



# HBV/HDV Entry Inhibitor Research Webcast

**MARCH 31, 2022**

**Nasdaq: ASMB**

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# Today's Speakers



**John McHutchison AO, MD**  
Chief Executive Officer & President



**William Delaney, PhD**  
Chief Scientific Officer



**Professor Michael P. Manns, MD**  
President of Hannover Medical  
School, Hannover, Germany



# HDV is a Major Global Public Health Problem

Prevalence  
of HBV:  
**296 M<sup>1</sup>**

HDV:  
**12 M<sup>2</sup>**

## Only 1 Approved Drug for HDV in Europe†

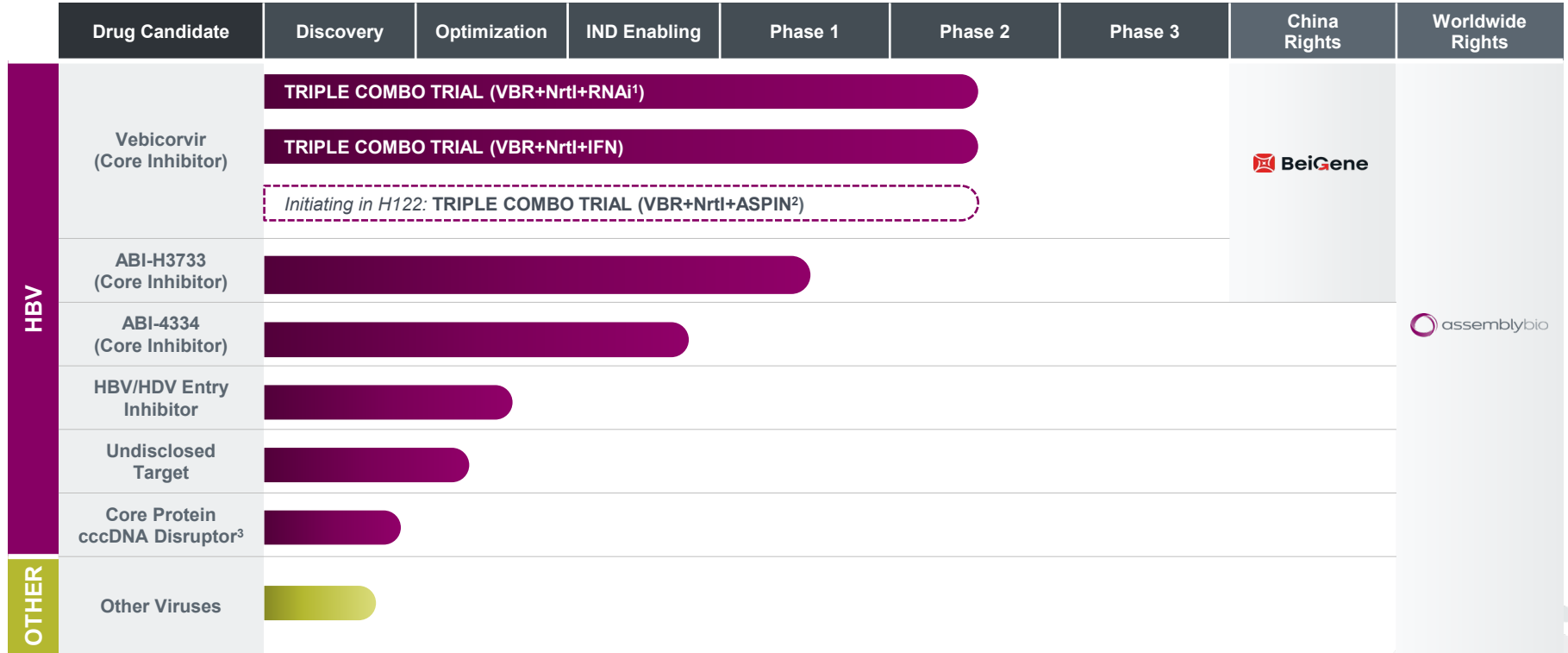
HDV infection  
occurs only with  
HBV infection

Among HBsAg  
positive patients,  
estimated  
HDV prevalence  
is 4.5%<sup>2</sup>

HDV causes  
18% of cirrhosis  
and 20% of  
hepatocellular  
carcinoma  
associated  
with HBV<sup>2</sup>



