



# **Complement blockers** new kids on the block

### **Julien Zuber**

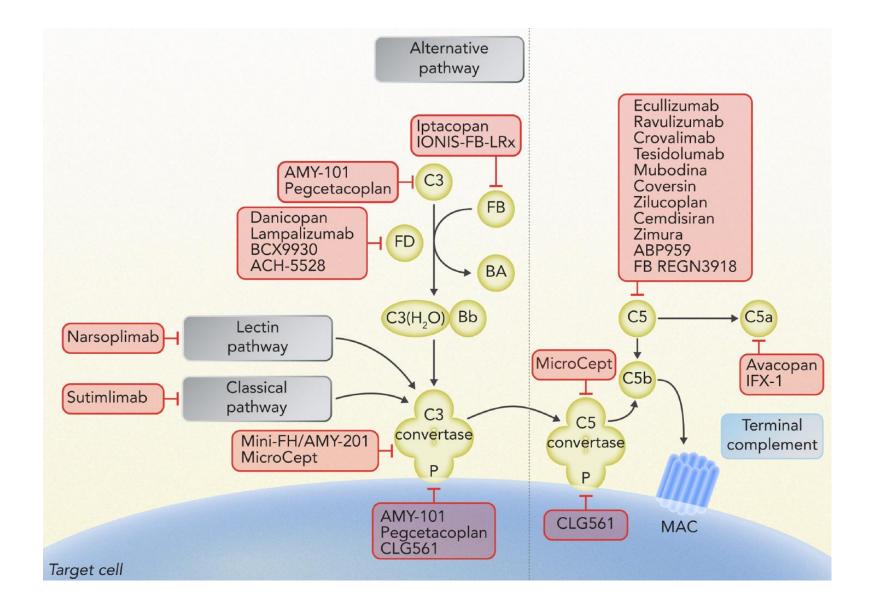
Department of Renal and Metabolic Diseases, Transplantation, and Clinical Immunology Necker Hospital

### Disclosures

### **Alexion Pharmaceutical**

- Speaker fees
- Travel grant

### The pipeline is full and brimming with promise



Gavriilaki Blood 2021

# What are the goals to achieve?



To be at least as efficient as eculizumab



Less constraints in terms of the route of administration and drug scheduling



Similar or greater safety profile



### What do we have in the toolbox?

### Small molecule inhibitors

- Pegylation or coupling may extend their half-life
- Desired short-term effect
- Oral bioavailability can be achieved

### **Monoclonal Antibodies**

- Highly-specific for their target
- Longer half-life



### Small molecule inhibitors

- Lack of specificity
- Off-target effects
- Short half-life *in vivo*

### **Monoclonal Antibodies**

- More expensive
- Low intra-tissue spread

# Outlines

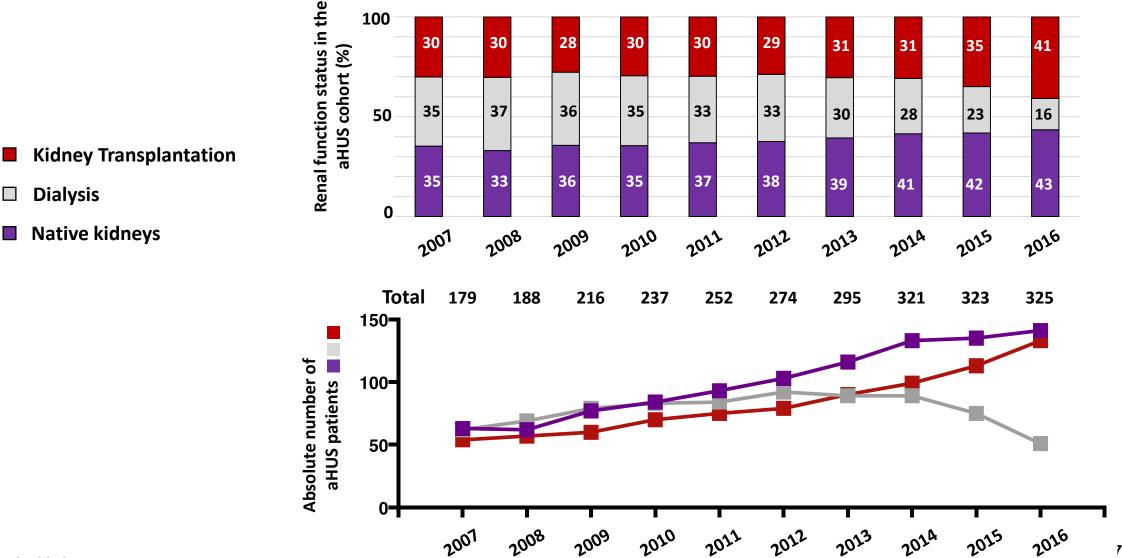
1 - Atypical HUS / TMA

2 – C3G

- 3 IgAN
- 4 Antibody-mediated rejection
- 5 Brain death and ischemia reperfusion

Acknowledgement: Avacopan for ANCA-associated vasculitis is left out in purpose

### The aHUS population under chronic dialysis has shrunk during the eculizumab era <sup>7</sup>



Zuber JASN 2019

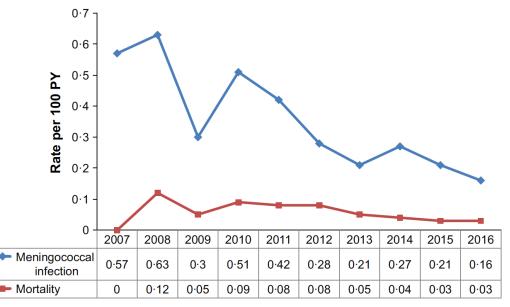
### Eculizumab: 10-year pharmacovigilance analysis



- March 2007 through October 2016
- Cumulative exposure to eculizumab was 28 518 patientyears
  - $\Rightarrow$  PNH: 21 016 PY
  - $\Rightarrow$  aHUS: 7502 PY
- 76 cases of meningococcal infections (0.25/100 PY)
  - $\Rightarrow$  PNH: 0.24/100 PY
  - ⇒ aHUS: 0.29/100 PY

(**1000 to 2000-fold higher** in patients receiving eculizumab compared with the general population)

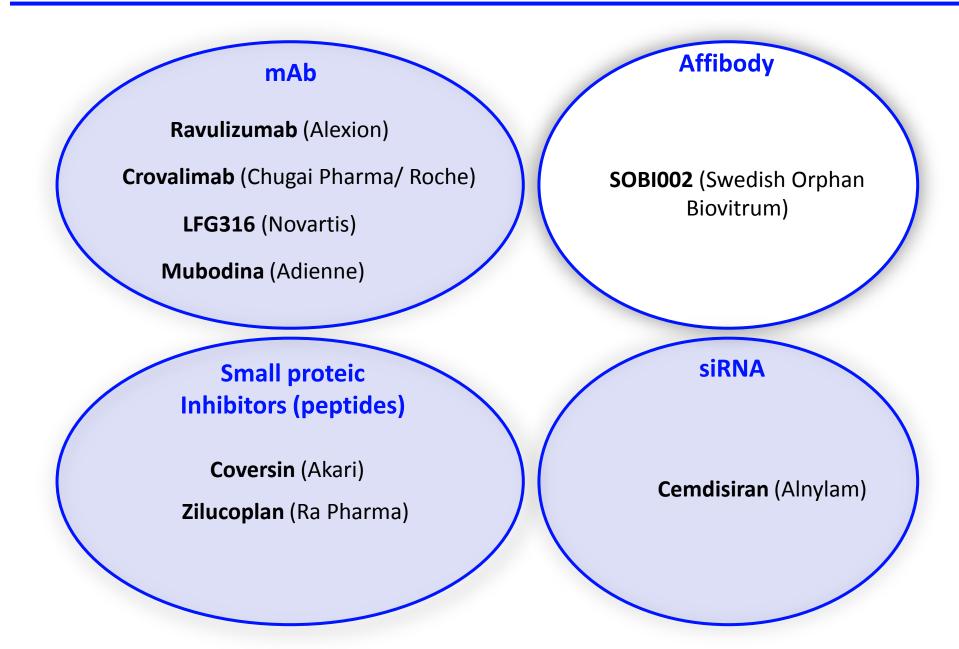
8 deaths related to meningococcal infection



Time (years)

The rate of meningococcal infections tended to decrease over time, ranging from 0.57 /100 PY in 2007 to 0.16 /100 PY in 2016

### **Other C5 blockers**



### **Coversin - Nomacopan**

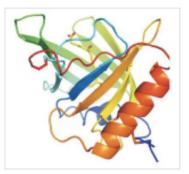
**Akari Therapeutics** 

### **Ornithodoros moubata**

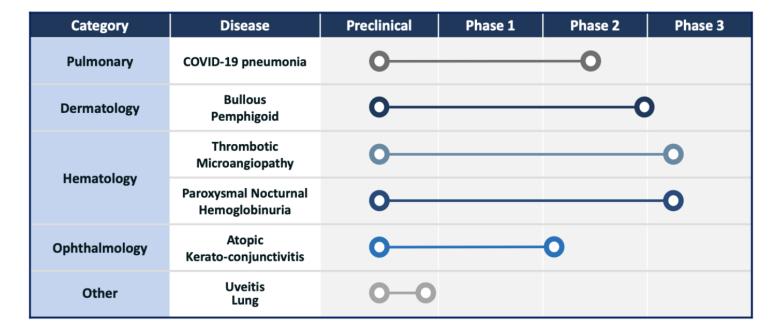


Coversin is a small protein (17kDa) derived from a factor isolated in 2005 from the saliva of the *Ornithodoros moubata* tick.

