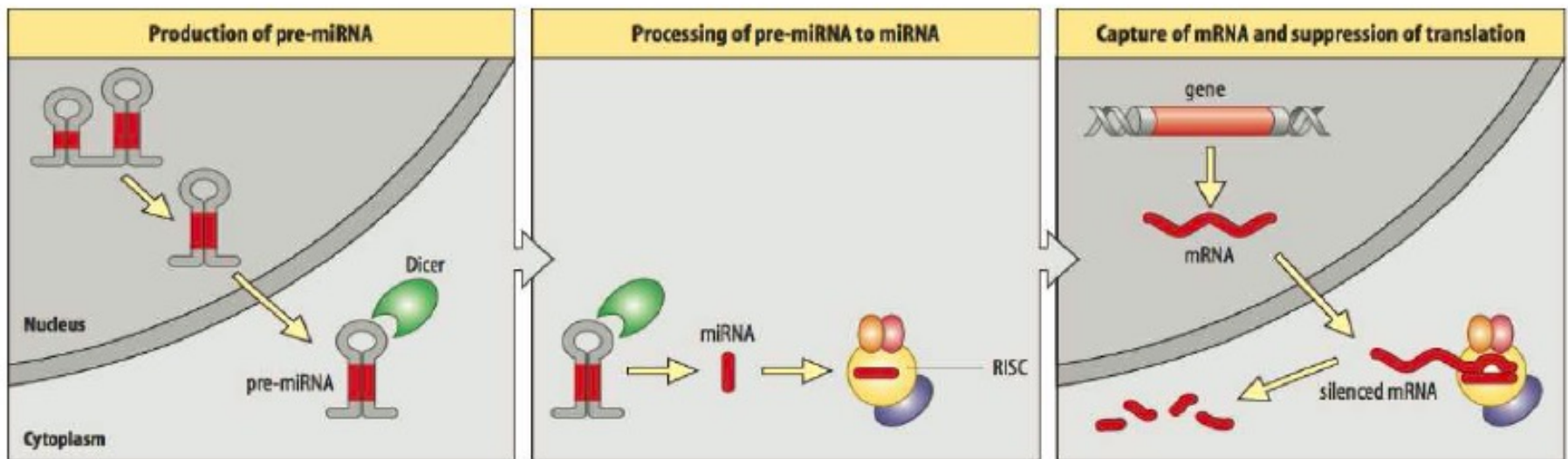
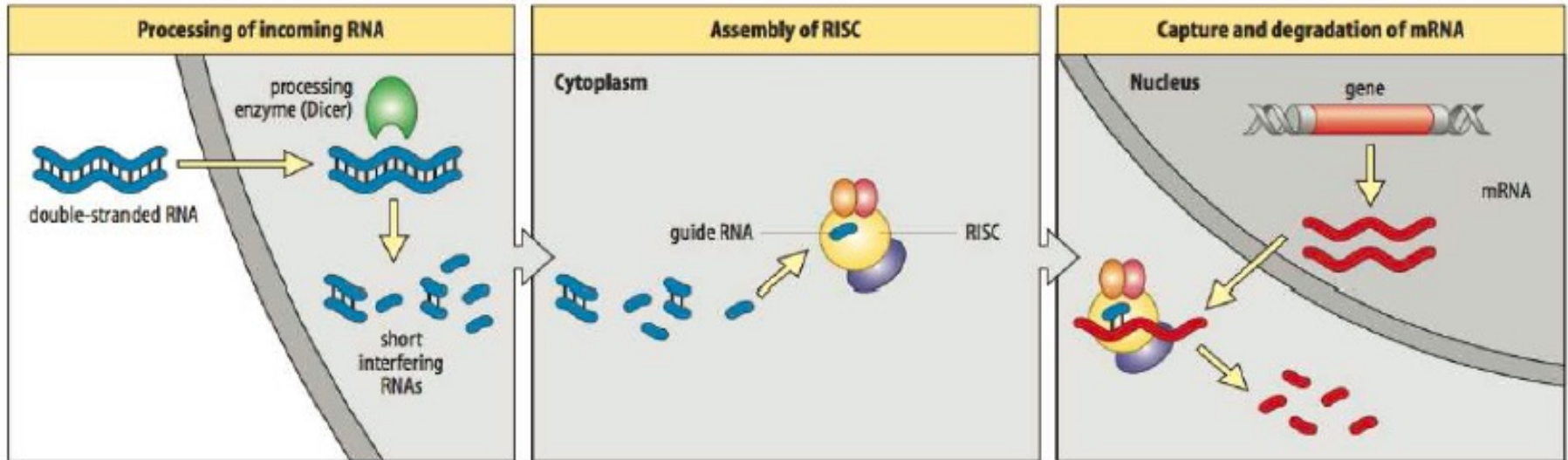
b. 1960

2001 • Thomas Tuschl demonstrates potent and specific RNAi silencing in mammalian cells

# RNA interference: small RNAs as therapeutics ?



**siRNAs and miRNAs hit respectively transcription and translation !**



# RNA interference: small RNAs as therapeutics eg in liver : nanoparticle, cholesterol moiety, systemic delivery improved ?!



The Scientist » September 2014 Issue » Features

## The Second Coming of RNAi

Now showing clinical progress against liver diseases, the gene-silencing technique begins to fulfill some of its promises.

