

Ascendis Pharma A/S

Virtual Oncology R&D Day November 20, 2020

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Virtual Oncology R&D Day Agenda

9:00 a.m.

Welcome & Agenda Overview Scott T. Smith, SVP, CFO

9:01-9:05 a.m.

Vision 3x3 Jan Møller Mikkelsen, President & CEO

9:05-9:20 a.m.

TransCon[™] Platform & Product Innovation Kennett Sprogøe, Ph.D., *SVP, Head of Innovation and Research*

9:20-10:00 a.m.

TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist & TransCon IL-2 β/γ Juha Punnonen, M.D., Ph.D., SVP, Head of Oncology

Stina Singel, M.D., Ph.D., Head of Clinical Development, Oncology

10:00-10:30 a.m.

Q&A





Vision 3x3

Jan Møller Mikkelsen President & CEO

Company Overview

- Create best-in-class products addressing unmet medical needs by applying TransCon™ technologies to parent drugs with clinical proof-of-concept
- Endocrinology rare disease
 - TransCon hGH: pediatric GHD BLA (PDUFA June 25, 2021) and MAA submitted; adult GHD phase 3 trial ongoing
 - TransCon PTH: Submitted US, Canadian and European regulatory filings to initiate adult HP phase 3 trial
 - TransCon CNP: Phase 2 ACcomplisH ongoing and ACcomplisH China Trial¹ initiated for achondroplasia
 - Build leading market positions for each product candidate with commercial focus on maximizing global reach
 - Strategic investment in VISEN Pharmaceuticals for endocrinology rare disease products in China
- Oncology
 - First IND filing expected for TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist by year-end 2020
 - TransCon IL-2 β/γ IND filing or similar expected in Q3 2021
- As of September 30, 2020, cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities of €957.5 million



Vision 3x3: Building a Leading BioPharma Company

Our Goal is to Achieve Sustainable Growth through Multiple Approaches

- Obtain regulatory approval for three independent Endocrinology Rare Disease products
 - TransCon Growth Hormone for pediatric growth hormone deficiency
 - TransCon PTH for adult hypoparathyroidism
 - TransCon CNP for achondroplasia
- Grow Endocrinology Rare Disease pipeline through
 - Global clinical reach
 - Pursuing 9 total indications, label optimization, and life cycle management
 - New endocrinology products
- Establish global commercial presence for our Endocrinology Rare Disease area
 - Build integrated commercial organization in North America and select European countries
 - Establish global commercial presence through partners with local expertise and infrastructure
- Advance a high value oncology pipeline with one IND or similar filing each year
- Create a third independent therapeutic area with a diversified pipeline





TransCon Technology Platform & Product Innovation

Kennett Sprogøe, Ph.D. SVP, Head of Innovation and Research

The Evolution of TransCon Technology

Vision of Ascendis Founding Scientists

Precise release of active drug, from a prodrug, without changing the molecule's biology The Historical Challenge

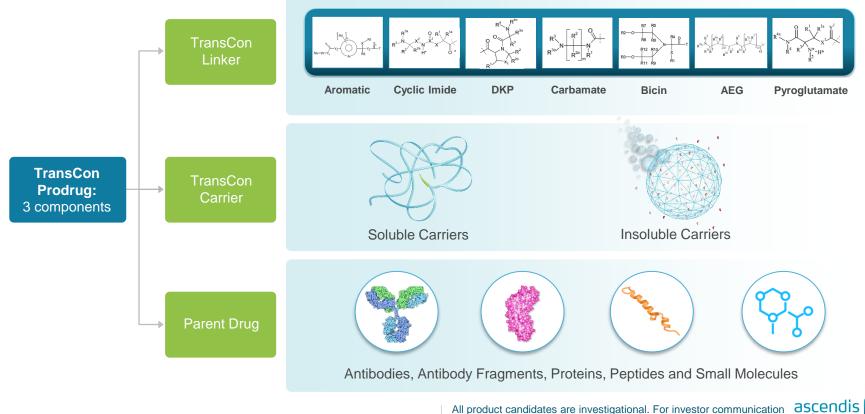
Conventional technologies (protein enlargement and encapsulation) are associated with altered biology and unpredictable drug release The Revolutionary Solution

To combine prodrug and predictable release technologies into one platform to ensure tailored delivery of unmodified drug

TransCon technology reversibly conjugates a drug to a carrier and predictably releases the unmodified drug under physiological conditions



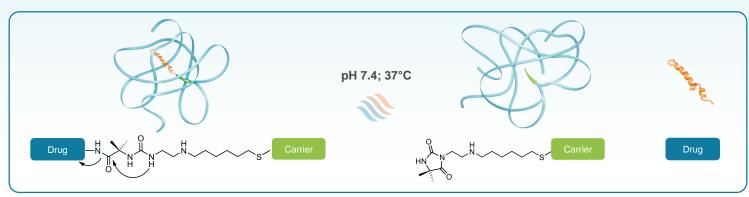
Transient Conjugation: A Powerful, Flexible Platform



only. Not for use in promotion or product commercialisation.