Prevent the cleavage of C5 by binding the C5 in a different region than eculizumab

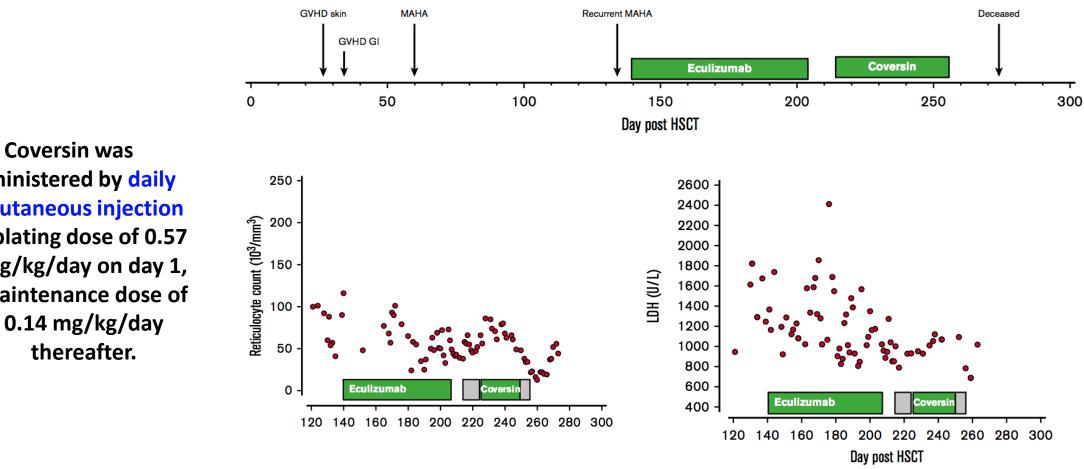


Nomacopan structure



### **Coversin - Nomacopan**

### Eculizumab-resistant post-HSCT TMA in a patient with CFH and C5 Arg885His variants



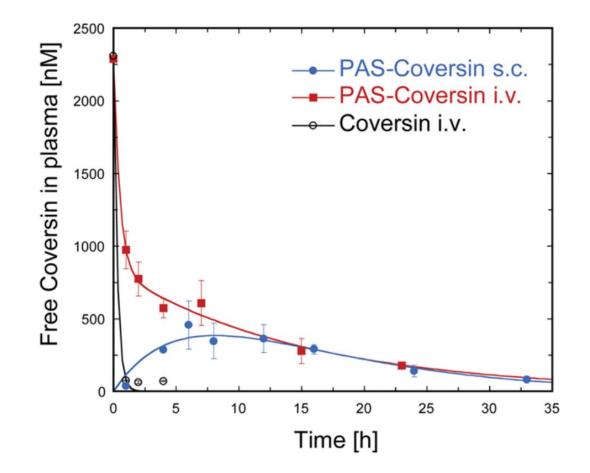
**Akari Therapeutics** 

administered by daily subcutaneous injection ablating dose of 0.57

- mg/kg/day on day 1,
- maintenance dose of 0.14 mg/kg/day thereafter.

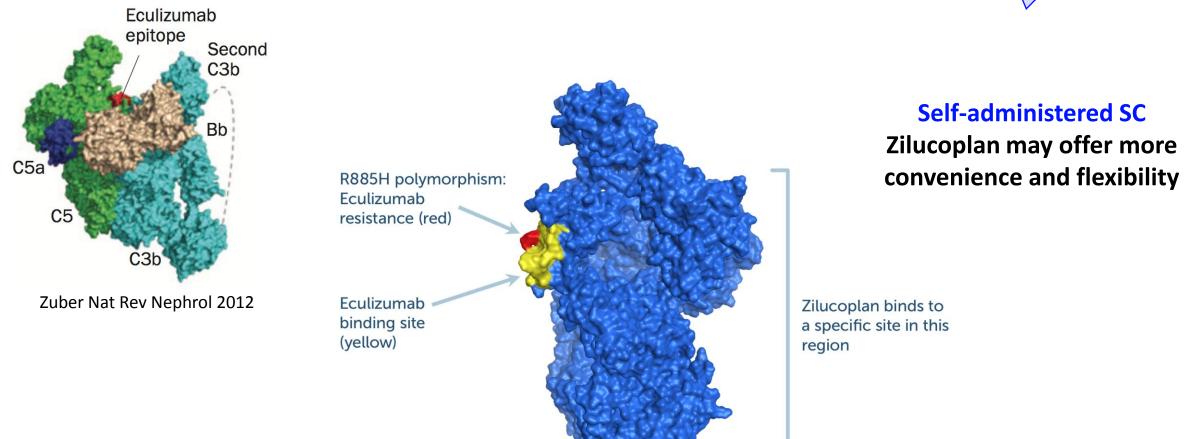
# PASylated Coversin

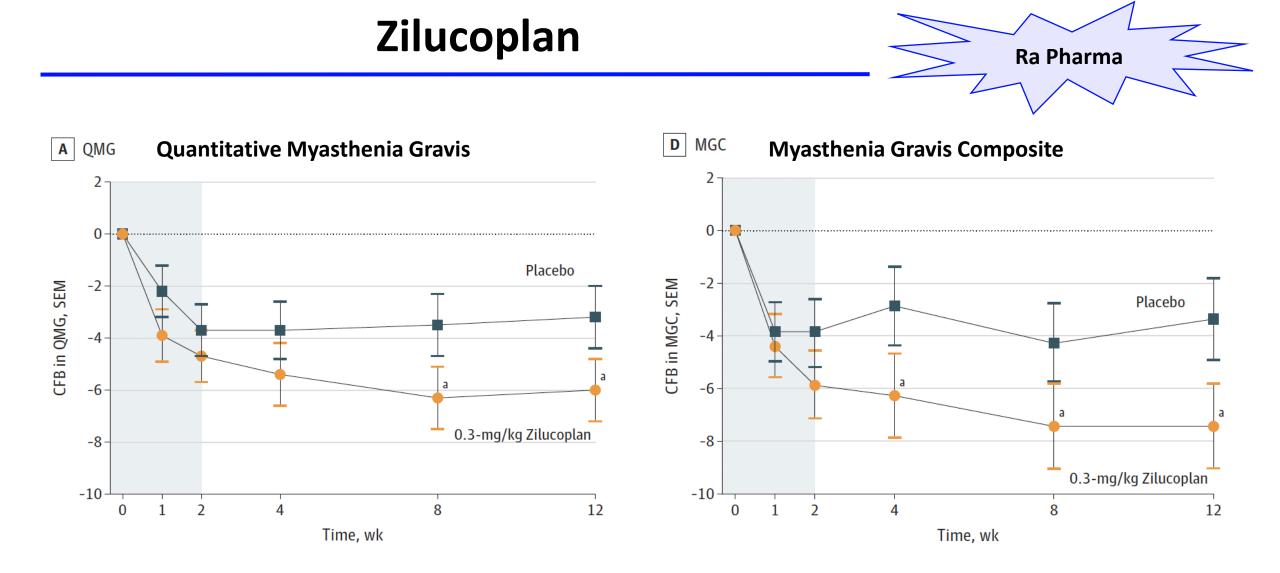
Development of PAS-Coversin is underway. Half-life should be extended to a weekly dosing regimen



# Zilucoplan

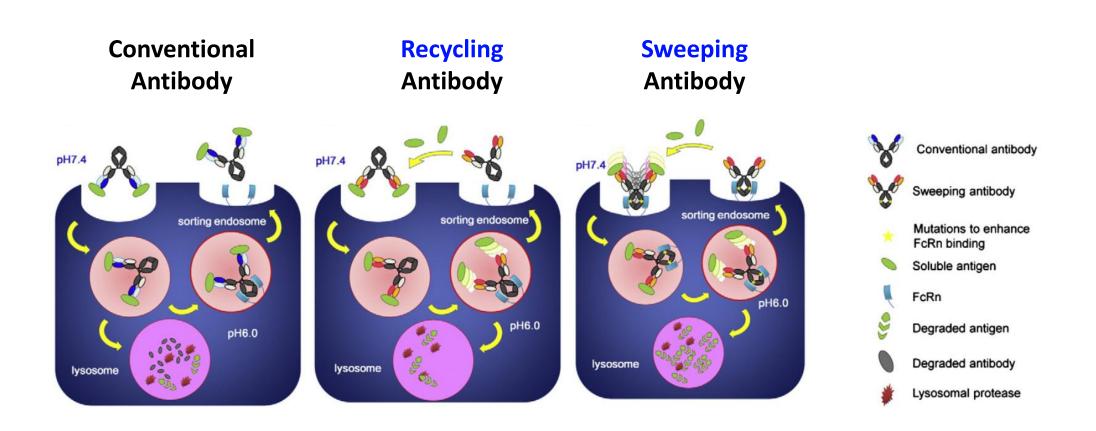






SC administration of zilucoplan (0.3 mg/kg/day) yielded rapid and sustained improvements over 12 weeks in a broad population of patients with moderate to severe AChR-Ab-positive gMG

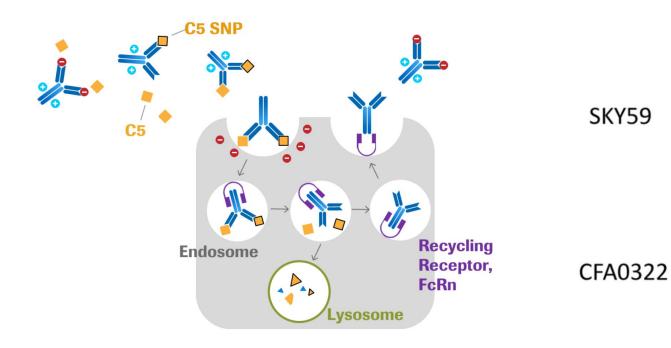
# pH-dependent antigen-binding antibodies



Recycling antibody bound to a soluble antigen in plasma is taken up into cells in the same way as conventional antibody. However, within the sorting endosome, the recycling antibody dissociates the soluble antigen by utilizing its pH-dependent antigen-binding property. The dissociated antigen is transferred to a lysosome and degraded whereas the free antibody is recycled back to the plasma by FcRn