By Eric Bender | September 1, 2014

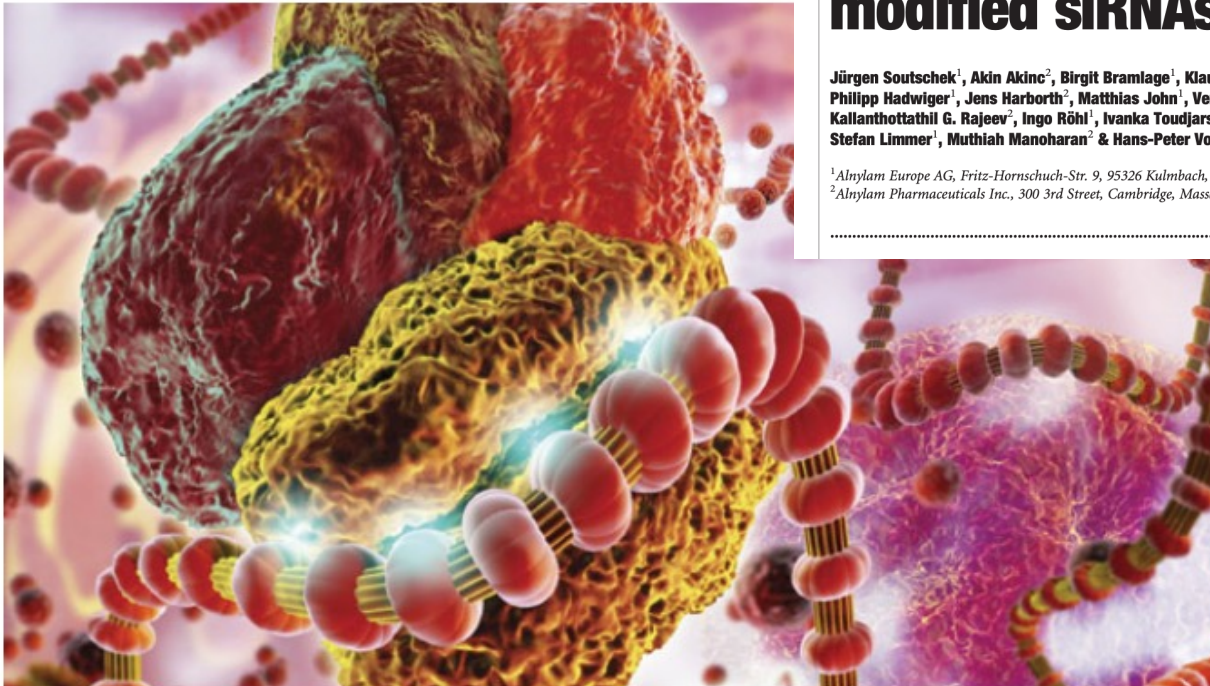
**articles**

### Therapeutic silencing of an endogenous gene by systemic administration of modified siRNAs

Jürgen Soutschek<sup>1</sup>, Akin Akinç<sup>2</sup>, Birgit Bramlage<sup>1</sup>, Klaus Charisse<sup>2</sup>, Rainer Constien<sup>1</sup>, Mary Donoghue<sup>2</sup>, Sayda Elbashir<sup>2</sup>, Anke Geick<sup>1</sup>, Philipp Hadwiger<sup>1</sup>, Jens Harborth<sup>2</sup>, Matthias John<sup>1</sup>, Venkatasamy Kesavan<sup>2</sup>, Gary Lavine<sup>2</sup>, Rajendra K. Pandey<sup>2</sup>, Timothy Racie<sup>2</sup>, Kallanthottathil G. Rajeev<sup>2</sup>, Ingo Röhl<sup>1</sup>, Ivanka Toudjarska<sup>2</sup>, Gang Wang<sup>2</sup>, Silvio Wuschko<sup>1</sup>, David Bumcrot<sup>2</sup>, Victor Kotliansky<sup>2</sup>, Stefan Limmer<sup>1</sup>, Muthiah Manoharan<sup>2</sup> & Hans-Peter Vornlocher<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Abylam Europe AG, Fritz-Hornschuch-Str. 9, 95326 Kulmbach, Germany

<sup>2</sup>Abylam Pharmaceuticals Inc., 300 3rd Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142, USA



**THE ART OF SILENCING:** Small interfering RNA molecules are incorporated into an RNA-induced silencing complex where they bind and degrade target messenger RNAs (yellow with red rings). Taking advantage of this natural RNA interference (RNAi) pathway, researchers are developing therapeutics for liver-based diseases, viral infections, cancer, and more.

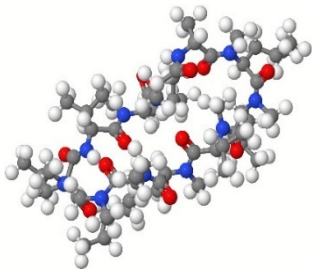
# Cyclic Peptides in drug research\_pioneering therapeutic modalities



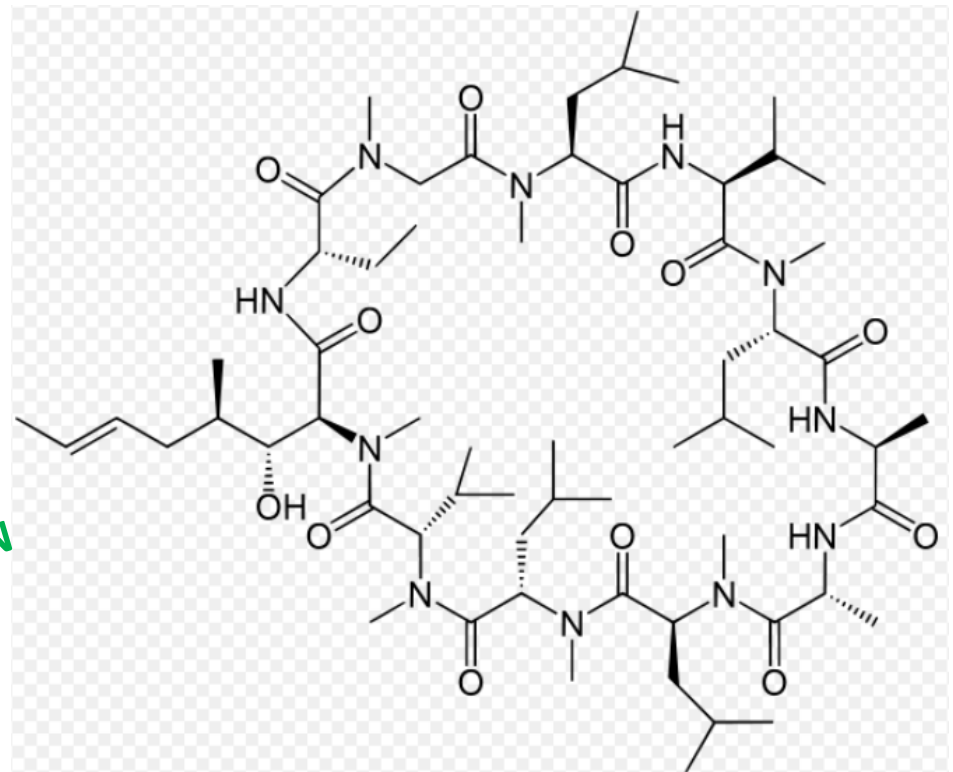
- Only 2% of the marketed medicines
- 200 peptide drugs are currently in clinical development
- Advantage: high selectivity, low amount need for optimal exposure, agonists
- Disadvantage, formulation issue, (oral no option) stability, cost of goods