TransCon Technology: The TransCon Linker

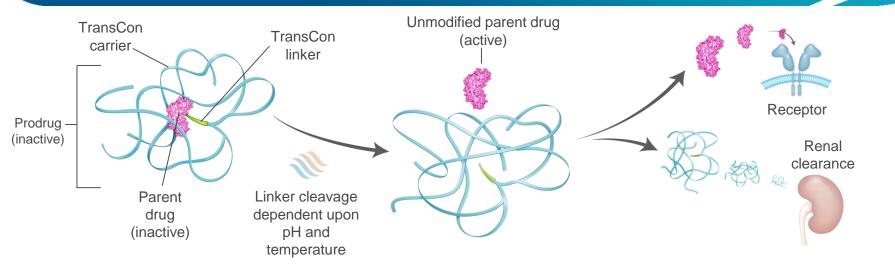
- Cleaves in an enzyme-independent fashion, ensuring reproducible drug release; in vitro to in vivo correlation with high predictability
- TransCon linkers remain covalently bound to the carrier molecule after release of the unmodified parent drug
- Enables tunable design of prodrugs with dosing frequency from daily up to six months or more



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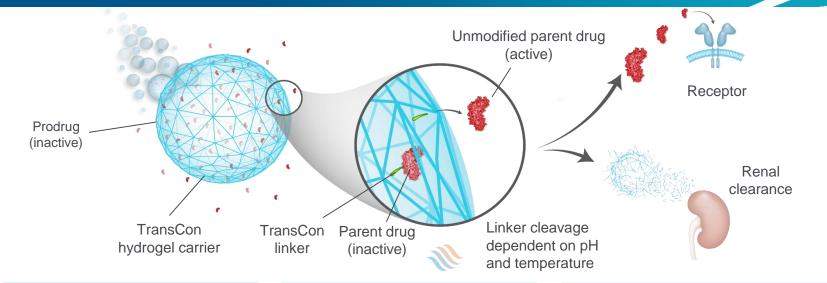
TransCon Technology: Sustained Systemic Release



Parent drug is transiently bound to a TransCon linkersoluble carrier moiety, which inactivates and shields parent drug from clearance Following injection, the linker is designed to autocleave at a specific rate to predictably release unmodified parent drug Designed to distribute released molecule like the parent drug; linker-carrier is cleared renally



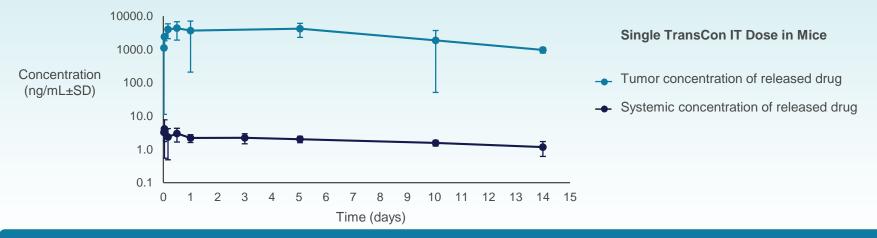
TransCon Technology: Sustained Localized Release



Parent drug is transiently bound to TransCon linkerhydrogel carrier, which inactivates, shields parent drug and prevents clearance Following injection, the linker is designed to autocleave at a specific rate to predictably release unmodified parent drug Designed to provide sustained high local drug levels with low systemic exposure; hydrogel degrades into small polymers that are renally cleared

TransCon IT: Potential Paradigm Shift in Intratumoral Delivery

TransCon Intratumoral (IT) addresses the problems of conventional IT administration including rapid clearance from the tumor, high systemic exposure and toxicity



TransCon IT is designed to stay in the tumor and slowly release the drug ensuring high tumor drug concentration and low systemic exposure



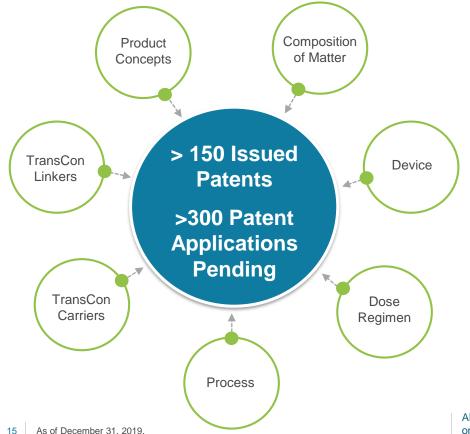
Algorithm Used in Endocrinology Used to Build Oncology Pipeline



Our unique algorithm for product innovation has resulted in clinical validation of 3 out of 3 product candidates in endocrinology rare diseases We are continuing to apply our algorithm to build a pipeline in oncology and are committed to entering a 3rd therapeutic area

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TransCon Enables Multi-level Patent Protection



- TransCon prodrugs eligible for new composition of matter IP
 - TransCon prodrugs are new chemical entities
 - Enables new patent life for prodrugs of parent drugs
- A multi-layered patent strategy is applied to protect our assets



TransCon: An Innovative Technology Platform

- TransCon technologies combine the benefits from prodrug and predictable release technologies with the known biology of the parent drug
- Technology validated within endocrinology with a high success rate in multiple clinical programs; TransCon hGH BLA/MAA filed
- Building on the success in endocrinology, we apply our algorithm for product innovation to help select our oncology pipeline
- Developed an intratumoral platform that aims to transform IT administration of small molecules, peptides, proteins, antibody fragments and antibodies
- TransCon prodrugs are new chemical entities eligible for new composition of matter IP

Our vision is to leverage TransCon technologies to turn the body's immune system into the therapeutic – to improve patient outcomes





Oncology

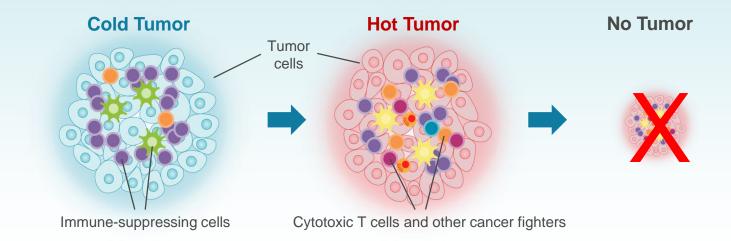
Juha Punnonen, M.D., Ph.D. SVP, Head of Oncology