# SKY59 - Crovalimab

Chugai Pharma/Roche -



# C5 FcRn Merge

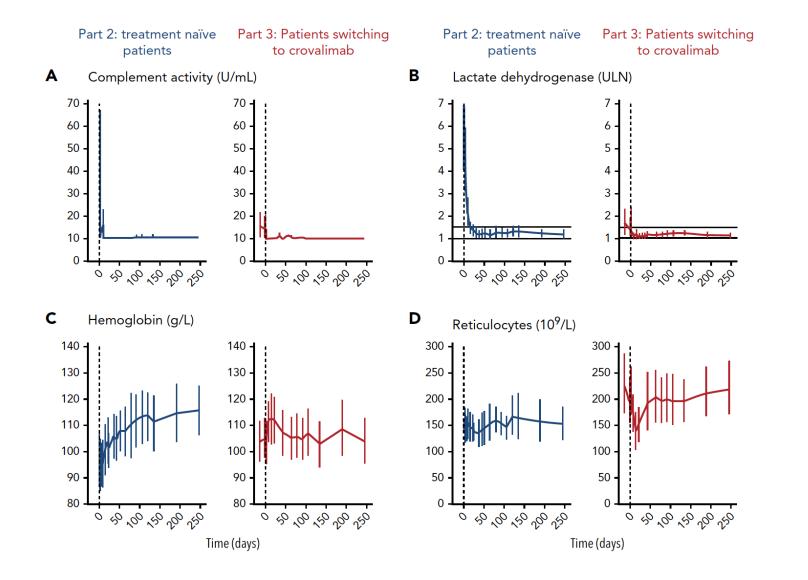
### **Multidimensional optimization results**

in a C5-specific antibody with subnanomolar affinity and a 1000-fold lower binding affinity for C5 at pH 5.8.

Administration into cynomolgus monkeys shows that the pH-dependent binding property contributes to the prolongation of the half-life of the C5 antibody.

# SKY59 - Crovalimab

Chugai Pharma/Roche-

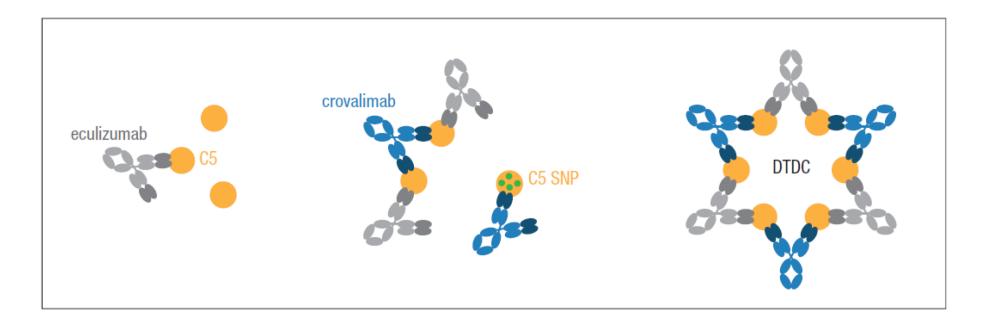


### PNH

Subcutaneous crovalimab (680 mg; 4 mL) administered once every 4 weeks, provides complete and sustained terminal complement pathway inhibition and suppressed hemolytic activity

### SKY59 - Crovalimab

Chugai Pharma/Roche

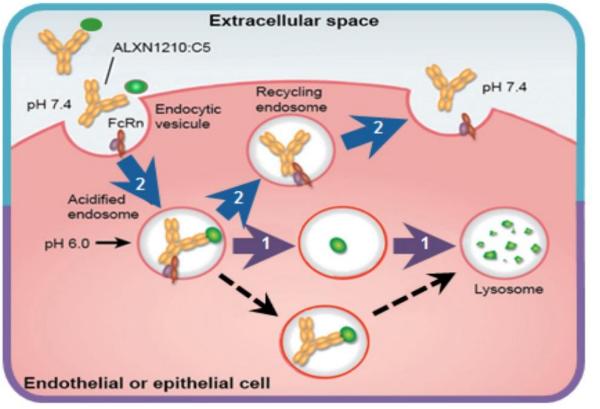


Drug-target-drug complexes (DTDCs) are expected to develop if patients are exposed to crovalimab and eculizumab simultaneously during a switch period

DTDCs of crovalimab, C5 and eculizumab of different sizes were detected in all 19 patients switching to crovalimab, manifesting as transient mild or moderate vasculitis skin reactions in 2/19, but not in any of the treatment-naïve patients.



# Ravulizumab (ALXN1210): mechanism of extended duration of action



### Substitution of 4 amino acids

As endosomal pH falls below 6.0, the affinity of ravulizumab for C5 weakens (about 36 times), favoring their dissociation, hence minimizing target-mediated drug disposition

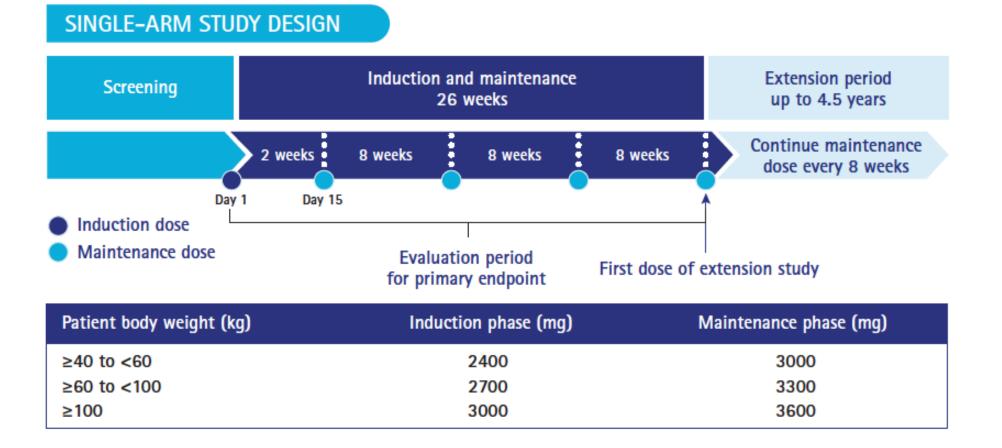
At lower endosomal pH, the affinity of ravulizumab for FcRn strengthens (10 foldincrease), increasing the probability of free ALXN1210 recycling back to circulation

**3 fold-increased half-life of ravulizumab** compared to eculizumab

### 311 Study

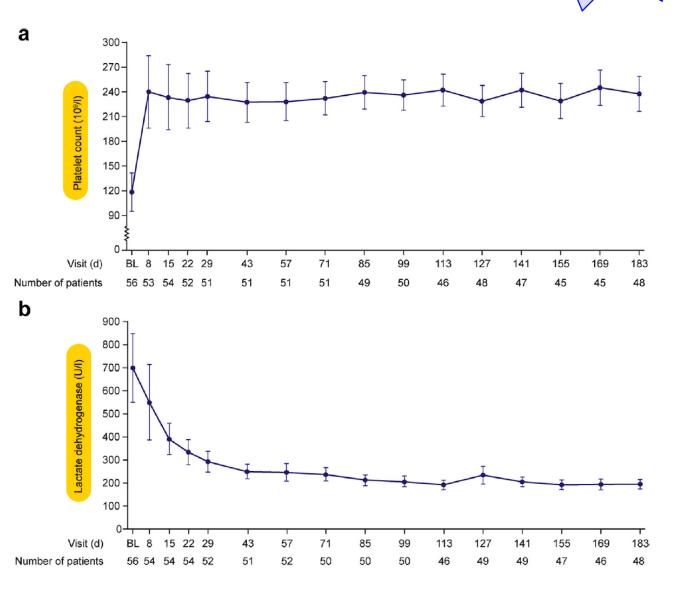
Single loading dose on Day 1, followed by regular maintenance dosing (every 8 weeks) beginning on Day 15.

Alexion



Alexion

### Prompt and satisfactory hematological response





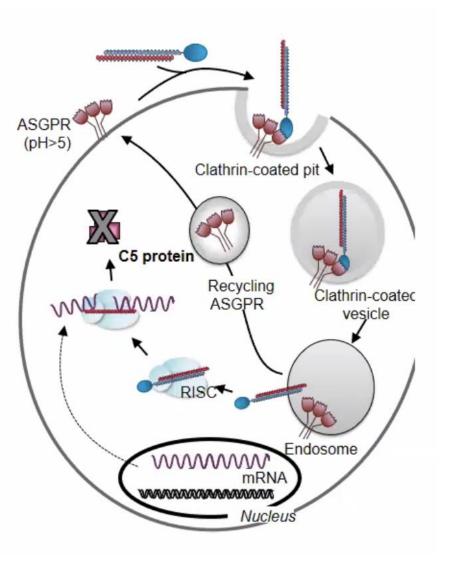
**Improvement in eGFR** 

(changed to a less severe category between baseline and day 183) was seen in 32 of 47 patients (68.1%).

Dialysis was discontinued in 17 of 29 patients (58.6%)

eGFR categories at baseline (N=47) <sup>a</sup>		eGFR categories at day 183						
		1 (≥90)	2 (60–89)	3a (45–59)	3b (30–44)	4 (15–29)	5 (<15)	
1 (≥90)	0 (0.0)							
2 (60–89)	3 (6.4)	2 (4.3)	1 (2.1)					
3a (45–59)	1 (2.1)	1 (2.1)						
3b (30–44)	2 (4.3)	2 (4.3)						
4 (15–29)	7 (14.9)	1 (2.1)			3 (6.4)	1 (2.1)	2 (4.3)	
5 (<15)	34 (72.3)	6 (12.8)	6 (12.8)	3 (6.4)	3 (6.4)	5 (10.6)	11 (23.4)	

# Cemdisiran

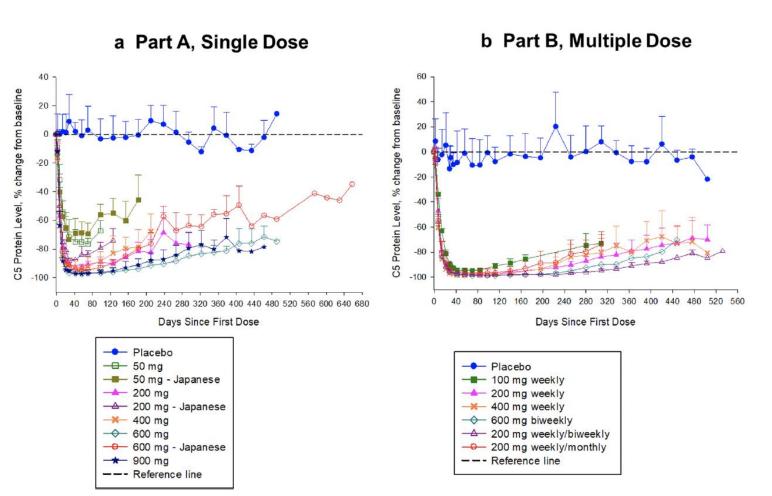


- Double-stranded siRNA
- The **sense strand is conjugated to GalNac** for targeted delivery to the liver via binding to ASGPR on hepatocytes

Alnylam Pharmaceuticals

- Cemdisiran targets a region of C5 mRNA away from the p.Arg885His mutation
- Once the anti-sense strand is loaded onto the RISC (RNAinduced silencing complex), it induces the cleavage of the complementary messenger RNA.