## Cyclosporin A

Immunesupressor, block calcineurin  
transplantation medicine, antifungal  
natural product



WORKSHOP : ALLOIMMUNITY\_SANDIMUN



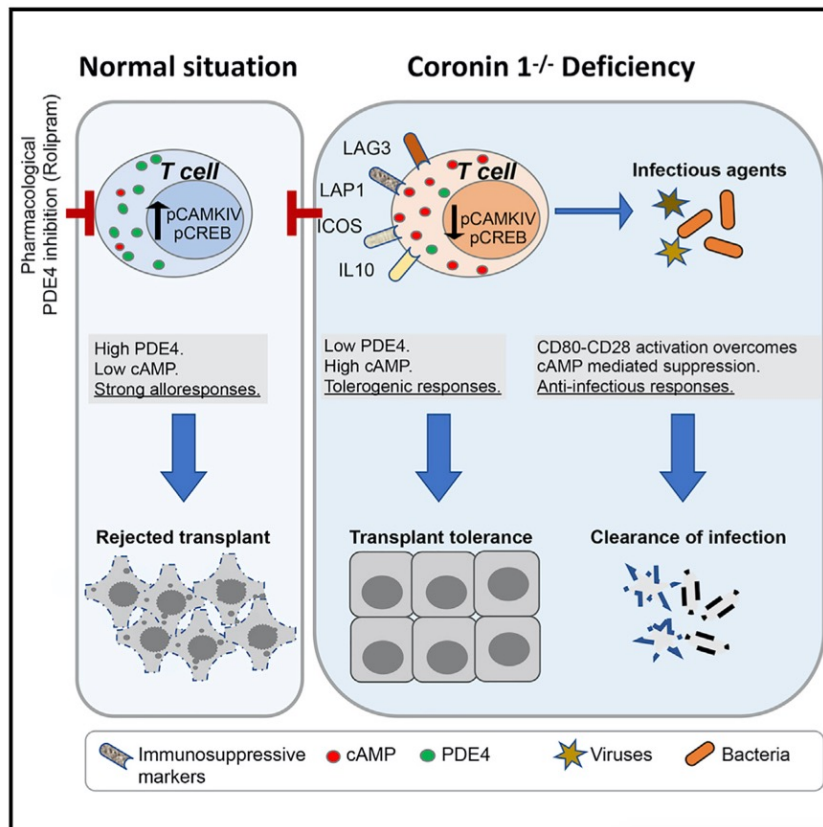
- Cyclosporin, **pioneering peptide drug**, originally fungistatic (!) with oral administration (stable cyclic peptide (exceptional) turned out immunosupressor (Sandimmun) derived from a natural fungi compound library screen by JF Borel et al in Sandoz Basel.



## Immunity

# Disruption of Coronin 1 Signaling in T Cells Promotes Allograft Tolerance while Maintaining Anti-Pathogen Immunity

### Graphical Abstract



### Authors

Rajesh Jayachandran,  
Aleksandra Gumienny,  
Beatrice Bolinger, ..., Nina Khanna,  
Simona W. Rossi, Jean Pieters

### Correspondence

rajesh.jayachandran@unibas.ch (R.J.),  
jean.pieters@unibas.ch (J.P.)

### In Brief

Avoiding infection as a consequence of immunosuppression following organ transplantation has been elusive. Here, Jayachandran et al. demonstrate that targeting the immunoregulatory protein coronin 1 in mice results in allograft-specific tolerance in the absence of immunosuppression-associated comorbidities. Coronin 1-deficiency increased cAMP concentrations to suppress allo-specific T cell responses

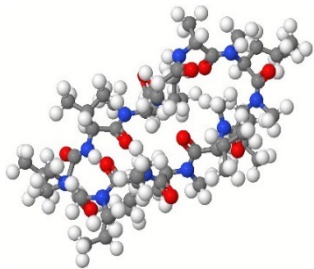


## Calcineurin is a phosphatase in the signal cascade towards NFAT T cell transcriptional regulation

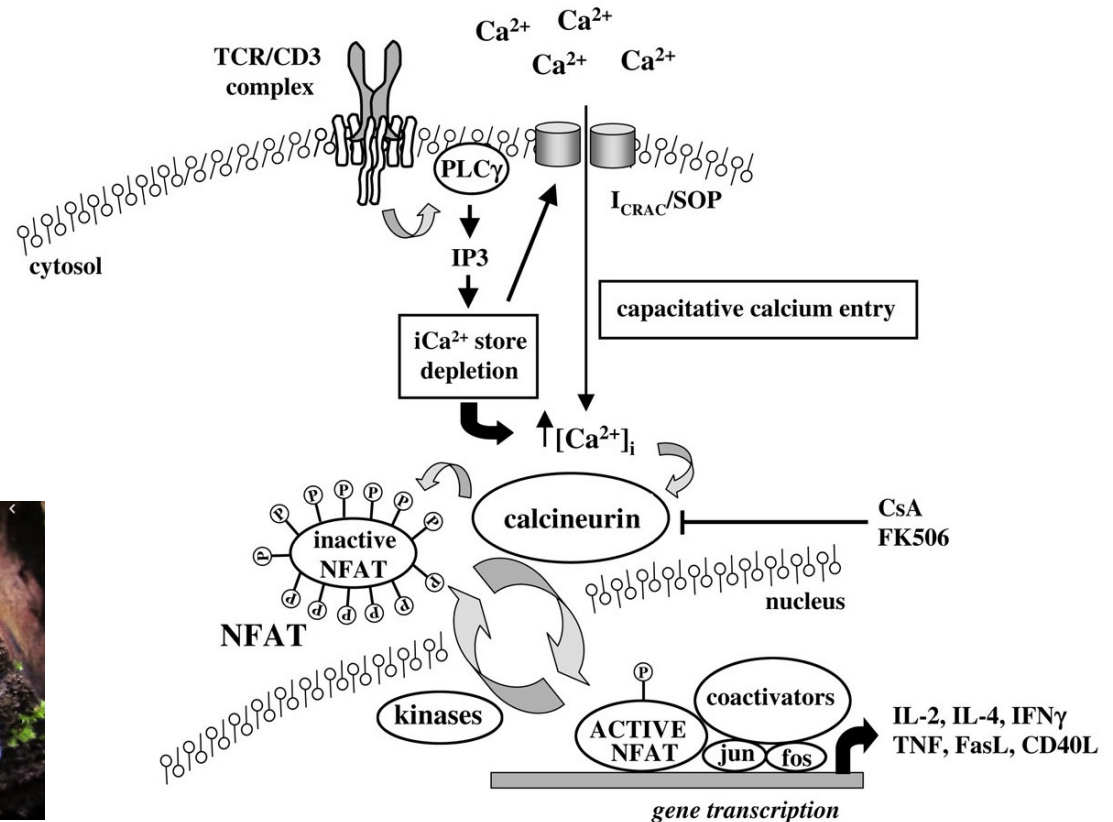
### Cyclosporin A

Immunesupressor,block calcineurin  
transplantation medicine, antifungal  
natural product