Stina Singel, M.D., Ph.D. Head of Clinical Development, Oncology

TransCon Positioned to Transform Cancer Therapy

TransCon systemic and IT therapies designed to enhance anti-tumor responses by

- Providing sustained modulation of tumor microenvironments
- Activating cytotoxic immune cells



Applicable for diverse drug classes and mechanisms of action; opportunity for combination approaches

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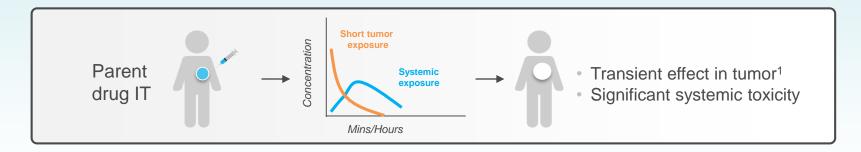
Oncology Portfolio Strategy

- Create best-in-class oncology therapies by applying TransCon systemic and IT technologies to parent drugs addressing clinically validated pathways
- Improve outcomes with parent drugs that are currently limited by suboptimal efficacy and systemic toxicity
 - Apply Ascendis' unique algorithm for product innovation to oncology development
- Build a diversified high-value pipeline addressing multiple indications
 - Two near-term IND candidates with potential synergistic combination effects
- Enable rapid path to global commercialization



Intratumoral Treatment Has Been Challenging

- Treatment of cancer via IT administration of oncolytic virus has achieved clinical proof of concept with talimogene laherparepvec (T-VEC) in advanced melanoma
- However, conventional IT treatments face major challenges due to short tumor exposures¹, high systemic Cmax and need for frequent dosing



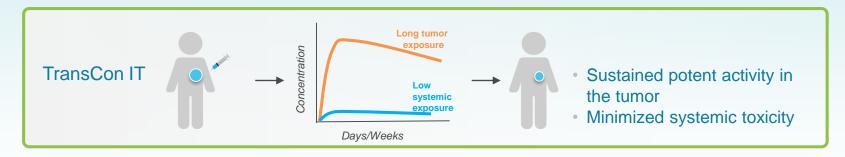
TransCon technology has the potential to overcome the limitations of conventional intratumoral treatments

1 Example: STING agonist "plasma half-life ranging from 8 to 28 min"
 Meric-Bernstam F, et al. ASCO annual meeting, 2019; Oral presentation: Abstract 2507.



TransCon IT Aims to Transform Intratumoral Treatments

- Slow IT release allows for potential activity in tumor and draining lymph nodes for weeks or months, while keeping systemic exposure minimal
- Designed to enable new multi-agent combinations without added toxicity
- Potential for long dosing interval enabling treatments of hard-to-access tumors

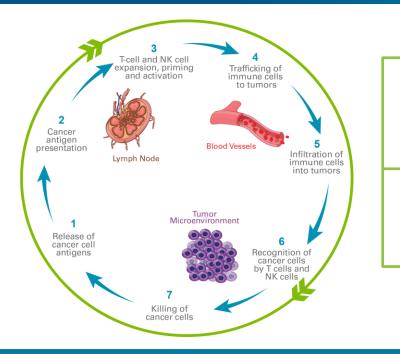


TransCon technology provides potential for sustained modulation of tumor microenvironments with infrequent dosing and minimized systemic toxicity





Two Near-term IND Candidates - Potential to Expand Pipeline to Address All Steps of the Immunity Cycle



TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist

Designed to activate antigen-presenting cells and enhance antigen presentation and, thereby, promote activation of cytotoxic immune cells (steps 2 and 6).

TransCon IL-2 β/γ

Designed to aid T cell and NK cell expansion, priming and activation as well as infiltration of immune cells in tumors (steps 3 and 5).

Additional TransCon Candidates in Preclinical Research

TransCon product candidates using systemic and IT approaches have the potential to affect all steps in the immunity cycle.

Combination approaches enable impact on all critical steps of anti-tumor response





Product Candidates in Oncology



Opportunity for TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist in Solid Tumors

Efficacy

- Each injection designed to provide sustained exposure in the tumor for months to enhance immune activation
- Reduce risk of reaching super-high "ablative", nonimmunogenic levels

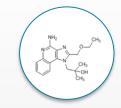
Safety

- Low systemic toxicity expected to reduce dose-limiting adverse events
- Infrequent dosing designed to improve practicality and reduce injection-related complications

Broad application

Essentially all solid tumors are accessible for injection

TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist



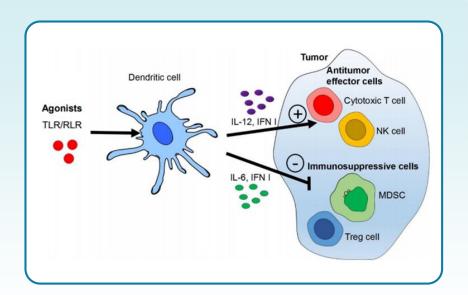
Designed for intratumoral, sustained release with *minimal systemic exposure* aiming for *superior efficacy*



TLRs: Innate Immune Sensors of "Danger" Associated with Pathogens or Cell Death

Toll-like receptors (TLRs):

- Receptors for Pathogen- or Danger- (cell death) Associated Molecular Patterns
- Activate innate immunity, antigen presenting cells (APCs) in particular
 - Results in priming and expansion of cytolytic and helper T cells
- Inhibit suppressive mechanisms limiting anti-tumor responses



