

ESC+ design minimizes the off-target potential and further maximizes the therapeutic index of GalNAc-siRNA conjugates

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Conflicts of Interest

I am an employee of Alnylam Pharmaceuticals



Evolution of GalNAc-Conjugate Designs for Delivery to Liver

GalNAc Conjugates

- Multivalent GalNAc ligand covalently conjugated to siRNA
- Targeted delivery to liver mediated by cell surface receptor (ASGP-R)
- Administered subcutaneously







- Standard Template Chemistry
- SC administration
- Revusiran

First Generation GalNAc conjugate

Initial human POC





- Enhanced Stability Chemistry
- Increased specificity
- SC administration
- 2018 INDs and CTAs

Maintained PD (potency/duration)
Further improvements to specificity and therapeutic index



Extensive Human Safety Experience

Encouraging Results to Date

Number of Programs	Number of Clinical	Total Patients or	Greatest Duration of
	Studies	Volunteers Dosed	Exposure
>10	>25	>1200	>48 months

Minimal platform related findings*

- Low incidence (2.9%) of generally mild, asymptomatic, reversible LFT increases >3x ULN
- Injection site reactions (24%) generally mild, transient and rarely led to discontinuation
 - No events of ulceration, necrosis or tissue damage
- One report of anaphylaxis (<0.05%) in patient with prior history of atopy**
 - No anti-drug antibodies (ADA) detected against GalNAc-siRNA

Revusiran program discontinued in October 2016

- Extensive evaluation showed no clear reason for mortality imbalance
- While possible that imbalance was a chance finding, role for revusiran cannot be excluded
- Revusiran exposure is 12-140 times greater than other pipeline programs

Favorable emerging safety profile for ESC-GalNAc platform

• No evidence of thrombocytopenia, renal toxicity, or systemic inflammatory effects

* Experience as of December 2017 – Data estimated based on available safety data

** Givosiran OLE study, reported April 2018



Lead Selection and Conjugate Safety



Subset of conjugates shows rat hepatotoxicity at exaggerated doses and drop out of DC selection process



Seed-Based Off-Target Effects Are Important Drivers of Rodent Hepatotoxicity for Subset of Conjugates









Janas, Schlegel et al. *Nat Commun.* **2018**, 9, 723

DOt 10.1038/s41467-018-02989-4 OPEN

ARTICLE

Selection of GalNAc-conjugated siRNAs with limited off-target-driven rat hepatotoxicity

Maja M. Janas¹, Mark K. Schlegel¹, Carole E. Harbison¹, Vedat O. Yilmaz¹, Yongfeng Jiang¹, Rubina Parmar¹, Ivan Zlatev ¹₀, Adam Castoreno¹, Huilei Xu¹, Svetlana Shulga-Morskaya¹, Kallanthottathil G. Rajeev¹, Muthiah Manoharan¹, Natalie D. Keirstead¹, Martin A. Maier¹ & Vasant Jadhav¹ Poster #015 S. Agrawal et al. Mechanisms of Rat Hepatotoxicity of GalNAc-siRNA Conjugates



Blocking Activity of RISC-Loaded Antisense Strand Mitigates Hepatotoxicity Without Affecting Liver Exposure or RISC Loading



 Competition for RISC loading with endogenous miRNAs does not appear to be a major contributor to the rat hepatotoxicity observed with "bad actors"





The ESC+ Approach to Improve Specificity and Therapeutic Index

Objective

• Maintain on-target activity (in vivo) while minimizing off-target activity



Bramsen et. al. Nucleic Acids Res. 2010, 38, 5761; Vaish et. al. Nucleic Acids Res. 2011, 39, 182 3; Lee et. al. Nat. Comm. 2015, 6, 10154.



GNA as a Potential Modification for Thermal Destabilization¹







- 315 Sequences, 6 Targets
- Transfection, 10 nM siRNA, 24 hours, PMH

Model obtained from crystal structure of a GNA-modified RNA duplex modeled into structure of miRNA20a:Ago2²

- Consistent with its ability to maintain intrinsic RNAi activity, GNA can adopt a conformation, which is
 compatible with RISC-loaded guide strand despite shorter phosphate-phosphate and base-backbone distance
- Thermal destabilization (rel. to 2'-OMe) generally ranges between 3-8 K
- Activity screen across a panel of sequences shows varying tolerance ranging from improved to decreased activity; ESC level potency can generally be achieved via individual chemistry optimization

¹Schlegel et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2017, 139, 8537. ² Elkayam, E. et al. Cell 2012, 150, 100-110.

Position-Dependent Impact of GNA on Specificity and Off-Target Mitigation In Vitro RNASeq

Parent ESC



DEGs (Differentially Expressed Genes), significant 3'UTR seed match, significant 3'UTR seed match, not significant



GNA Walk

Log₂ Fold Change





Mean of Normalized Counts







Mock vs GNA6

100

Mean of Normalized Count:

10000









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Fold Char

2g2

In Vitro-In Vivo Translation



Optimized Designs Show Comparable In Vivo Potency in Rodent and NHP



ESC+ Demonstrates More Quiescent Off-Target Signature Across Dose Levels in Rat Liver with Comparable On-Target KD



DEGs (Differentially Expressed Genes), significant, 3'UTR match, significant, 3'UTR match, not significant O = target mRNA

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Reduced Off-Target Silencing Potential of ESC+ Confirmed with Reversirs



Reversal of *in vivo on*-target silencing with Reversir[™]

Presence of thermally destabilizing GNA prevents short seed region-targeted Reversir[™] to bind and block siRNA activity; longer Reversir[™] at higher dose required for reversal of activity 'Alnylam[®] **Therapeutic Index Improved Greater Than 5-fold with ESC+ Conjugates**



NOEL = No observed effect level NOAEL = No observed adverse effect level



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Conclusions

- Evolution of conjugate platform has predominantly been driven by advancements in siRNA design, which has been guided by
 - ° Continuous improvements in mechanistic understanding
 - Learnings from clinic
- RNAi-mediated off-target effects are important drivers of hepatotoxicity observed for subset of ESC conjugates in rodent
 - No evidence for impact of chemical modifications on observed toxicity 2'-F safety, Session VII, Preclinical Development (Maja Janas)
- ESC+ strategy mitigates seed-mediated off-target effects, improves specificity and further expands therapeutic window of siRNA conjugates
 - $^{\circ}$ Pharmacodynamics of ESC+ design comparable to ESC
 - Robust translation across species
- Multiple ESC+ conjugates are advancing towards clinical development with first INDs planned for 2018



- Increased specificity
 SC administration
- 2018 INDs and CTAs
- Maintained PD (potency/duration)
- Further improvements to
- specificity and therapeutic index





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