*Trichoderma polysporum*



From: [Studies of T-cell activation in chronic inflammation](#)



Arthritis Research

- Cyclosporin, **pioneering peptide drug**, originally fungistatic (!) with oral administration (stable cyclic peptide (exceptional) turned out immunosuppressor (Sandimmun) derived from a natural fungi compound library screen by JF Borel et al in Sandoz Basel in 1970's Guryanov I et al. J. 2016 Pept. Sci. 22:471-479

## Drugging the undruggable targets – direct pharmacological intervention by protein:protein interaction disruption



- The genomic revolution provided drug discovery an ever since increasing number of therapeutic targets
- Mutated genes and pathologic protein products have emerged as precision medicine anti cancer drug target
- **In particular the relevance of protein:protein interactions highlights a number of new challenges for medicinal chemists with often no suitable/ targetable binding pocket for the design of a classical small molecule chemistry is available**
- **Stapling peptide based drug modalities** are getting developed to bridge the gap between **BIOLOGICALS**/protein therapeutics (MABs) modalities and **CHEMICALS** small MW cpds from undruggable potential therapeutic targets

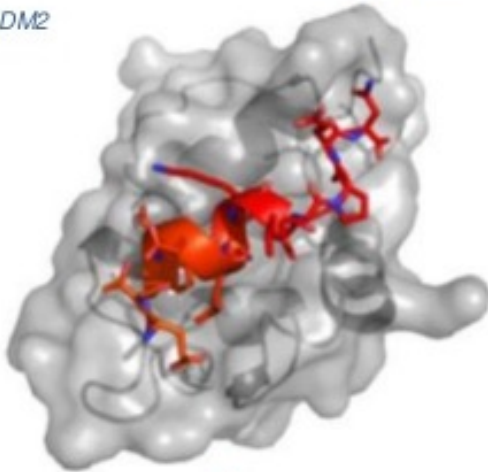
# „ Drugging the undruggable therapeutic targets“



## Fragment Linking – Protein-Protein Interactions

### Why protein-protein interactions as targets?

p53-HDM2

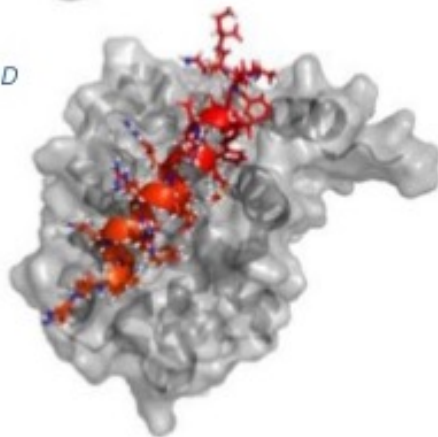


Protein-Protein interactions (PPI's) are found throughout biological systems. Typically these are defined as **difficult targets** as success rates in targeting these has been low especially using HTS approaches.

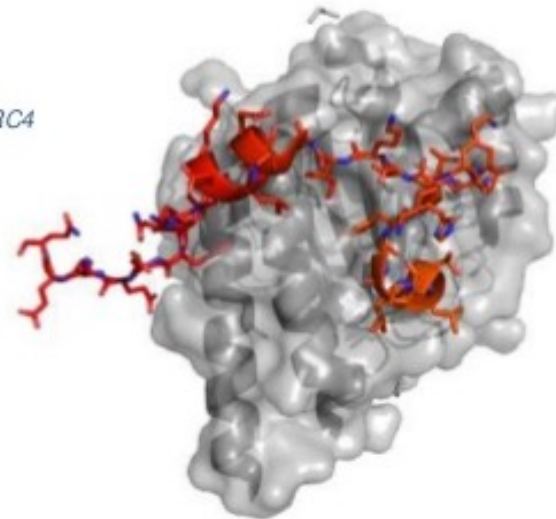
Unlike conventional targets they do not have distinct binding pockets however they have what is known as 'hot-spots' typically on the surface of the protein

**FBDD** has been used successfully against a number of these targets however none to date have been approved as drugs although in a number of cases there are compounds in Phase I/II development.

Bcl-BAD



RAD51-BRC4

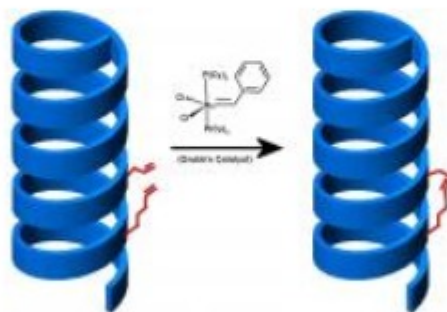




## Alkenyl Amino Acids for Stapled Peptides

Stapled peptides are promising intracellular drug targets. They may have increased target affinity, cell penetrating ability and increased proteolytic resistance in comparison to non-stapled analogs (GL Verdine, GJ Hilinski *Methods Enzymol.* **2012**, 503, 3-33).

Stapled peptides are formed by incorporating special amino acids with olefinic side chains at the  $i$ ,  $i+4$  positions (one-loop staple) or at  $i$ ,  $i+7$  positions (two-loop staple). The hydrocarbon bridge is formed by a ring-closing metathesis reaction catalyzed by benzylidenebis(tricyclohexyl-phosphine)-dichlororuthenium (Grubb's catalyst).



AAPPTec supplies a wide selection of high purity Fmoc-alkenyl alanines used to prepare stapled peptides through a ring-closing metathesis reaction. **AAPPTec's products are affordably priced and are also available in bulk quantities for additional savings.** Please send an e-mail to [sales@aapptec.com](mailto:sales@aapptec.com) for a quotation on larger quantities or use the [On-Line Quote Request](#).