# Broad HBV Clinical & Research Stage Portfolio



# Professor Michael P. Manns, MD

- International expert in liver diseases and viral hepatitis, including hepatitis B and D (delta), with more than 35 years in clinical and research roles at leading medical and academic institutions
- Currently President and Board Member for Research and Education at Hannover Medical School in Hannover, Germany
- Founder and chairman of HepNet, a national network on viral hepatitis and the German Liver Foundation
- Past president of German Association for the Study of the Liver (GASL), German Society of Gastroenterology (DGVS), German Society of Internal Medicine (DGIM) and United European Gastroenterology (UEG)
- Recipient of numerous awards including the International Hans Popper Award (1995) and EASL Recognition Award (2007)
- According to Thomson Reuters and Clarivate Analytics he ranks among the top 1 % of most cited researchers in clinical medicine (h-Index 166, Google Scholar).



Hannover Medical School  
Germany



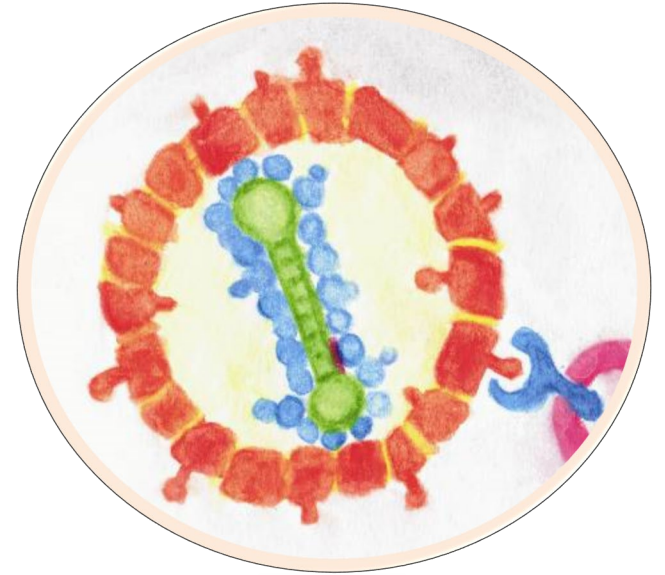
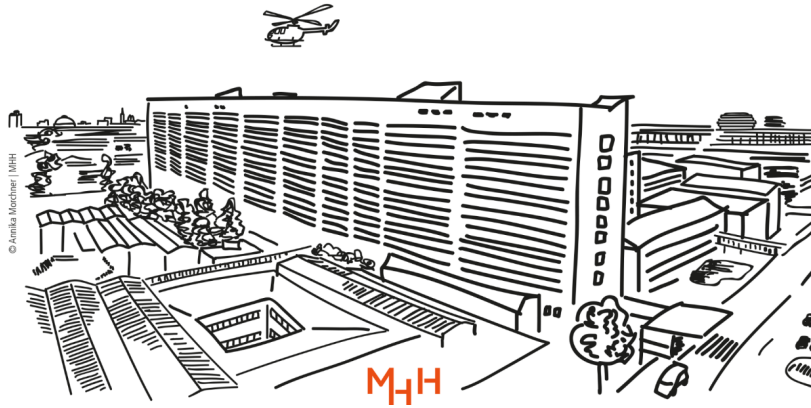
# Agenda

- Assembly Bio Strategy: Leveraging Expertise in Viral Disease to Expand Portfolio
  - John McHutchison AO, MD, Chief Executive Officer & President
- Hepatitis Delta Virus: The Greatest Current Unmet Need in Hepatology
  - Professor Michael P. Manns, MD
- Overview of Assembly Bio's HBV/HDV Entry Inhibitor Research Program
  - William Delaney, PhD, Chief Scientific Officer
- Q&A
- Anticipated 2022 Progress
  - John McHutchison



# Hepatitis D (delta) Virus Infection

**Michael P. Manns**  
**Hannover Medical School,**  
**Hannover, Germany**





# Hepatitis D (Delta)

- Epidemiology and natural history of disease
- Standard of care
- New treatment concepts

# Hepatitis D (Delta)

- **Epidemiology and natural history of disease**
- Standard of care
- New treatment concepts

