Phase 1, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Single- and Multiple-Ascending Dose Study of the Safety, Tolerability and Pharmacokinetics of the ASK1 Inhibitor SRT-015 in Healthy Adults

**DJ Burge**, A Plonowski, K Elias, T Porter, N McDonnell



# Daniel J. Burge, MD

Jefferson Medical College 1986 Over 25 years in biotech industry leading clinical development Immunex, Amgen, Trubion, Gilead, Dermira





#### Daniel J. Burge, MD

I disclose the following financial relationship(s) with a commercial interest:

#### Seal Rock Therapeutics, Inc.

- Evommune, Inc.
- Alterity Therapeutics, Inc.



3

### Apoptosis signal-regulating kinase 1 (ASK1)

- ASK1, also known as mitogen-activated protein kinase 5 (MAP3K5), is a member of MAP kinase family
- Ubiquitous kinase activated by various stress including ROS, lipotoxicity, LPS, and ER stress
- Activated ASK1 signals through the JNKs and p38 to execute various cellular responses including cell death, inflammation and fibrosis
- ASK1 is preclinically validated target in diverse liver diseases including alcoholic hepatitis, NASH and primary sclerosing cholangitis



### SRT-015: 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation ASK1 Inhibitor

- Improved ASK1 selectivity
- Improved cardiac safety
- Demonstrated target engagement and dose dependent antiinflammatory effects in human whole blood
- Efficacious in acute and chronic liver disease models
  - Alcoholic Hepatitis
  - Drug-Induced Liver Injury
  - NASH
    - Reduction of hepatocyte injury
    - Reduction of liver fibrosis, inflammation and apoptosis



AASLD, 2020

#### Phase 1, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, Single-Ascending Dose (SAD) and Multiple-Ascending Dose (MAD) Study

- Study drug administered as an oral suspension in a fasting state
- Subjects randomized 3:1 (active:placebo)
- SAD Phase:
  - 5 cohorts of 7-8 subjects
  - Single dose
  - Cohort dose levels: 40mg, 80mg, 160mg, 320mg and 640mg
  - Evaluated for PK and safety for 7 days after a single dose
- MAD Phase:
  - 4 cohorts of 8 subjects
  - Twice daily dosing for 13 doses
  - Cohort dose levels: 40mg BID, 80mg BID, 160mg BID, 320mg BID
  - Evaluated for PK and safety for 14 days (through 7 days after the last dose)



### **Study Population and Disposition**

#### **Key Inclusion Criteria:**

- Adults, ages 18-45
- BMI >18 and <32
- Healthy (no clinically significant illnesses)
- No significant safety laboratory or ECG abnormality
- Women excluded if pregnant or breast-feeding

#### Disposition

• All randomized subjects that received study drug completed the study



### **Demographics**

	SAD N=37	MAD N=32		
Mean age: years (range)	26.8 (19-43)	28.3 (18-44)		
% Male	51.4%	56.3%		
Race: Caucasian Asian Other	64.9% 35.1%	65.6% 21.9% 12.5%		
Mean weight: kg (range)	71 (51-113)	72 (47-98)		
Mean BMI: kg/m <sup>2</sup> (range)	24.3 (19.2-31.8)	24.6 (19.1-31.7)		
Slides are the property of the author and AASLD. Permission is required from both AASLD and	the author for reuse.	AASLD The Liver Meeting		



SAD	Placebo	40 mg	80 mg	160 mg	320 mg	640 mg	Total			
	(N=10)	(N=5)	(N=5)	(N=5)	(N=6)	(N=6)	(N=37)			
Any AE, n (%)	1 (10.0)	4 (80.0)		2 (40.0)		2 (33.3)	9 (24.3)			
SAE										
AEs occurring in more than 1 subject, n										
Headache		2				1	3			
Pain in extremity		1		1			2			

All Adverse events were mild in intensity No significant changes in safety labs



# Safety: MAD

MAD	Placebo	40 mg BID	80 mg BID	160 mg BID	320 mg BID	Total			
	(N=8)	(N=6)	(N=6)	(N=6)	(N=6)	(N=32)			
Any AE, n (%)	3 (37.5)	3 (50.0)	3 (50.0)	3 (50.0)	2 (33.3)	14 (43.8)			
SAE									
AEs occurring in more than 1 subject, n									
Headache			2			2			
Contact dermatitis		2				2			

All adverse events were mild or moderate in intensity No significant changes in safety labs



#### **No Drug Effect on QT Interval**



y = -0.0299x + 3.4054

 No association between QTc and serum concentration

QTc calculated using Bazett's correction formula



## **SRT-015 Pharmacokinetics**



- T<sub>max</sub> : 1-2 hours
- C<sub>max</sub> and AUC increased with increasing doses
- T<sub>1/2</sub>: 14 hours
- Data supports once or twicedaily dosing



## **PBPK model predicts robust liver exposure**

SRT-015] ng/gram]

- Plasma exposure of SRT-015 within the range predicted by PBPK model.
- Liver exposure of SRT-015 predicted by PBPK model above the minimal efficacious level noted in animal models at all dose levels.
- Predicted human liver concentrations maintains significant safety margin compared with liver exposure in the 4-week toxicology studies

PBPK model of human <u>liver</u> exposure (C<sub>max</sub>)

2000-1000-0 Minimum efficacious exposure

240

80

160

0

Dose (mg)

320

400

480

560

640



S+ SimulationsPlus

# Key Takeaways

- SRT-015 was safe and well tolerated
- Pharmacokinetic profile supports once or twice /day dosing
- Liver exposure of SRT-015 predicted by PBPK model above the minimal efficacious level at all dose levels.



## **Limitations and Future Directions**

- First-in-humans phase 1 study in healthy volunteers
- Short duration of treatment
- Phase 2 studies with SRT-015 in patients with alcoholic hepatitis and NASH are planned



## Acknowledgements

- Nucleus Networks (Australia)
- Participants





Phase 1, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Single- and Multiple-Ascending Dose Study of the Safety, Tolerability and Pharmacokinetics of the ASK1 Inhibitor SRT-015 in Healthy Adults

**DJ Burge**, A Plonowski, K Elias, T Porter, N McDonnell