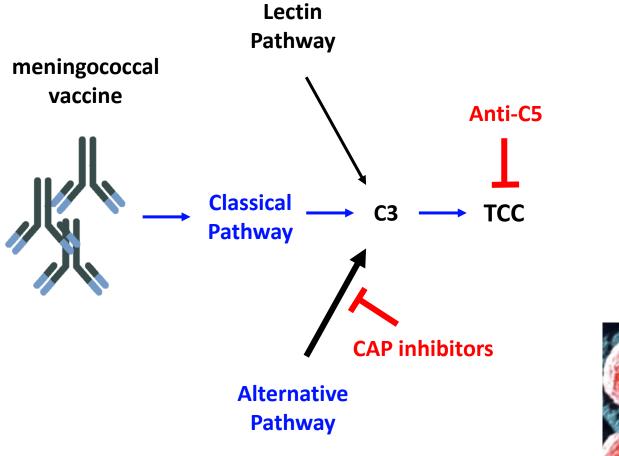
### Cemdisiran

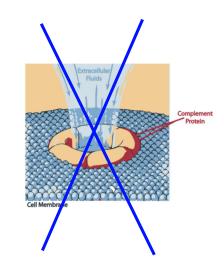


Robust C5 suppression maintained up to 13 months following single and multiple doses, which indicates long residence times of cemdisiran within hepatocytes

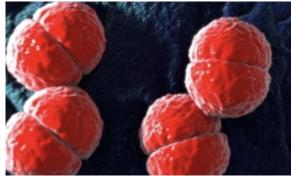
**Alnylam Pharmaceuticals** 

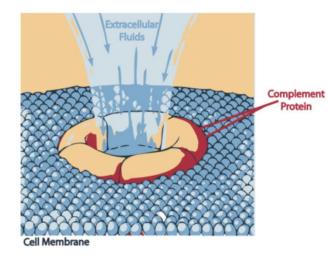
# **Complement alternative pathway inhibitors in aHUS ?**

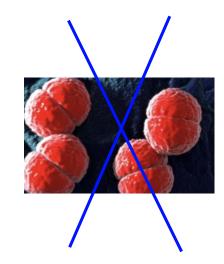




N. meningitidis





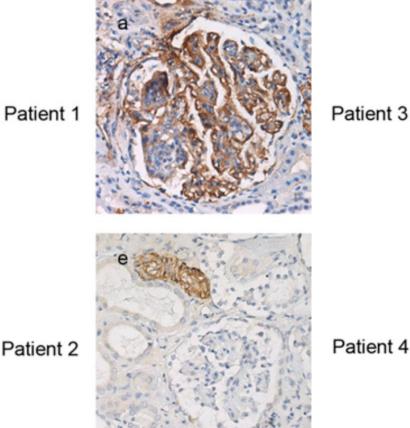


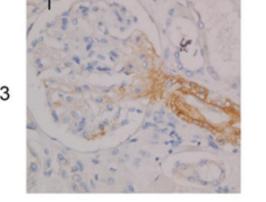
# Involvement of the lectin pathway in aHUS/TMA?

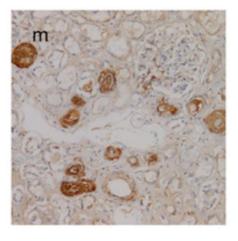
Cases with aHUS had C4d deposits in glomeruli (54.5%) and arterioles (54.5%).

C4d deposits were present in all six samples from patients with HSCT-TMA and were predominantly localized in the glomeruli (100%) and in the arterioles (66.7%)

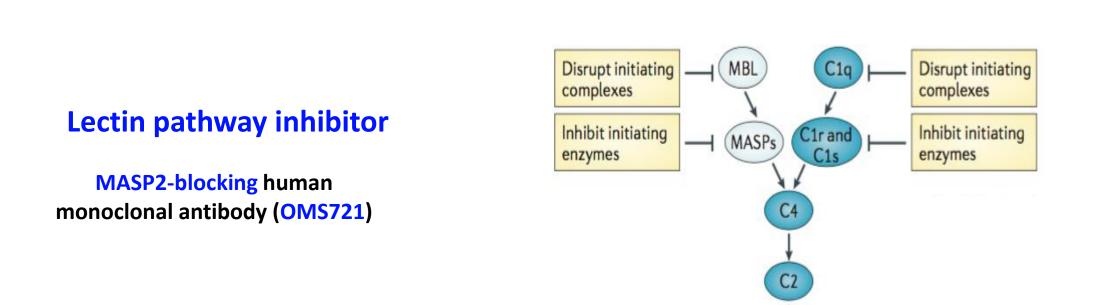
Patient 2







### Targeting the enzymes of the initiating complex



Individuals with loss-of-function mutation in *MBL2* can develop infections of the upper respiratory tract but also may contract more serious infections (pneumonia, meningitis)

Morgan Nat Rev Drug Discov 2015

# OMS721 - narsoplimab



**Adult TMA** 

### Updated results presented during the 2021 Transplantation & Cellular Therapy Meetings (not yet published)

In a single-arm, open-label, phase 2 trial, investigators enrolled 28 patients to receive narsoplimab IV once weekly for 4 or 8 weeks, along with a 6-week follow-up period.

Findings showed that narsoplimab (OMS721) elicited:

- 61% objective response rate
- 74% improvement in any organ function
- 67% improvement in renal function
- Narsoplimab was well tolerated



<u>A Phase 3 trial</u> in aHUS was approved by the FDA (March 2016) and EMA (July 2016), and subsequently launched in February 2017 (*ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT 03205995*)

### OMS721 - narsoplimab



### **Adult TMA**

### Toward an expedited development and review of OMS721 in HSCT-TMA



FDA grants breakthrough therapy designation to OMS721 for the treatment of high-risk HSCT-TMA (April 26 2018)

- European Commission designates OMS721 as an orphan medicinal product for treatment in HSCT (August 28, 2018)
- In January 2021, the FDA granted a priority review designation to a license application for narsoplimab for the treatment of HSCT-TMA. The regulatory agency is expected to make a decision on the application by July 2021.

### Antibodies to watch in 2022

International non- proprietary name	Target; Format	Indication under review	Status in EU In review	Status in US In review
Faricimab	VEGF-A, Ang-2; Human/humanized IgG1			
	$\lambda$ bispecific	macular degeneration		
Sutimlimab	C1s; Humanized IgG4	Cold agglutinin disease	NA	In review (2nd cycle)
Tebentafusp	gp100, CD3; Bispecific immunoconjugate	Metastatic uveal melanoma	NA	In review
Relatlimab	LAG-3; Human IgG4	Melanoma	In review	In review
Sintilimab	PD-1; Human IgG4	Non-small cell lung cancer	NA	In review
Ublituximab	CD20; Chimeric IgG1	Chronic lymphocytic leukemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma; Multiple sclerosis	NA	In review
Tezepelumab	Thymic stromal lymphopoietin; Human IgG2	Severe asthma	In review	In review
Penpulimab	PD-1; Humanized IgG1	Metastatic nasopharyngeal carcinoma	NA	In review
Tislelizumab	PD-1; Humanized IgG4	Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma	NA	In review
Lecanemab	Amyloid beta protofibrils; Humanized IgG1	Early Alzheimer's disease	NA	Rolling BLA in review
Toripalimab	PD-1; Humanized lgG4	Nasopharyngeal carcinoma	NA	In review
Inolimomab	CD25; Murine lgG1	Acute graft-vs-host disease	NA	In review
Omburtamab	B7-H3; Murine lgG1	CNS/leptomeningeal metastasis from neuroblastoma	In review	NA
Spesolimab	IL-36 receptor; Humanized IgG1	Generalized pustular psoriasis	In review	NA
Teplizumab	CD3; Humanized IgG1	Type 1 diabetes	NA	In review (2nd cycle)
Retifanlimab	PD-1; Humanized IgG4	Carcinoma of the anal canal	In review	In review (2nd cycle)
Oportuzumab monatox	EpCAM; Humanized scFv immunotoxin	Bladder cancer	MAA withdrawn	In review (2nd
Narsoplimab	MASP-2; Human IgG4	Hematopoietic stem cell transplant-associated thrombotic microangiopathy	NA	In review (2nd cycle)
Donanemab	Amyloid $\beta$ ; Humanized IgG1	Early Alzheimer's disease	NA	In review

Table 4. Investigational antibody therapeutics in regulatory review in the European Union or the United States.