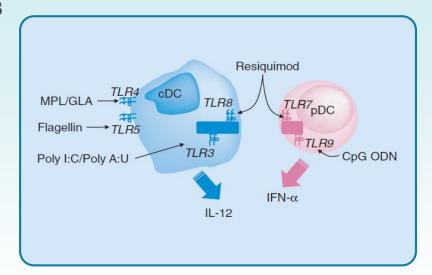
TLRs activate several key pathways critical in host defense against tumors



Resiquimod: TLR7/8 Agonist^{1,2}

Small molecule agonist of both TLR7 and TLR8

- TLR7: mainly expressed in plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDCs), to some extent in B cells, monocytes, macrophages and conventional dendritic cells (DCs)
- TLR8: primarily expressed in conventional DCs, monocytes, macrophages and myeloid DCs
- Potent activator of the innate immunity
 - Elevates proinflammatory cytokines: IL-12, IFNs, TNF-α, IL-1, chemokines
 - Enhances antigen presentation: upregulated MHCII, costimulatory molecules (e.g. CD80/86)
 - Enhances anti-tumor immunity



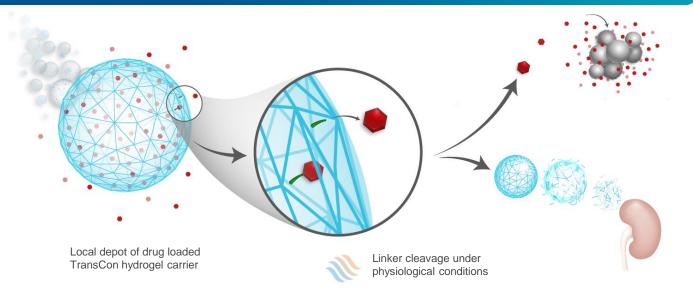
Resiguimod activates both conventional DCs and pDCs

¹ Vasilakos J and Tomai M. *Exp Rev Vaccines*, 2013; 12:809-819. ² Rook A, et al. *Blood.* 2015;126(25):2765.

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TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist: Sustained Intratumoral Release of Resiguimod



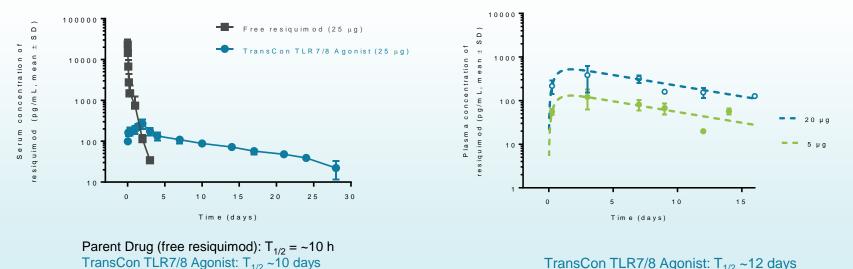
- Resigned transiently conjugated to TransCon hydrogel carrier, designed to provide sustained local release of unmodified resignimod
- Designed to provide sustained activation of intratumoral APCs driving tumor antigen presentation and induction of immune stimulatory cytokines in the tumor



TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist Resulted in Sustained Release of **Resiguimod over Several Weeks**

Subcutaneous administration in rats

Intratumoral (CT26) administration in mice



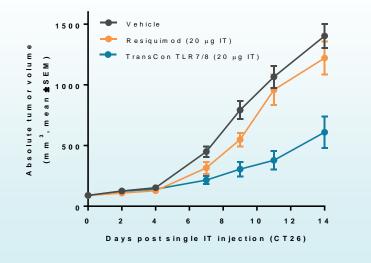
TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist: T_{1/2} ~12 days

TransCon technology enables 25-fold increased half-life and avoids high Cmax

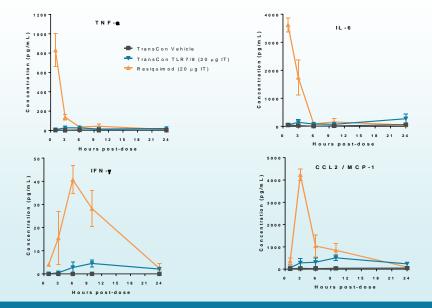


Potent Tumor-growth Inhibition with Low Systemic Cytokines

Single Dose TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist versus Comparable Dose of Resiquimod



Lower Systemic Cytokine Release by TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist than Comparable Dose of Resiguimod



TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist has the potential to provide more potent anti-tumor benefits without doselimiting toxicity, as IL-6 and TNF- α associate with cytokine release syndrome in patients^{1,2}

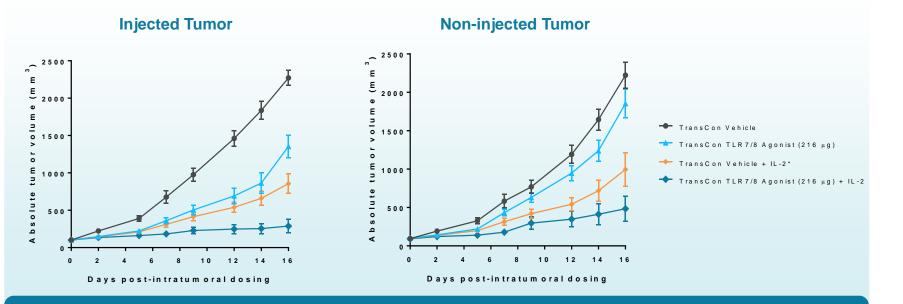
¹ Gullo A, et al. *Front Biosci.* 2010; E2: 906-911. ² Norelli M, et al. *Nat Med.* 2018; 24(6):739-748.