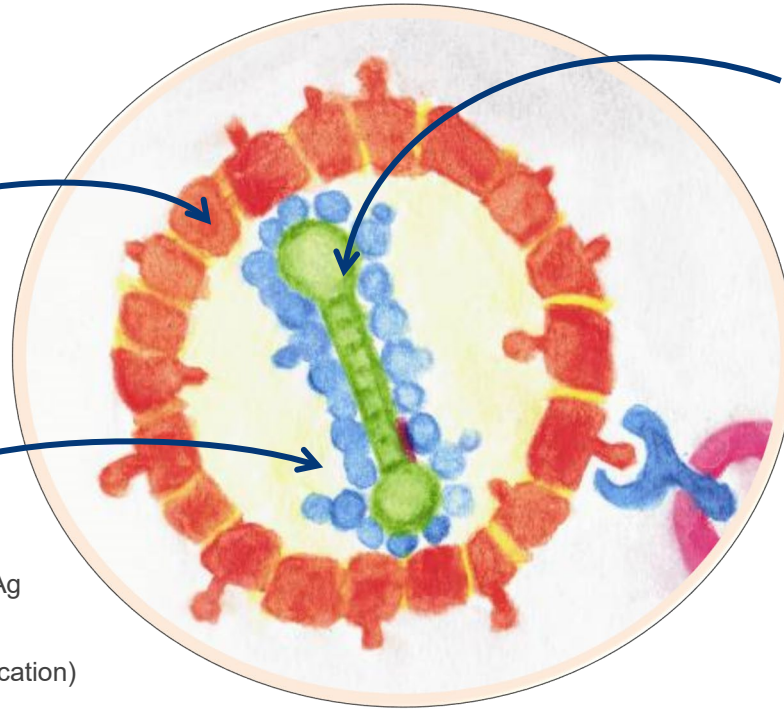
# The pathogen in a nutshell: The hepatitis D virus

## HBsAg

- HBsAg particles can self assemble
- HBV: 1 virion x  $10^3$ - $10^6$  particles

## HDAg

- 2 forms: S-HDAg and L-HDAg
- S-HDAg: ↑ replication
- L-HDAg: ↑ assembly (↓ replication)