# Outlines

1 - Atypical HUS / TMA

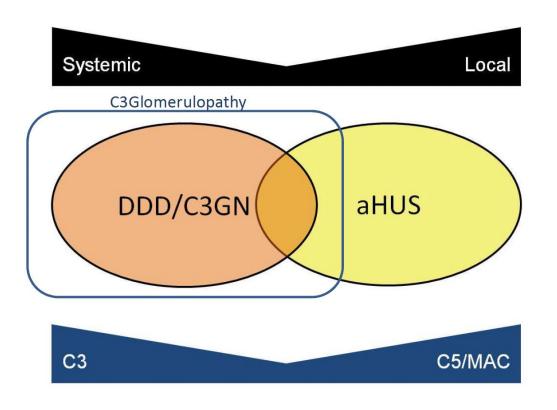
2 - C3G

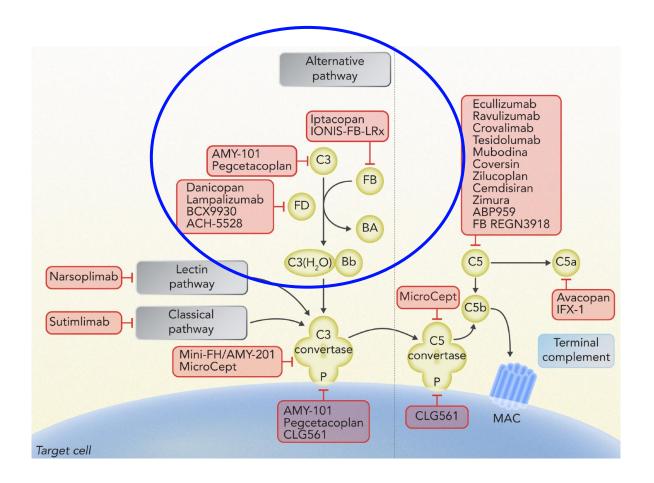
3 - IgAN

- 4 Antibody-mediated rejection
- 5 Brain death and ischemia reperfusion

Acknowledgement: Avacopan for ANCA-associated vasculitis is left out in purpose

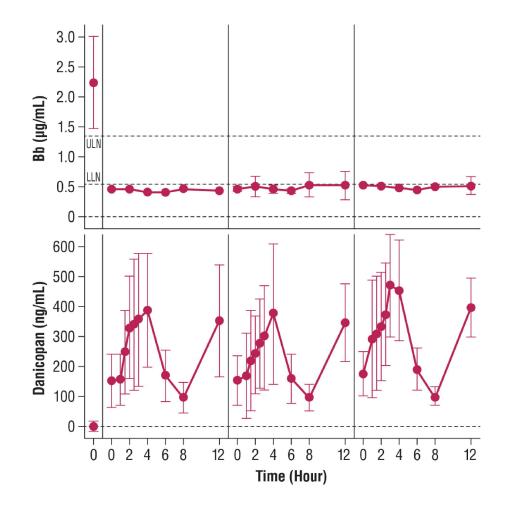
# **Targeting the alternative pathway**

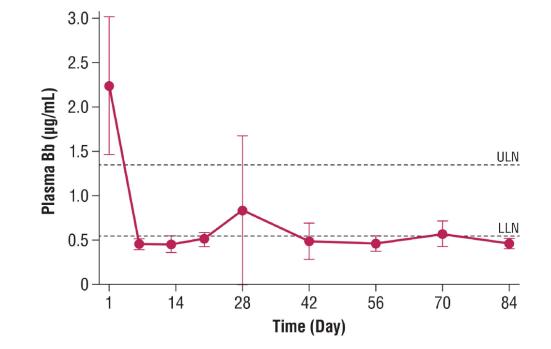




### ACH-4471 - Danicopan

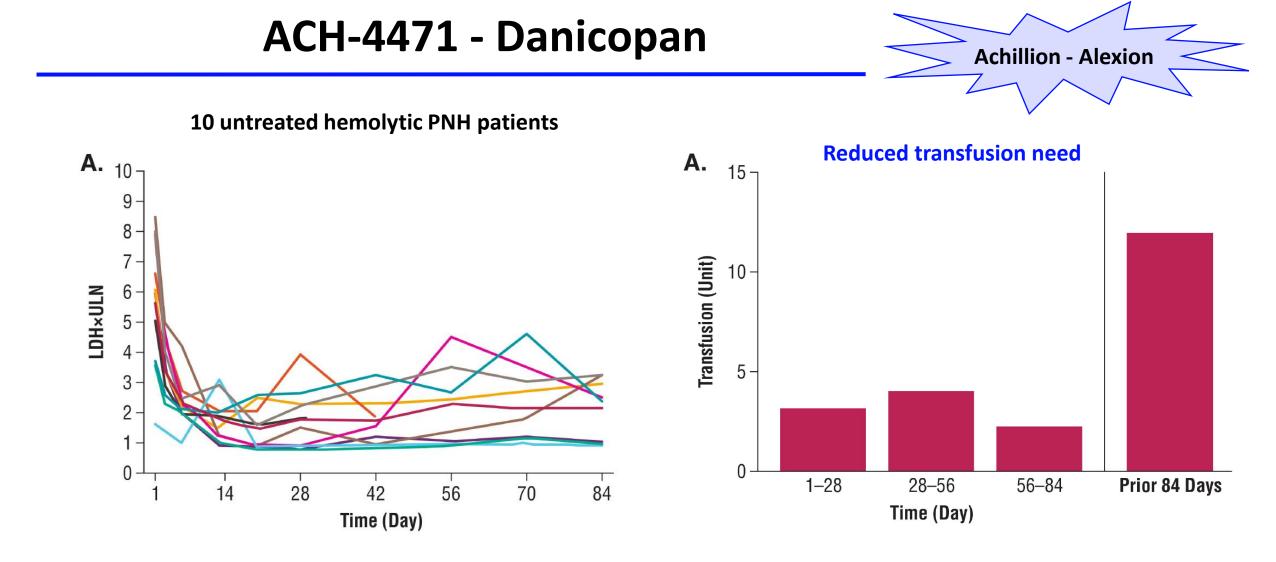
### An oral Complement Factor D (CFD) inhibitor thrice daily





**Achillion - Alexion** 

After danicopan, Bb levels were significantly reduced throughout the study

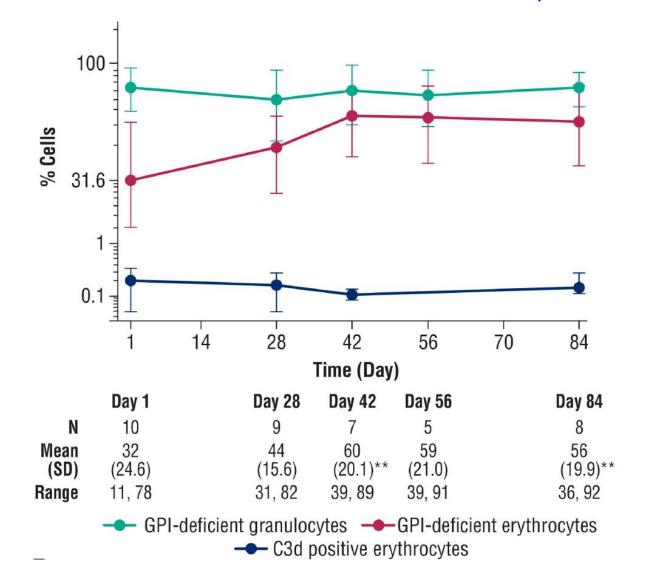


Change in LDH from baseline to day 28 was the primary end point. A significant reduction was observed among all 10 patients from a mean value of 5.7+/-1.7 times ULN at baseline to 1.8+/- times ULN at day 28.

### ACH-4471 - Danicopan

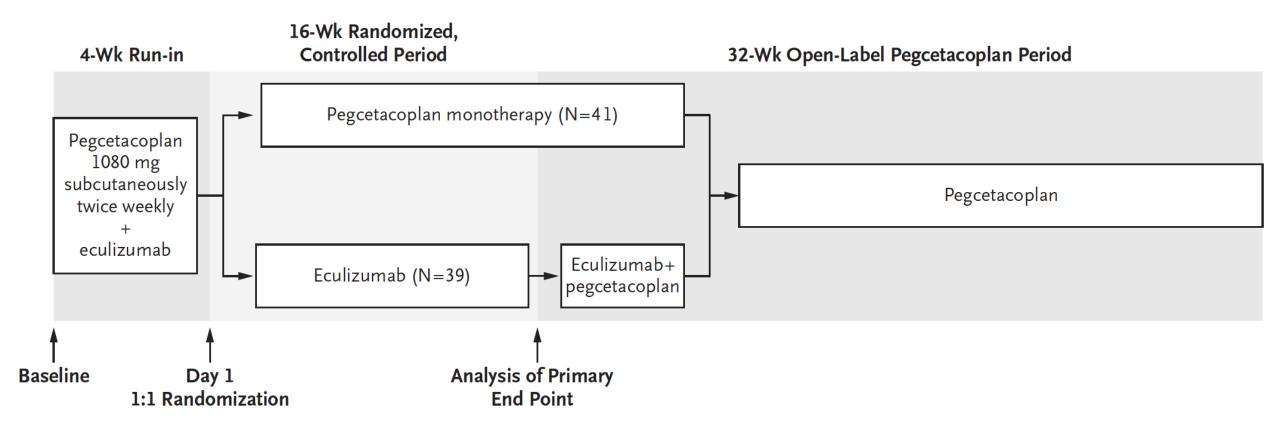
**Achillion - Alexion** 

Importantly, C3 fragment deposition on erythrocytes was very low (<0.5% of erythrocytes) throughout treatment



# **APL-2 - Pegcetacoplan**

Targeted C3 inhibitor, consisting of peptides conjugated to a linear polyethylene glycol (PEG) Subcutaneous administration