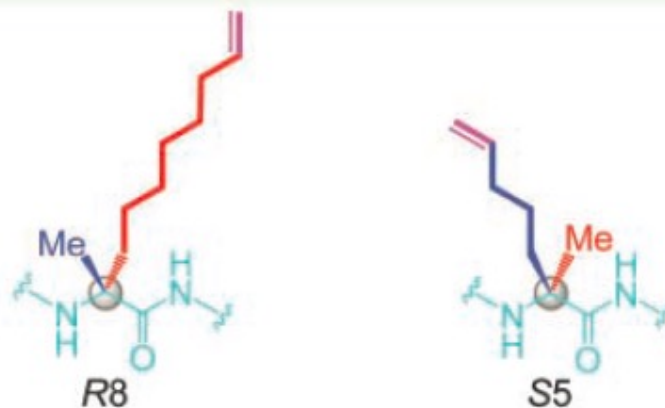
**DESIGNER AA USED  
TO INTRODUCE ALL-  
HYDROCARBON  
STAPLES INTO  
PEPTIDES**

**CLOSING THE  
MACRO CYCLIC  
RING ENFORCES  
ALPHA HELICAL  
STRUCTURE**

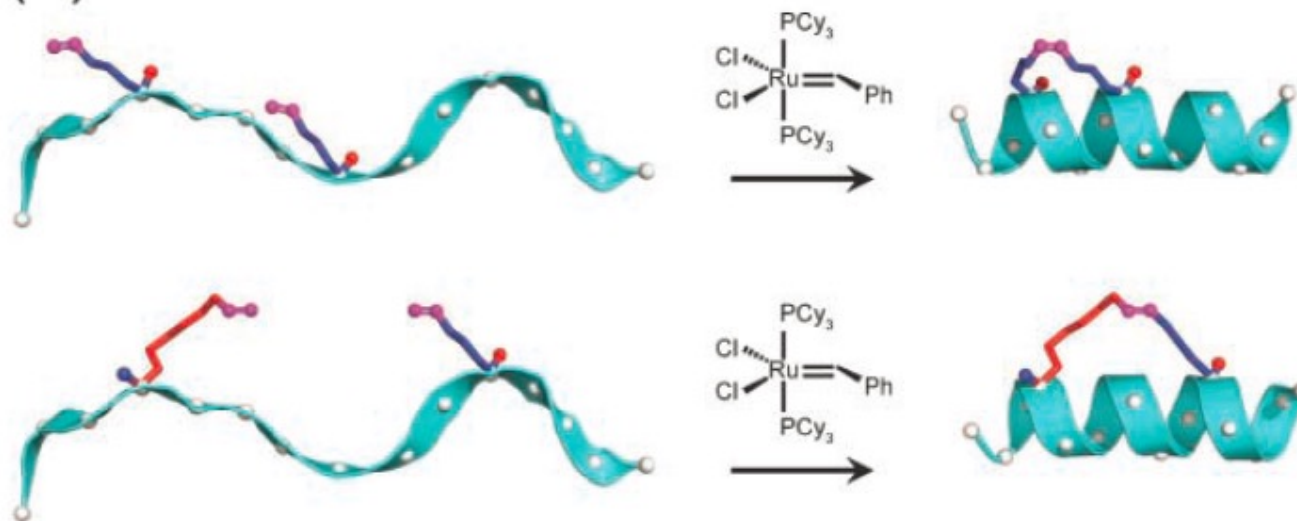
# Drugging undruggable targets – peptide stapling



(A)



(B)



-Designer AA used to introduce all-hydrocarbon staples into peptides  
-Closing the macrocyclic ring enforces alpha helical structure



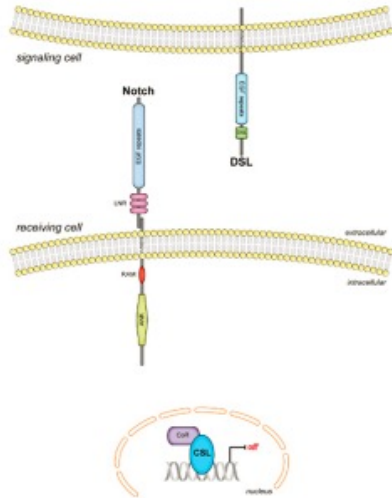
# Direct inhibition of the NOTCH transcription factor complex

Raymond E. Moellering<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Melanie Cornejo<sup>4</sup>, Tina N. Davis<sup>6</sup>, Cristina Del Bianco<sup>5</sup>, Jon C. Aster<sup>5</sup>, Stephen C. Blacklow<sup>5</sup>, Andrew L. Kung<sup>6</sup>, D. Gary Gilliland<sup>4,7</sup>, Gregory L. Verdine<sup>1,3</sup> & James E. Bradner<sup>2,3,8</sup>

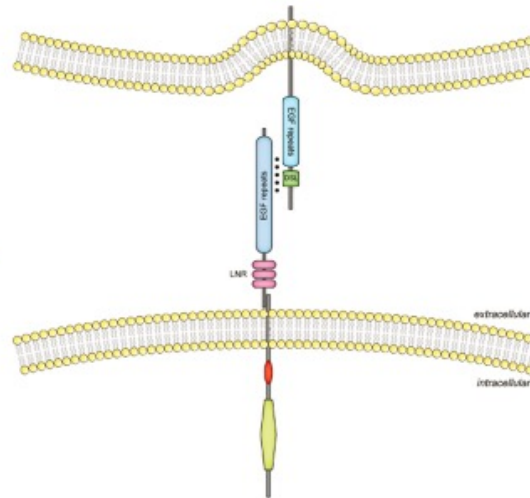
Direct inhibition of transcription factor complexes remains a central challenge in the discipline of ligand discovery. In general, these proteins lack surface involutions suitable for high-affinity binding by small molecules. Here we report the design of synthetic, cell-permeable, stabilized  $\alpha$ -helical peptides that target a critical protein-protein interface in the NOTCH transactivation complex. We demonstrate that direct, high-affinity binding of the hydrocarbon-stapled peptide SAHM1 prevents assembly of the active transcriptional complex. Inappropriate NOTCH activation is directly implicated in the pathogenesis of several disease states, including T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (T-ALL). The treatment of leukaemic cells with SAHM1 results in genome-wide suppression of NOTCH-activated genes. Direct antagonism of the NOTCH transcriptional program causes potent, NOTCH-specific anti-proliferative effects in cultured cells and in a mouse model of NOTCH1-driven T-ALL.