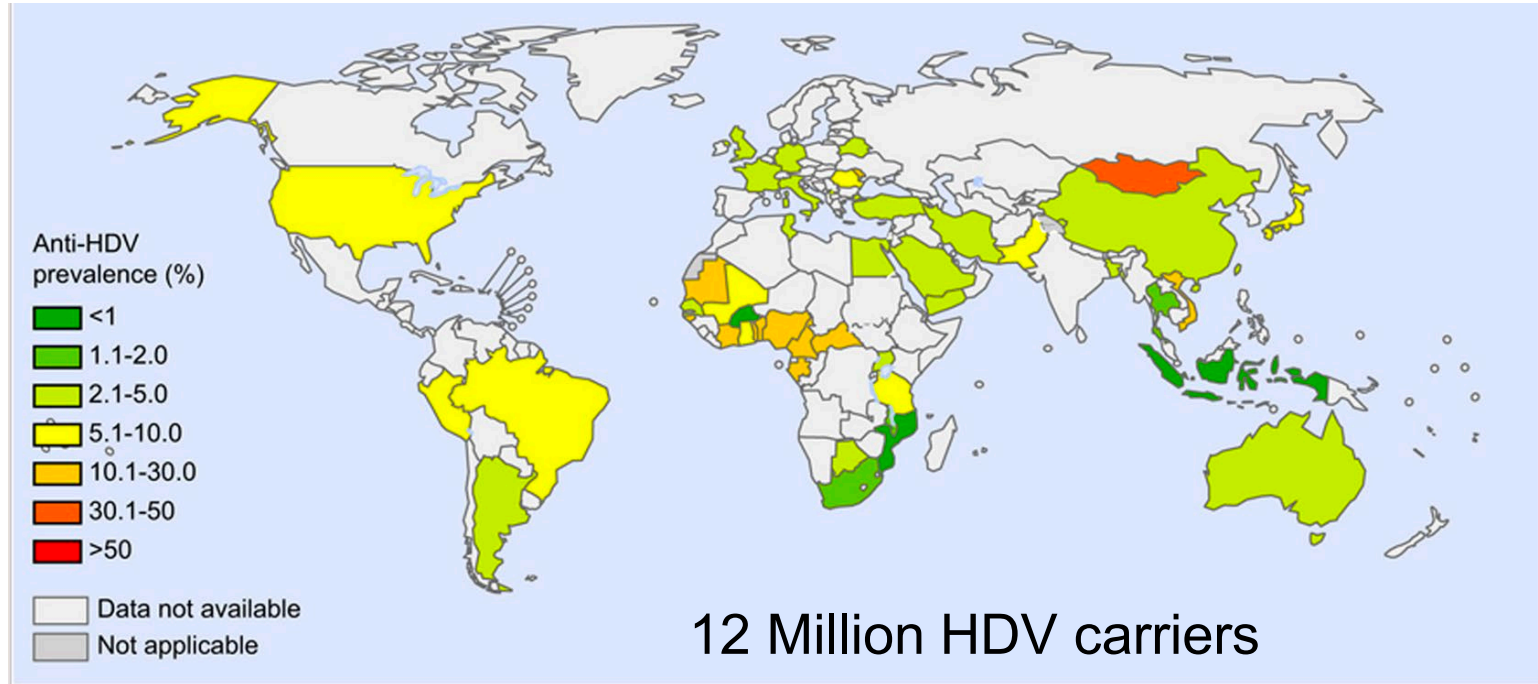


## HDV RNA

- The smallest of all animal viruses
- Highly paired – rod like structure
- No enzymes but Ribozymes
- Only encodes S-HDAg

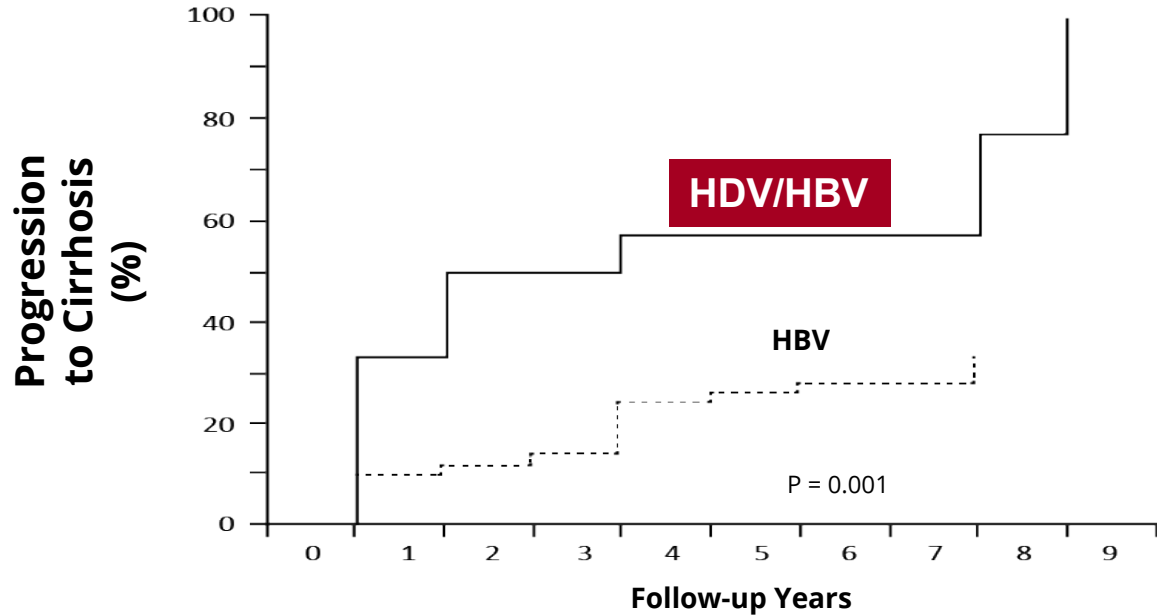
Calle Serrano, Manns, Wedemeyer. **Semin Liver Dis.** 2012 May;32(2):120-9.