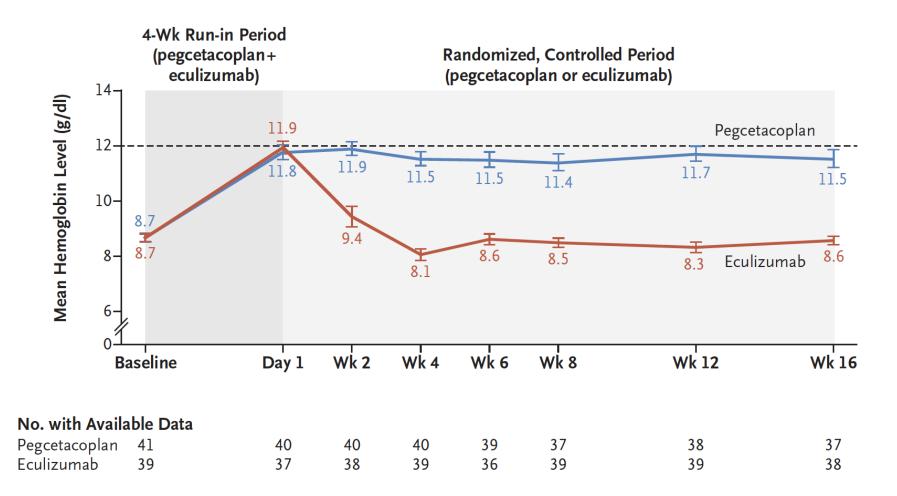


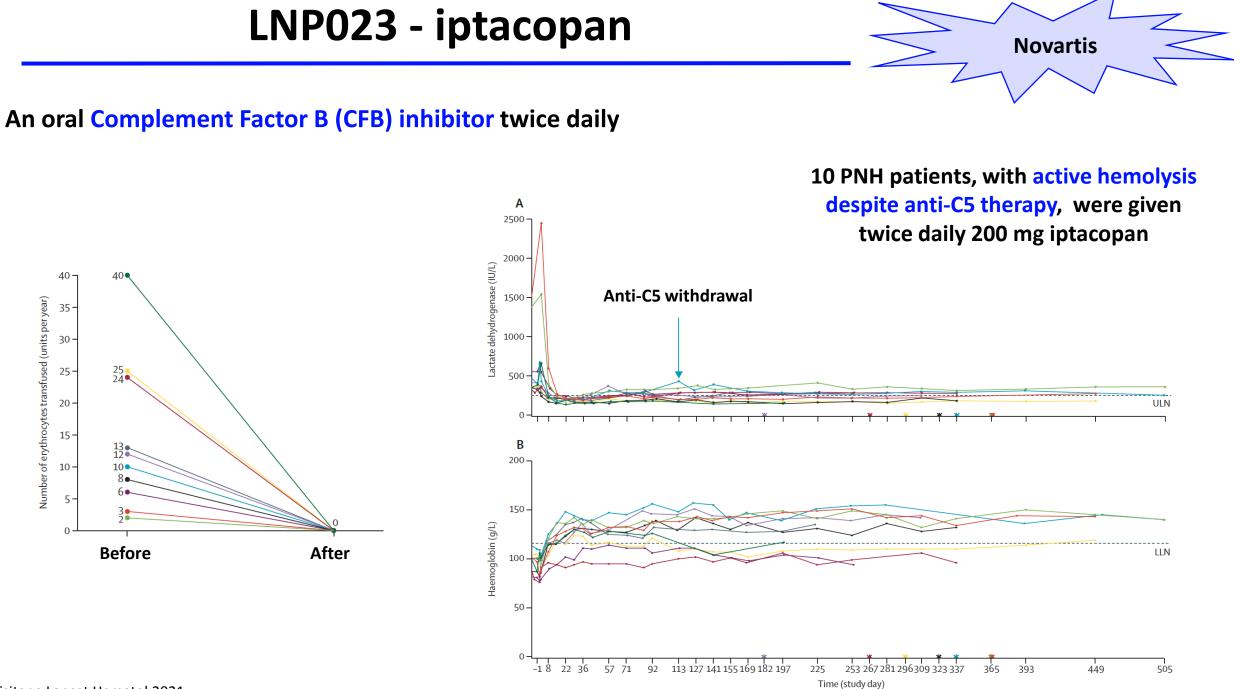
SOBI

### **APL-2 - Pegcetacoplan**



Pegcetacoplan was superior to eculizumab with respect to the change in hemoglobin level from baseline to week 16, with an adjusted mean difference of 3.84 g/dL (p<0.001).





Risitano Lancet Hematol 2021

### C3G





To investigate the efficacy, safety, and PK of iptacopan in patients with C3G with native kidneys and patients who have undergone kidney transplantation and who have demonstrated C3G recurrence

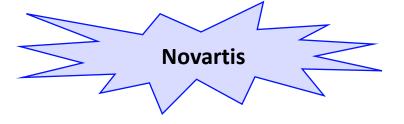


Cohort A: Biopsy confirmed C3G patients aged ≥18 years, with native kidneys and reduced serum C3 levels Cohort B: Adult (≥18 years) patients with C3G recurrence following kidney transplantation

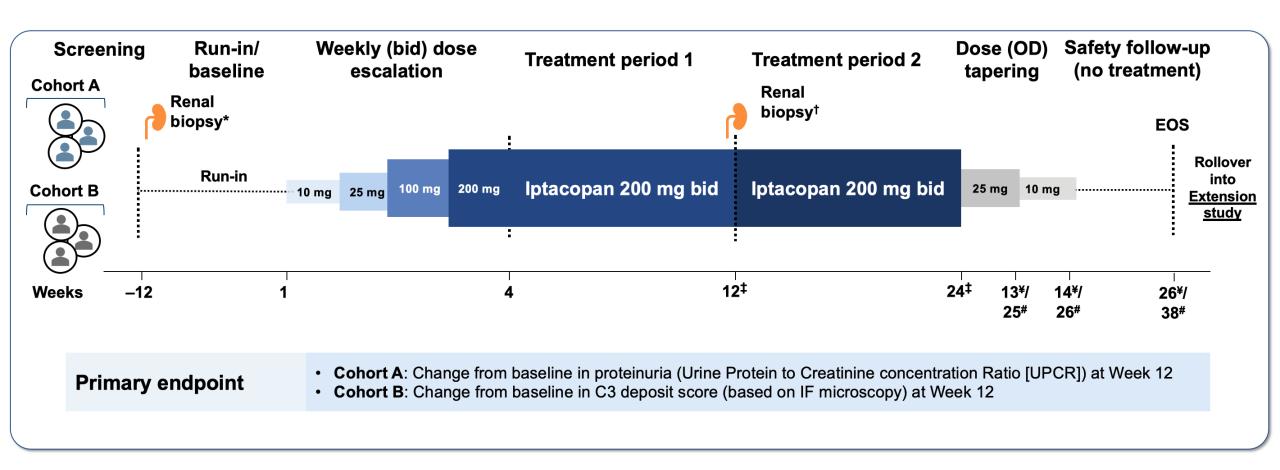


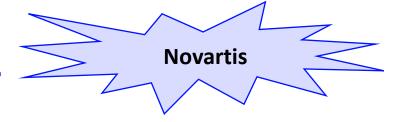
**Novartis** 

Status: Completed IA1: January 2020 IA2: June 2020 Final analysis: June 2021



### C3G

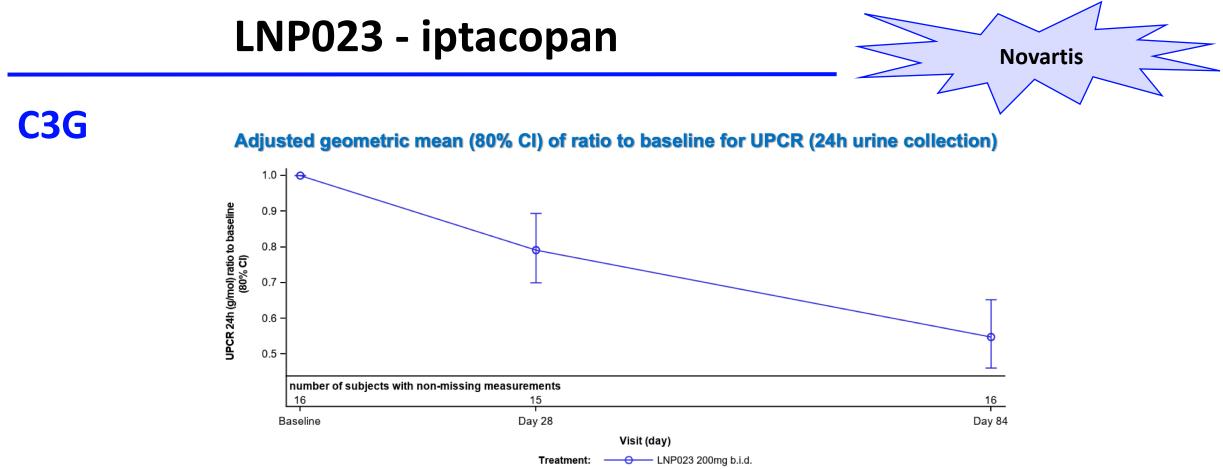




### **C3G**

		Cohort A N=16	Cohort B N=11
Age (years)	Mean (SD)	26.1 (10.57)	34.5 (18.32)
	Median (Range)	22.0 (18-59)	31.0 (18-70)
Gender - n(%)	Male	10 (63)	8 (73)
Ethicity - n(%)	American Indian or Alaska Native		1 (9)
	Black or African Americans		1 (9)
	White	16 (100)	9 (82)
C3 Deposit Score	n	1	10
	Mean (SD)	12.00	4.15 (3.816)
	Median	12.0	3.0
	Range	12.0 - 12.0	0.0 - 12.0
DDD present – n(%)	No	14 (88)	7 (64)
	Yes	2 (13)	3 (27)
UPCR 24h (g/mol)	Mean (SD)	454.0 (242.16)	112.3 (178.05)
	Geo-mean	401.9	36.2
	CV% geo-mean	53.64	310.78
	Median (Range)	391 (199-1019)	24 (9-445)