**Transcription factors are the final effectors of the cellular signaling cascade**

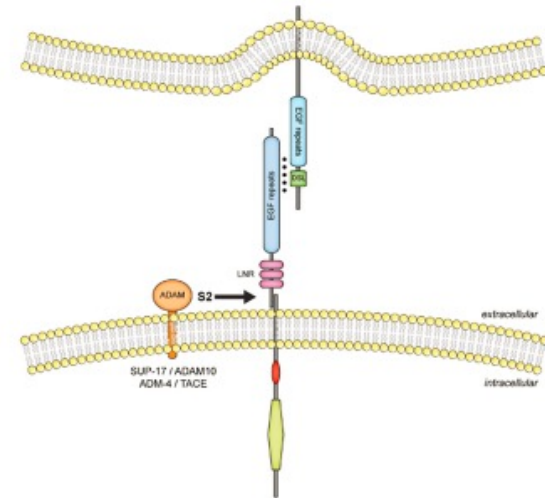
# NOTCH cellular signal pathway : cell to cell communication



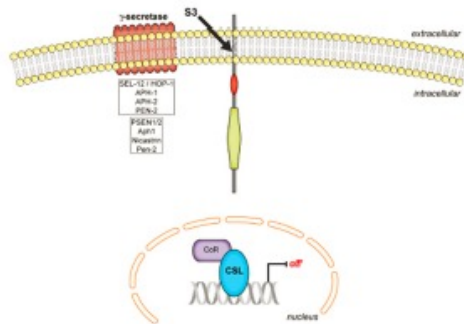
1. In the absence of Notch signal transduction CSL represses target genes.



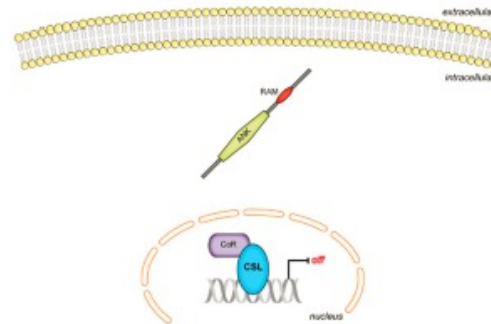
2. Endocytosis in the signaling cell is required for ligand activity.



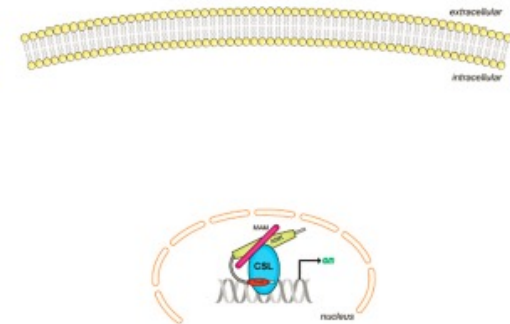
3. Ligand binding triggers S2 cleavage and ectodomain shedding.