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Single-dose of TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist Triggered Abscopal Anti-tumor Inhibition and Enhanced Anti-tumor Effects of IL-2

Single IT Dosing (CT26 tumor model)



TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist IND expected by year-end 2020

*IL-2 dosed at 20 μg twice daily on days 0-4, once daily on days 8-12.
Zuniga L, et al. SITC annual meeting. 2019; Poster 676.





Product Candidates in Oncology *IL-2 Selective for the IL-2Rβ/γ*



Interleukin-2 (IL-2): Validated Cytokine with Suboptimal Receptor Binding and PK Properties

Suboptimal receptor binding

- Two receptors: IL-2R $\alpha/\beta/\gamma$ and IL-2R β/γ
- α/β/γ receptor activates Tregs and endothelial cells, reducing efficacy and increasing risk of capillary leak syndrome

Suboptimal PK

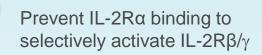
- Short half life of IL-2 (~1.5 h)
- High Cmax and pulsatile dosing drive adverse events

 Several IL-2 approaches in development

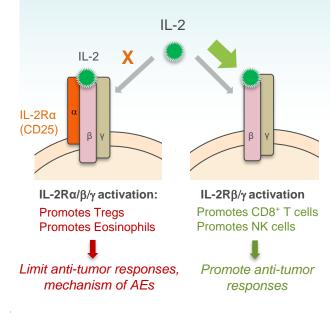
To our knowledge,
 none have fully
 solved both
 shortcomings of IL-2



Next Generation IL-2: Designed for Desired Receptor Binding and Exposure

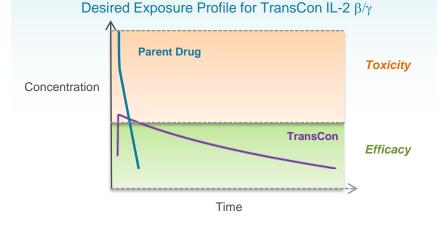


1)



2)

Generate a product with long-lasting exposure avoiding high Cmax

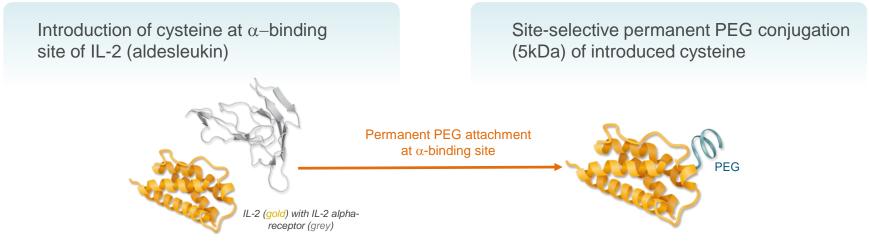




33 Onur B, et al. *Biomed Intell.* 2019; 149:w14697.

Design of TransCon IL-2 β/γ: 1) Designed for Desired Receptor Binding

Generation of IL-2 Variant



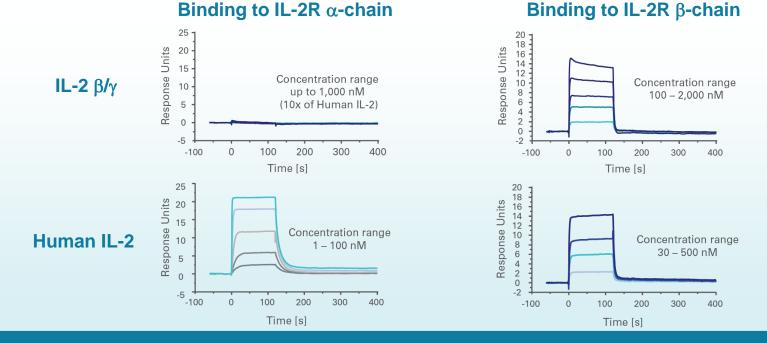
Optimized IL-2 β/γ receptor selectivity and potency by permanent site-selective PEG conjugation at IL-2R α -binding site



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Blocking IL-2R α -binding

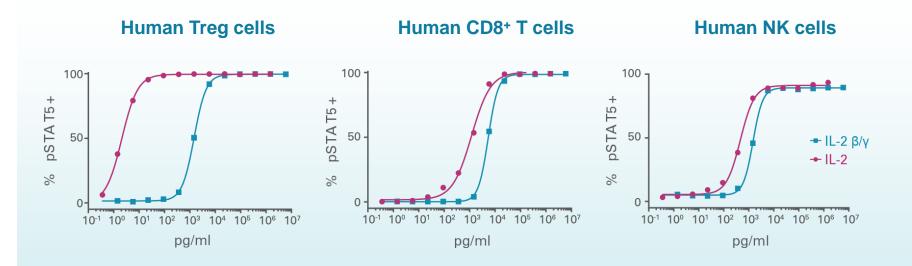
Receptor Selectivity Demonstrated in Binding Assays



IL-2 β/γ demonstrated strong receptor bias with reduced IL-2R α binding and well-retained IL-2R β binding



Receptor Selectivity Confirmed in Primary Human Cells

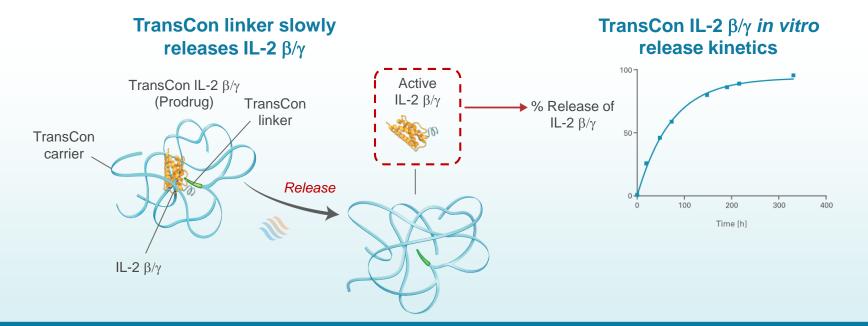


Substantially reduced potency on primary human Treg cells compared to rhIL-2 with minimal potency loss on CD8⁺ T cells and NK cells