Wong E. ASN Kidney week 2021



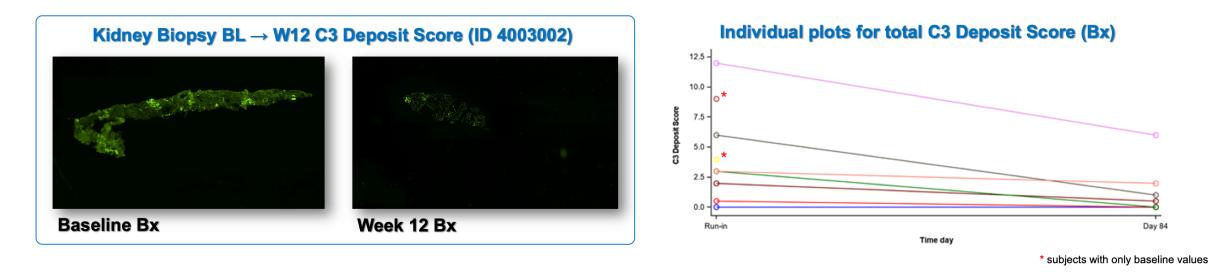
#### MMRM of the log transformed ratio to baseline in UPCR

Cohort	Timepoint	Ν	n	Unadjusted geometric mean ratio to baseline (CV%)	Adjusted geometric mean ratio to baseline (80% Cl)*	p-value*	
Cohort A	Day 28	16	15#	0.80 (34.9)	0.79 (0.70, 0.89)	0.0219	
	Day 84	16	16	0.55 (54.4)	0.55 (0.46, 0.65)	0.0003	

### **Cohort A primary endpoint achieved with 45% reduction in UPCR 24h (g/mol) vs baseline**

Wong E. ASN Kidney week 2021

### C3G



Novartis

#### Wilcoxon signed rank test estimate for the median difference of C3 Deposit Score

		Me	dians		Difference		
Ν	n M B		Median Week 12	Shift Location 80% CI		p-value	
7	7	3.00	0.50	-10.5	-2.5 (-3.75, -0.75)	0.0313	

### **Cohort B primary endpoint achieved with significant C3 deposit scores reduction vs baseline**

Wong E. ASN Kidney week 2021

## Outlines

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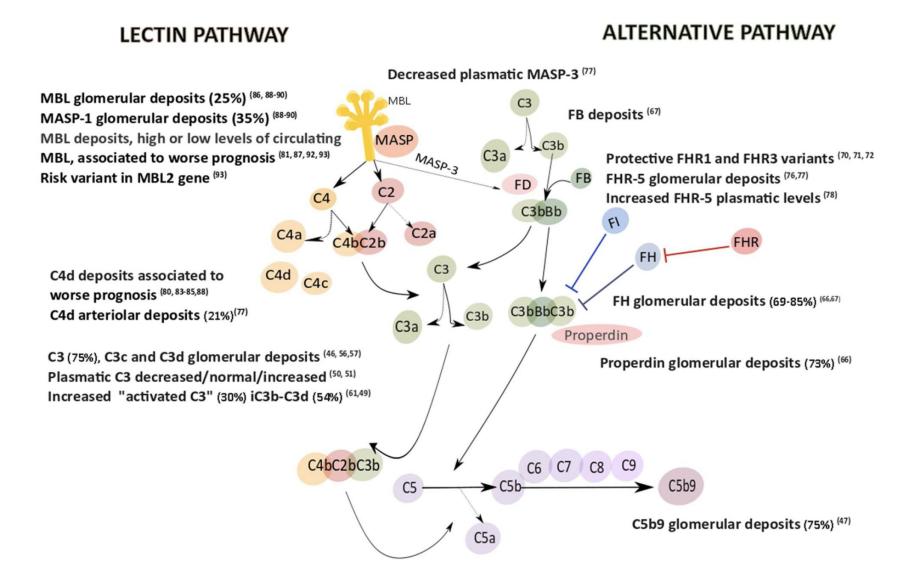
2 - C3G

3 - IgAN

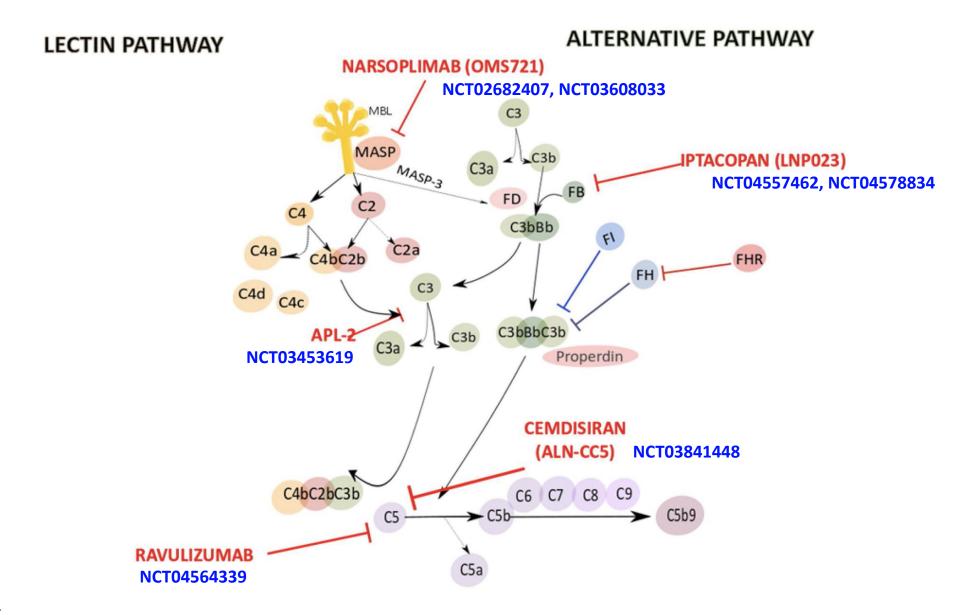
- 4 Antibody-mediated rejection
- 5 Brain death and ischemia reperfusion

Acknowledgement: Avacopan for ANCA-associated vasculitis is left out in purpose

### Lectin and alternative complement pathways are increasingly involved in IgAN



### **Ongoing clinical trials – Pending results**



Le Stang Mol Immunol 2021

## Outlines

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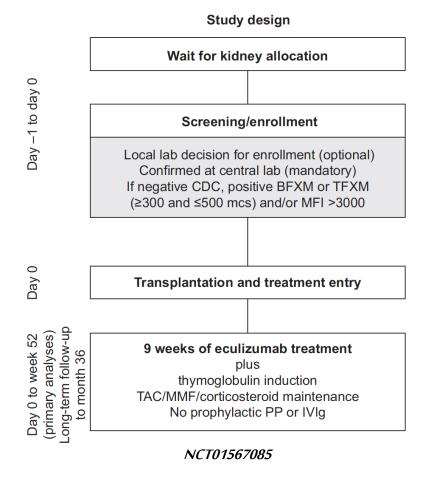
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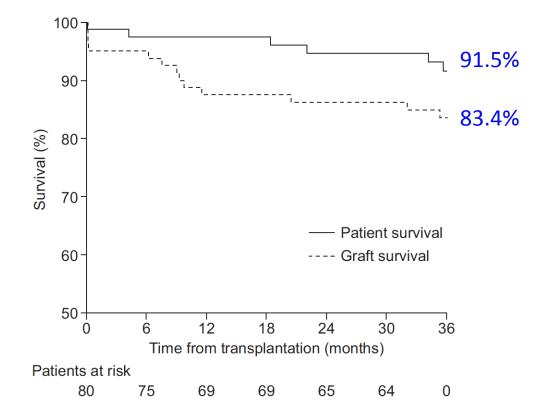
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#### **Prophylaxis**

#### **Deceased-donor KTx**



# Composite primary endpoint: BP AMR, graft loss, death or loss to f/u within 9 weeks

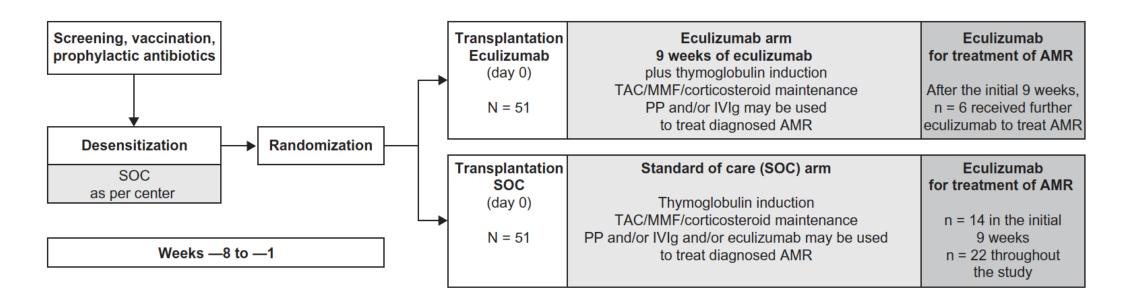


At 9 weeks posttransplant, treatment failure rate was 8.8%, which was significantly lower than the expected failure rate of 40% for the SOC in this population

#### **Prophylaxis**

NCT01399593

Composite primary endpoint: BP AMR, graft loss, death or loss to f/u within 9 weeks



#### **Prophylaxis**

#### NCT01399593

	Eculizumab (N = 51) n (%)	SOC (N = 51) n (%)	Difference (exact 95% CI)	P value
Composite primary end point				
Treatment failure rate (including grades II and III AMR)	5 (9.8)	7 (13.7)	-3.9% (-23.9, 16.3)	.760
Composite primary end point components				
Acute AMR (grade II or III)	5 (9.8)	5 (9.8)		
Graft loss	0 (0.0)	3 (5.9)		
Death	1 (2.0)	1 (2.0)		
Loss to follow-up	0 (0.0)	2 (3.9)		