4. Ectodomain shedding triggers S3 cleavage.

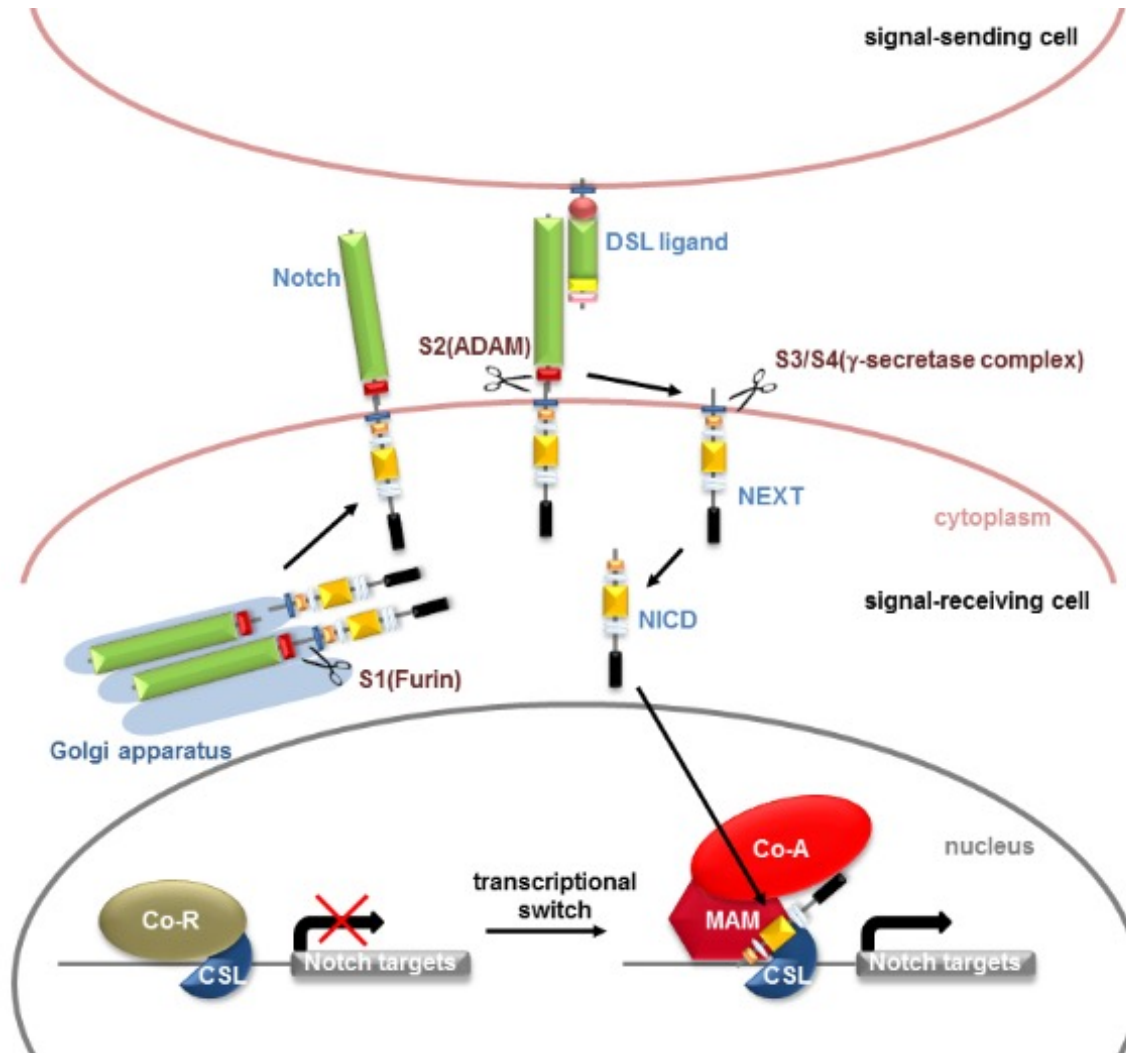


5. S3 cleavage releases the intracellular domain for nuclear translocation.

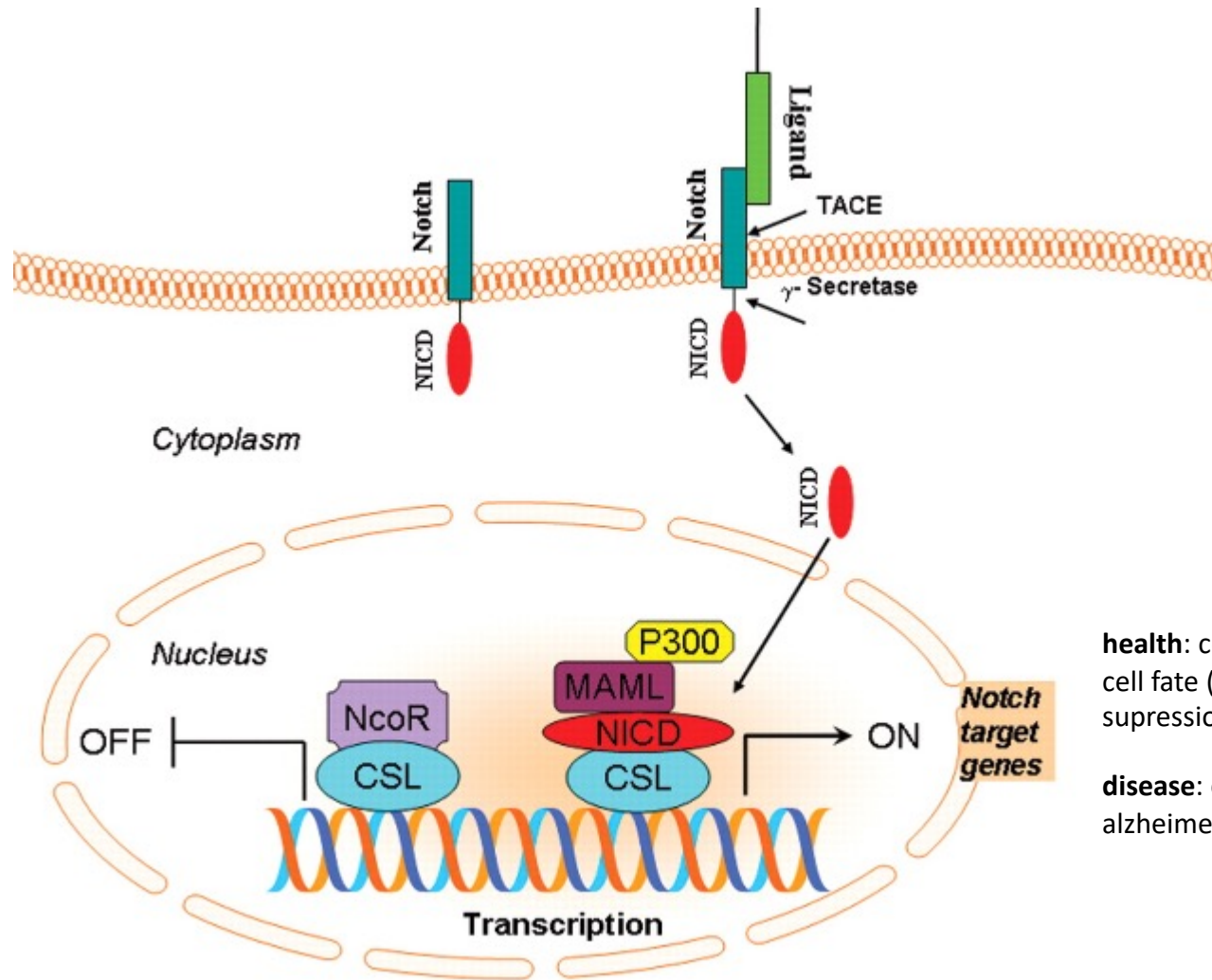


6. The CSL-NICD-MAM ternary complex activates target gene transcription.

# NOTCH signal and the transcriptional ON /OFF readout pathway



# NOTCH signal and the transcriptional ON /OFF readout pathway



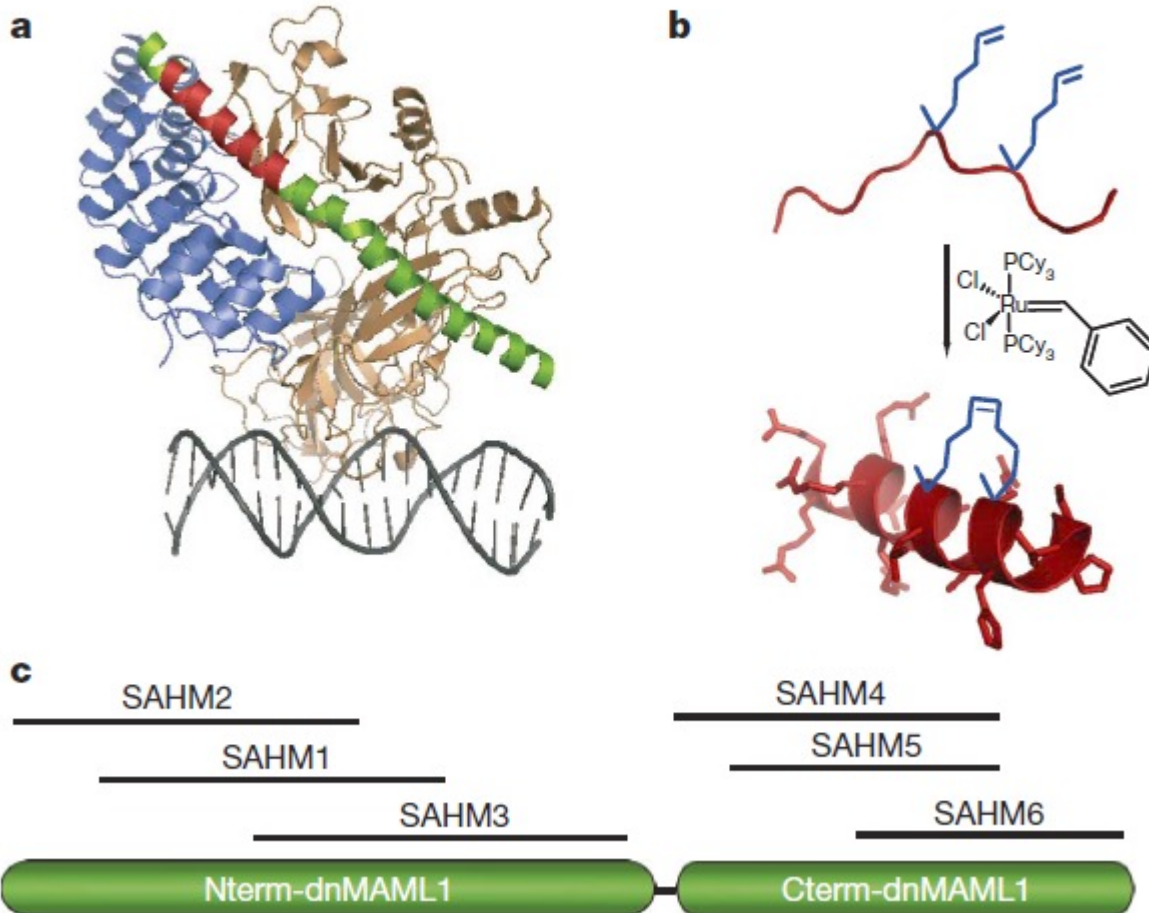
**health:** cell-cell com,  
cell fate (promotion  
suppression of proliferation)