36 Rosen D, et al. AACR annual meeting. 2020; Poster 4507.

Design of TransCon IL-2 β/γ: 2) TransCon Technology to Optimize Exposure

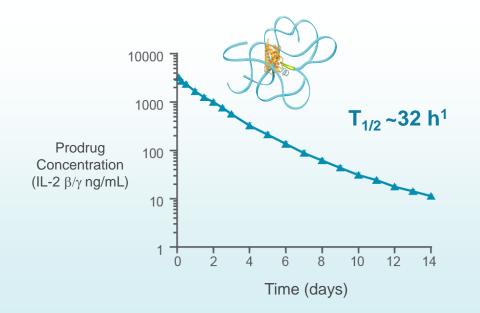


Sustained, long-lasting exposure utilizing the TransCon hGH linker and carrier, potential to support every 3-week dosing

37 Rosen D, et al. AACR annual meeting. 2020; Poster 4507.



TransCon IL-2 β/γ Resulted in Long-lasting Exposure in NHP



- TransCon IL-2 β/γ plasma PK in NHP demonstrated prolonged, sustained release of IL-2 β/γ
- T_{1/2} of TransCon IL-2 β/γ prodrug and released IL-2 β/γ^2 was ~32 h

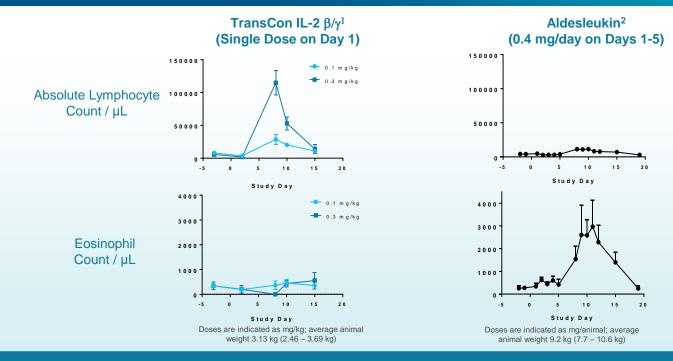
PK profile supports potential best-in-class properties

NHP = non-human primates. ¹Rosen D, et al. AACR annual meeting. 2020; Poster 4507. ²Data on file.

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Robust Increase in Lymphocyte Count with Minimal Eosinophil Expansion in NHP



Single dose provided >10-fold and prolonged enhancement of lymphocyte counts supporting Q3W dosing; minimal effect on eosinophils suggests low risk of vascular leak syndrome syndrome^{3,4}

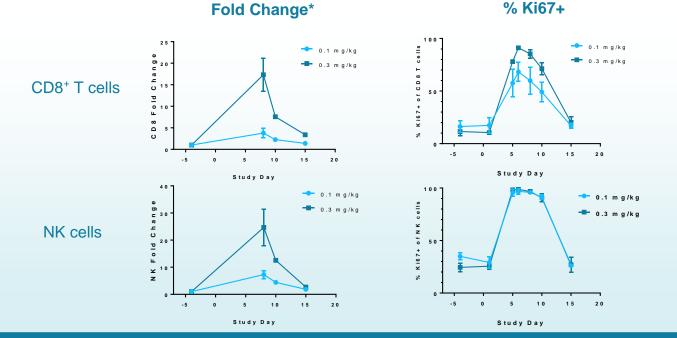
Q3W = every 3 weeks

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¹Data on file. ²Rosen D, et al. AACR annual meeting. 2020; Poster 4507. ³Rand, et al. *J Clin Invest.* 1991; 88: 825. ⁴Van Haelst Pisani C, et al. *Blood.* 1991;78:1538.



Potent CD8⁺ T Cell and NK Cell Expansion and Activation in NHP



Expansion and activation of cytotoxic lymphocyte subsets observed following a single dose of TransCon IL-2 β/γ

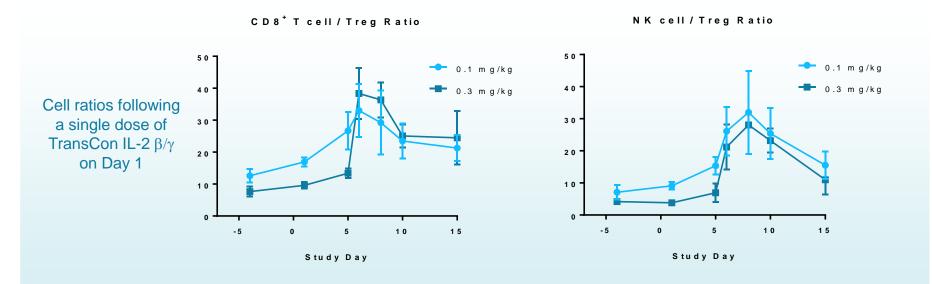
*Fold change using cell counts derived from hematology lymphocyte counts and flow cytometry-based frequencies within lymphocytes.



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40 Data on file.