# No significant difference in treatment failure rate was observed between eculizumab (9.8%) and SOC (13.7%; p=0.76)

#### **Prophylaxis**

NCT01567085 NCT01399593

Channataniation	Patients wi	<mark>th C1q+</mark> anti-HLA DSA	Patients with C1q- Anti-HLA DSAs, n=47			
Characteristics	SOC, n=32	Eculizumab, <i>n</i> =37	P Value	SOC, n=32	Eculizumab, <i>n</i> =15	<i>P</i> Value
Clinical parameters, mean (SD)						
eGFR, ml/min per 1.73 m <sup>2</sup>	44.8 (15.7)	47.2 (18.1)	0.65	46.2 (15.6)	48.1 (13.8)	0.63
Proteinuria, g/g	0.6 (0.6)	0.3 (0.3)	0.02	0.3 (0.2)	0.3 (0.2)	0.61
Histology (Banff scores), median (IQR)						
g score	2 (1–2)	1 (0–1)	0.001	1 (0–2)	1 (0–2)	0.82
ptc score	2 (1–2)	0 (0–1)	< 0.001	1 (0–1)	0 (0–1)	0.85
v score	0 (0–0)	0 (0–0)	0.30	0 (0–0)	0 (0–0)	0.42
i score	1 (0–1)	0 (0–0)	< 0.001	0 (0–0)	0 (0–1)	0.88
t score	1 (0–2)	0 (0–0)	< 0.001	0 (0–1)	0 (0–1)	0.73
cg score	0 (0–0)	0 (0–0)	0.12	0 (0–0)	0 (0–0)	0.51
C4d score	2 (1–2)	3 (0–3)	0.23	0 (0–1)	0 (0–2)	0.64
<mark>Gene expression level (</mark> log2 OD),						
mean (SD)						
CXCL11	8.9 (1.8)	4.9 (2.3)	< 0.001	4.3 (1.5)	4.1 (1.0)	0.99
CCL4	9.7 (1.8)	6.8 (2.2)	< 0.001	6.5 (1.6)	6.1 (1.5)	0.52
MS4A6A	9.3 (2.1)	6.8 (2.6)	< 0.001	7.0 (2.4)	6.7 (2.5)	0.78
MS4A7	8.1 (2.1)	5.7 (2.6)	< 0.001	5.2 (2.6)	5.4 (2.5)	0.79
FCGR3A	9.2 (1.8)	6.3 (2.2)	< 0.001	6.0 (1.8)	5.7 (1.8)	0.66

Compared with SOC, eculizumab specifically abrogated histomolecular rejection phenotype and associated with a decreased 3-month rejection incidence rate in patients with complement-activating DSAs but not in those with noncomplement-activating DSAs

# C1-INH as first-line therapy in ABMR

Cinryze (Shire)

**First-line** 

NCT02547220

### Efficacy and Safety of C1INH for the treatment of acute AMR in KTx

Interventional Randomized double blind study that aims to evaluate the efficacy and safety of C1 inhibition for the treatment of acute AMR (phase 3).

Primary outcome: proportion of subjects with new or worsening transplant glomerulopathy within 6 months post-treatment

56 patients in each arm (C1INH vs placebo)

7 doses of Cinryze vs placebo over 13 days

This study was prematurely terminated at Month 36 due to futility issue.

## Outlines

1 - Atypical HUS / TMA

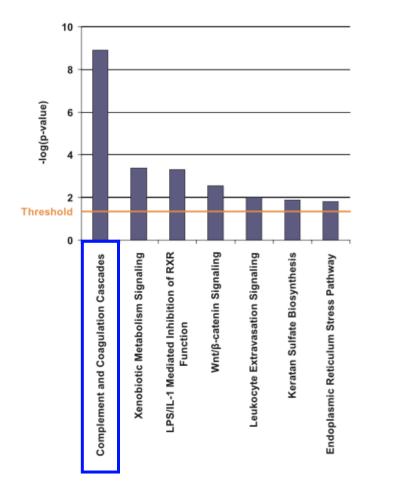
2 - C3G

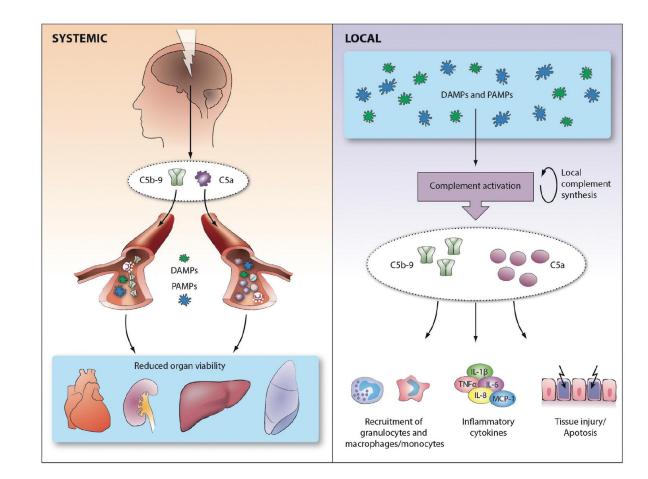
- 3 IgAN
- 4 Antibody-mediated rejection
- **5** Brain death and ischemia reperfusion

Acknowledgement: Avacopan for ANCA-associated vasculitis is left out in purpose

## Brain death and IRI through the molecular microscope

The transcripts the most significantly increased in Deceased vs Living donors include those from the complement and coagulation cascades

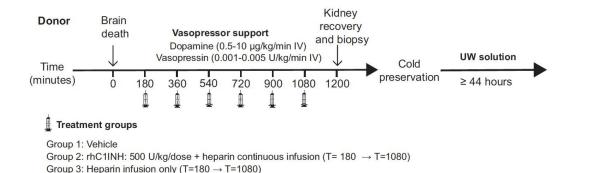




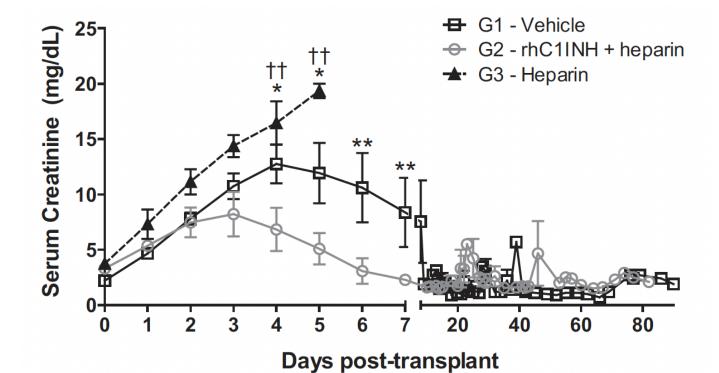
The systemic inflammation initiated by BD induces a more local organ inflammation, priming the organs for IRI, and leading to an influx of inflammatory cells.

## **Complement blockade after brain death prevents DGF**





#### rhC1-INH (500 U/kg/dose)



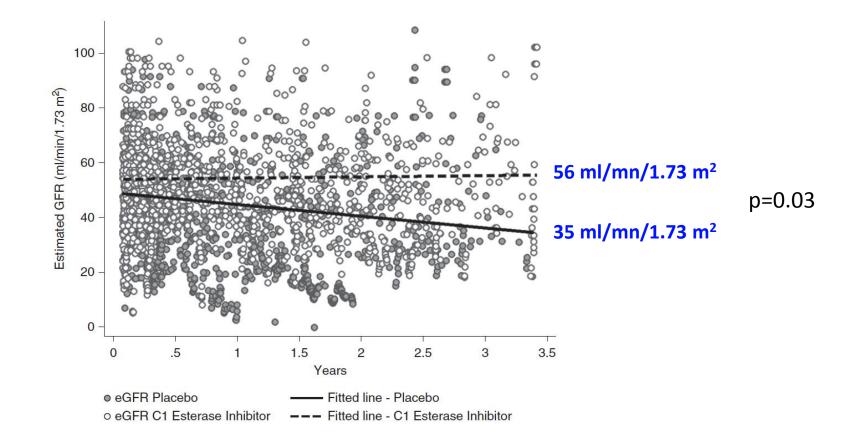
# **C1-INH in Expanded Criteria Donors**

NCT02134314

Primary outcomes: Number of patients with DGF and SGF

**Randomization:** 35 patients in each arm (C1INH vs placebo)

C1INH (50 U/kg) administered pre-transplant and 24 hours post-transplant.



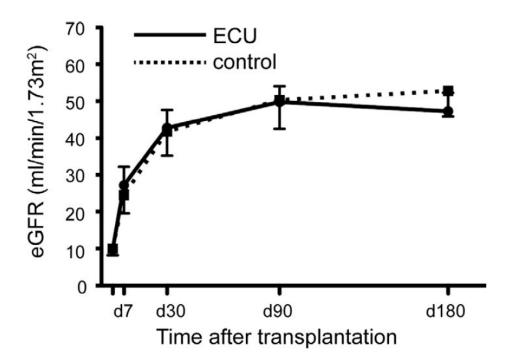
Huang CJASN 2020

# **C5 blockade in Expanded Criteria Donors**

NCT01403389 NCT01919346

#### Pilot phase 2 (n=8+21)

One pretransplant dose (+/- one early post-transplant dose)



### Peri-transplant C5 blockade failed to improve the rate of Delayed Graft Function

Phase 3 (n=288/400)

PROTECT Study (NCT02145182)

Study completed after 288 enrollments. Because the study failed to demonstrate a treatment effect (at the intermediate analysis) and the program subsequently lost funding, all collected data could not be analyzed (ClinicalTrials.gov)

Schröppel Am J Transplant 2020

### In summary

### To be as efficient as eculizumab

- <u>- aHUS</u>: Likely (for other C5 blockers) ; TBD for MASP, C3, CFB and CFD blockers
- <u>- HSCT-TMA</u>: MASP inhibitor might be even more efficient than C5 blocker
- <u>C3G</u>: C3 / CFB / CFD inhibitors should be more efficient than C5 blocker
- IgAN: lectin and alternative pathway inhibitors might be more efficient than C5 blocker

Less constraints in terms of the route of administration and drug scheduling

- Subcutaneous,
- Long-acting Ab

### Similar or greater safety profile

- Increased susceptibility to meningoccal infection should be shared by all C5 blockers
- C3 blockade might be associated with a broader immune deficiency ?
- Single pathway inhibitor (either CP, LP or AP) should be associated with a narrower ID

Cheaper

- Pending question

### In summary

### There is no « One-size-fits-all » complement inhibitor