**disease:** colon cancer,  
alzheimer, T-ALL leukaemia

# Drugging undruggable targets – direct NOTCH signal inhibition by protein:protein interaction disruption at the target genes

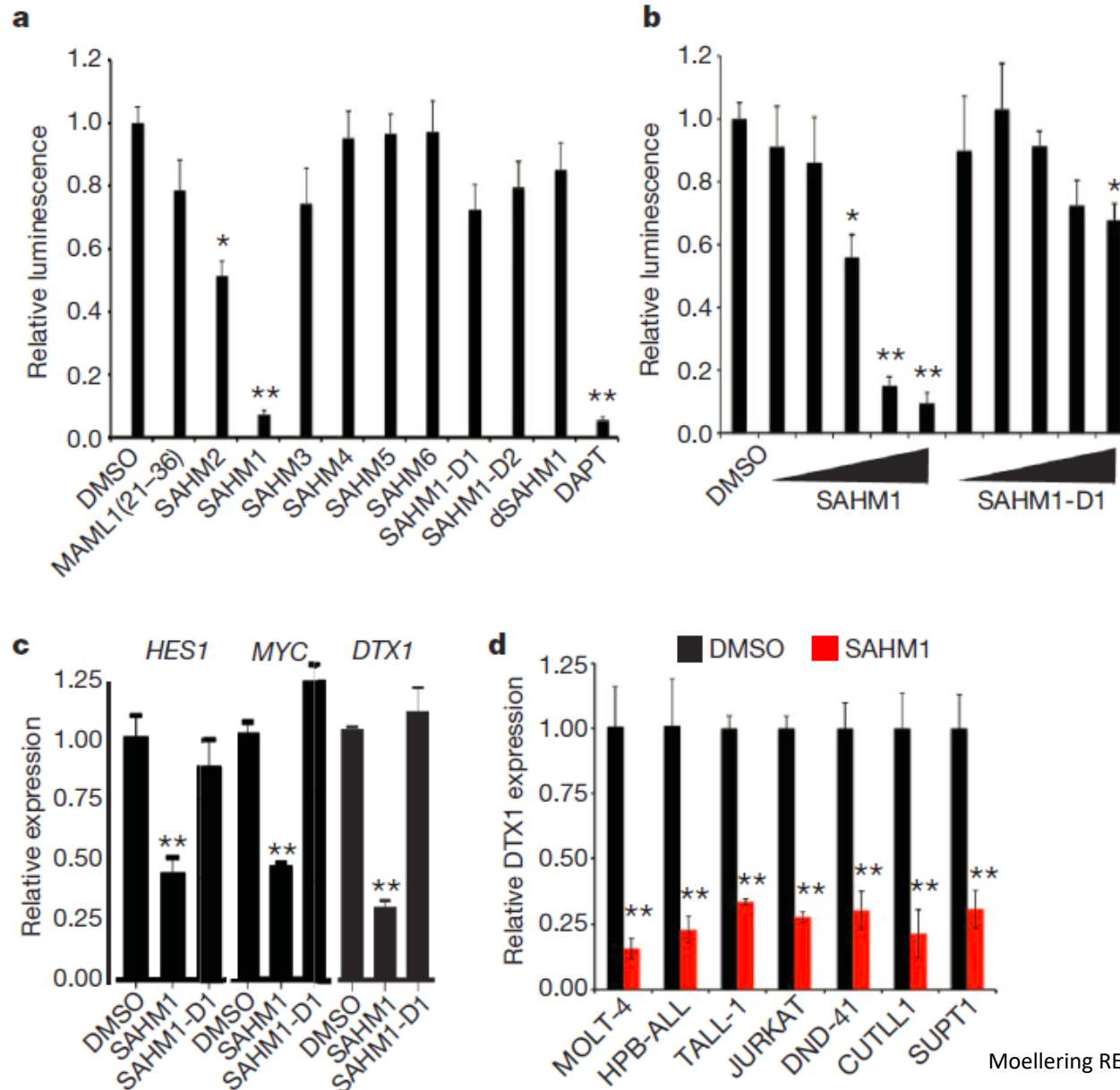


NATURE | Vol 462 | 12 November 2009



Compound	Sequence	Helicity
MAML1(21-36)	βA1a-ERLRRRIELCRHHST	23%
SAHM1-UN	βA1a-ERLRRRI*LCR*HHST	40%
SAHM1	βA1a-ERLRRRI*LCR*HHST	94%
SAHM2	βA1a-SAVMERL*RRR*LCRRHH	73%
SAHM3	βA1a-RIELCRHH*TCE*RYEAV	59%
SAHM4	βA1a-ERLELER*HTF*LHQQR	67%
SAHM5	βA1a-ELER*HTF*LHQQR	72%
SAHM6	βA1a-QHTFALH*RCI*AKAKR	56%
SAHM1-D1	βA1a-RELRREI*LCR*HHST	83%
SAHM1-D2	βA1a-RELRREI*LCE*HHST	78%
dSAHM1	βA1a-DRLRRRM*NYR*RQTD	55%

# Drugging undruggable targets – direct NOTCH final effector inhibition by protein:protein interaction blockade using „peptide stapling“





THANK YOU.....



DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ?