TransCon IL-2 β/γ Expands Ratios of CD8⁺ T Cells and NK Cells Over Treg Cells in NHP

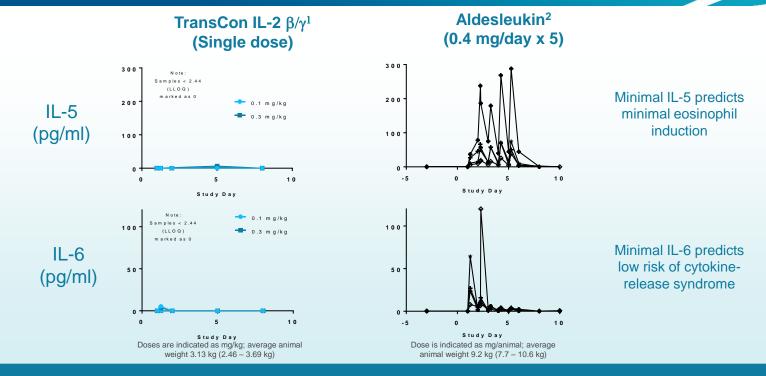


Consistent with observed minimal binding to IL-2R α , the ratios of CD8⁺ T cells and NK cells over Treg cells increased following administration of TransCon IL-2 β/γ in NHP

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Single Dose TransCon IL-2 β/γ Induced Lower Levels of Systemic Inflammation Markers in NHP When Compared to Aldesleukin



TransCon IL-2 β/γ IND or similar expected in Q3 2021

¹Data on file. ²Rosen D, et al. AACR annual meeting. 2020; Poster 4507.

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Evaluation of Immune Memory and Potential Cross-immunity Following TransCon IL-2 β/γ plus TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist

Syngeneic CT26 tumor model (colon-derived tumor line)

Treatment with TransCon IL-2 β/γ + TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist

Re-challenge of complete responders with CT26

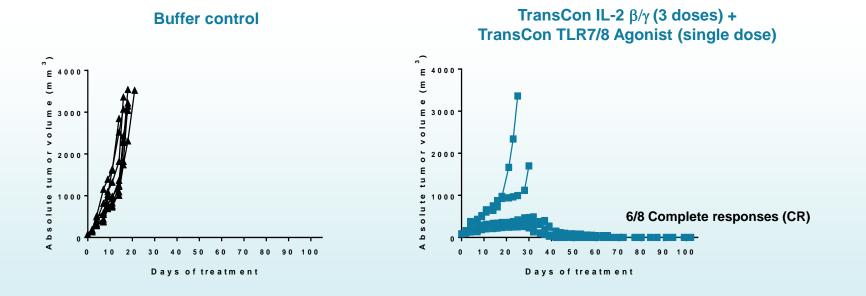
- 73 days after initial treatment
- No new treatment

Challenge of complete responders with different tumor type, EMT6 (mammary-derived)

- 28 days after CT26 re-challenge
- No new treatment



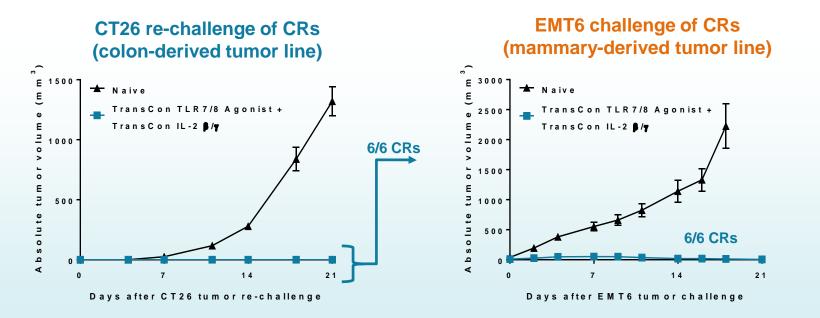
TransCon IL-2 β/γ Plus TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist Resulted in Durable Complete Tumor Regressions in the CT26 Tumor Model



The immune activating mechanism of action of TransCon IL-2 β/γ plus TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist and complete responses suggests potential for anti-tumor immune memory



Potent Immune Memory and Cross-reactive Anti-tumor Response Against a New Tumor Type



Protection against initial tumor and a new tumor type, suggesting potent anti-tumor memory and cross-reactive anti-tumor immunity

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Potential Paradigm Shift to How Cancer is Treated

- TransCon technologies may enable a new treatment paradigm building upon well-known biology
- Two near-term IND candidates demonstrating potentially best-in-class properties
 - TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist designed for intratumoral, long-term sustained release for superior efficacy with minimal systemic adverse events
 - TransCon IL-2 β/γ designed for IL-2R β/γ selectivity, combined with low Cmax and long exposure
 - Combination resulted in potent anti-tumor responses and immunological memory, including cross-immunity against a new tumor type
- TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist IND planned by year-end 2020; TransCon IL-2 β/γ IND or similar planned for Q3 2021

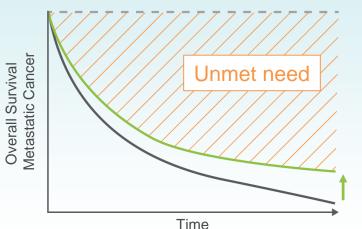




Clinical Strategy

Unmet Medical Need Remains High Despite Advancements

- Immunotherapy has given hope for dramatic improvement in cancer treatment...
- But most cancer patients today are not benefiting from immunotherapy



 U.S. cancer patients eligible for checkpoint inhibitors (CPI) increased from 1.5% in 2011 to 43.6% in 2018

 Percentage of patients estimated to respond to CPI was 0.1% in 2011 and increased to 12.5% in 2018

Immunotherapy has "raised the tail" for multiple tumor types

More effective therapies are urgently needed

Haslam A and Prasad V. JAMA Netw Open. 2019;2(5):e192535.



Clinical Development Strategy in Oncology to Take Advantage of the Clinically Validated TransCon Platform

BUILD

safety and tolerability profile while identifying appropriate dose

- Across various indications
- As monotherapy and in combination with standard of care
- In combination with internal pipeline

ESTABLISH

proof-of-concept efficacy in indications of high unmet medical need

- Indications with strong scientific rationale
- Available benchmark data

EXPAND

to other indications based on

- Unmet need
- Emerging data and changing treatment landscape



Phase 1/2 Dose Escalation and Dose Expansion Study of TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist Alone or in Combination with CPI

Dose Escalation ("3+3" Design)		Dose Expansion		
Part 1: Monotherapy	Part 2: Combination with CPI	Part 3: Combination with CPI		
Any solid tumor, any line	Indications with known CPI activity	Multiple indication-specific cohorts at Recommended Ph2 Dose (RP2D)		

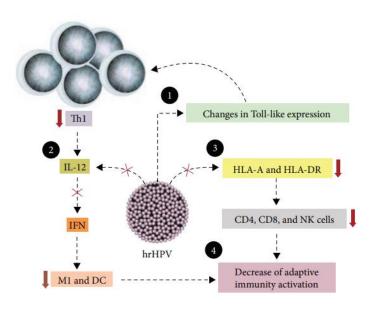
Objectives:

- Safety and tolerability; define MTD and RP2D
- Pharmacokinetics / pharmacodynamics (PK/PD)
- Preliminary anti-tumor efficacy (ORR, duration of and time to response)



Initial Indication Selection Based on Strong Scientific Rationale to Focus on HPV-associated Cancers

TLRs and HPV-associated cancers¹



Combination with CPI

HPV-associated tumors:

• HNSCC

• Others (anal, cervical, vulvar, penile, vaginal)

Other indications will be added based on

- Unmet need
- Emerging data and changing treatment landscape

HNSCC: HPV+ prevalence rising -- for every 2 new cases of HPVoropharyngeal carcinoma diagnosed, 5 new cases HPV+²

Anal, cervical, vulvar, penile, vaginal: vast majority (>70-90%) are HPV+

Dose Expansion

HNSCC: head and neck squamous cell carcinoma; HPV: human papillomavirus



¹Barros M, et al. *J Immunology Res.* 2018; 2912671:1-17. ²Mahal B, et al. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2019; 10:1660-1667.

TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist: Potential to Expand to Other Indications

Gastric cancer

HPV-associated:

HNSSC, anal, vulvar,

penile, vaginal and cervical cancer

Esophageal cancer

Squamous cell carcinoma

TMB-H solid tumors

Triple-negative breast cancer

Hepatocellular carcinoma

Melanoma

Non-small cell lung cancer

Merkel cell carcinoma

Renal cell carcinoma

MSI-H/dMMR solid tumors (CRC, endometrial, etc.)

Urothelial carcinoma

All product candidates are investigational. For investor communication only. Not for use in promotion or product commercialisation.



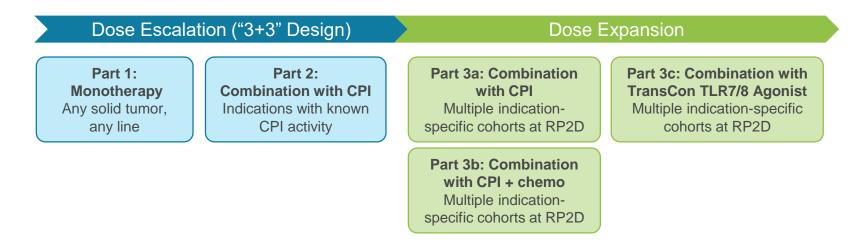
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TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist - Summary

- Sustained IT delivery using the validated TransCon platform offers a new treatment paradigm with potential for superior efficacy and safety
- IND submission anticipated by year-end 2020
 - Engaging major academic centers
- Clinical development strategy aims to:
 - Build safety and tolerability profile across multiple indications and with standard of care combination partner
 - Establish proof-of-concept efficacy, focusing on indications of high unmet need that have strong scientific rationale for TLR7/8 agonists
 - Expand to other indications based on unmet need and changing treatment landscape



Phase 1/2 Dose Escalation and Expansion Study of TransCon IL-2 β/γ Alone or in Combination with CPI and TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist



Objectives:

- Safety and tolerability; define MTD and RP2D
- Pharmacokinetics / pharmacodynamics (PK/PD)
- Preliminary anti-tumor efficacy (ORR, duration of and time to response)



TransCon IL-2 β/γ – Potential Backbone Agent in Oncology

- TransCon IL-2 β/γ has potential to be the best-in-class IL-2 molecule
- IND or similar submission anticipated in Q3 2021
- Clinical development strategy aims to:
 - Build safety and tolerability profile across multiple indications and with standard of care combination partners and internal pipeline
 - Establish proof-of-concept efficacy, focusing on indications of high unmet need that derive insufficient benefit from checkpoint inhibitors alone
 - Expand to other indications based on unmet need and changing treatment landscape



Oncology Summary

- Best-in-class potential using systemic and intratumoral TransCon technologies
- Differentiated product candidates
 - TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist
 - Potential to improve efficacy and practicality of intratumoral treatments
 - IND expected for TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist by year-end 2020
 - TransCon IL-2 β/γ
 - Potential to become a backbone agent in oncology
 - IND or similar expected TransCon IL-2 β/γ in Q3 2021
- Opportunity to expand pipeline to impact all aspects of anti-tumor response
 - Large number of validated oncology targets with known limitations

Aiming to help cancer patients live longer and better!





Q&A Session