# The global prevalence of hepatitis D virus infection: systematic review and meta-analysis



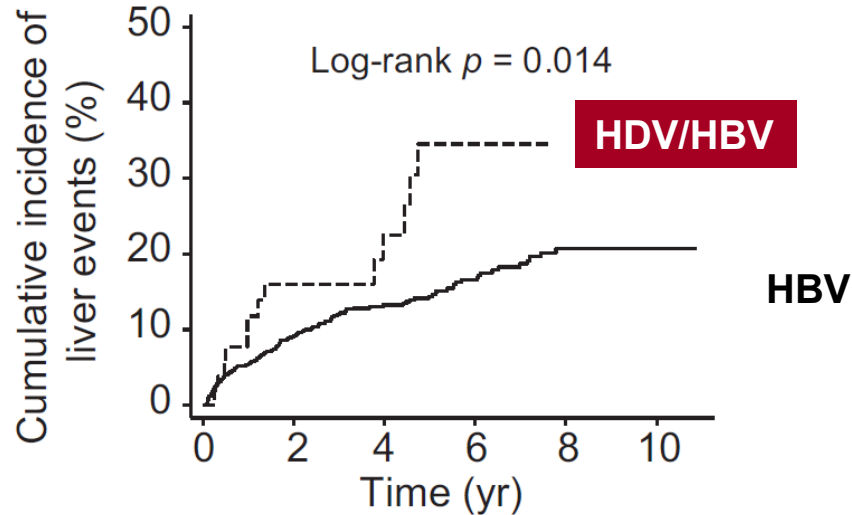
Stockdale et al. *J Hepatol* 2020 Sep;73(3):523-532.

# Hepatitis delta leads to faster progression to cirrhosis than HBV mono-infection



Fattovich et al, *J Infect Dis* 1987; Fattovich et al, *Gut*, 2000.

# Hepatitis delta takes a more severe long-term course than HBV mono-infection

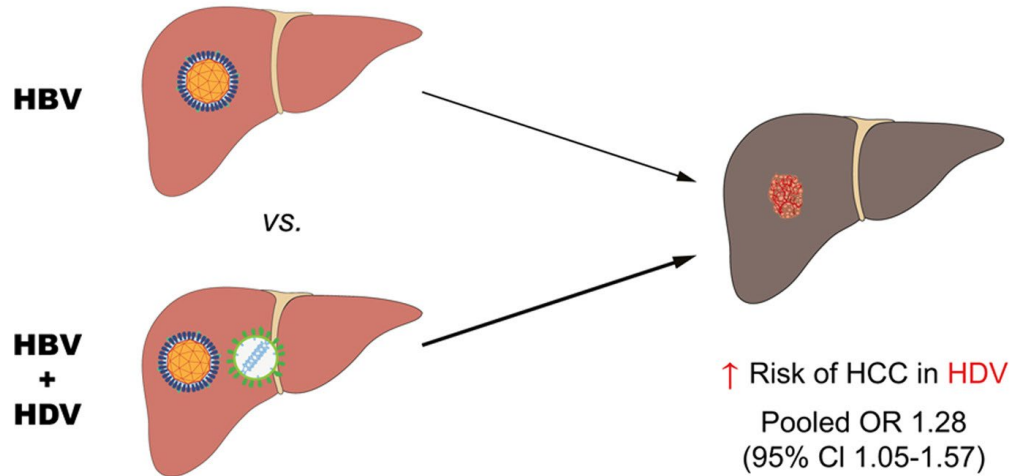


Number at risk	1091	685	434	266	123	36
HBV monoinfected						
HBV/HDV co-infected	53	33	24	7	2	2

Manesis et al. *J Hepatol* 2013 Nov;59(5):949-56.

# HDV infection is associated with an increased risk of HCC in HBV-infected patients

Systematic review  
93 studies, N = 98,289 individuals



Alfaiate et al. *J Hepatol* 2020 Sep;73(3):533-539.

The association between HDV and HCC is stronger in the setting of HIV coinfection.

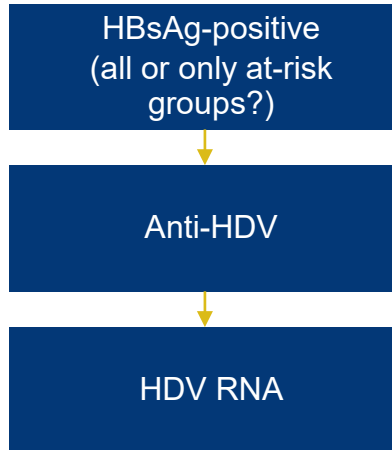
# Hepatitis D (Delta)

- Epidemiology and natural history of disease
- **Standard of care**
- New treatment concepts



# Guideline recommendations for HDV screening

## Whom to Test



AASLD<sup>1</sup>  
(2018)

APASL<sup>2</sup>  
(2016)

EASL<sup>3</sup>  
(2017)

## Whom to Test

- HBsAg+ patients with HDV risk factors.
- Low/undetectable HBV DNA and high ALT

- Patients with chronic HBV infection and chronic liver disease.

- All HBsAg positive individuals

AASLD: American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases; ALT: alanine aminotransferase;

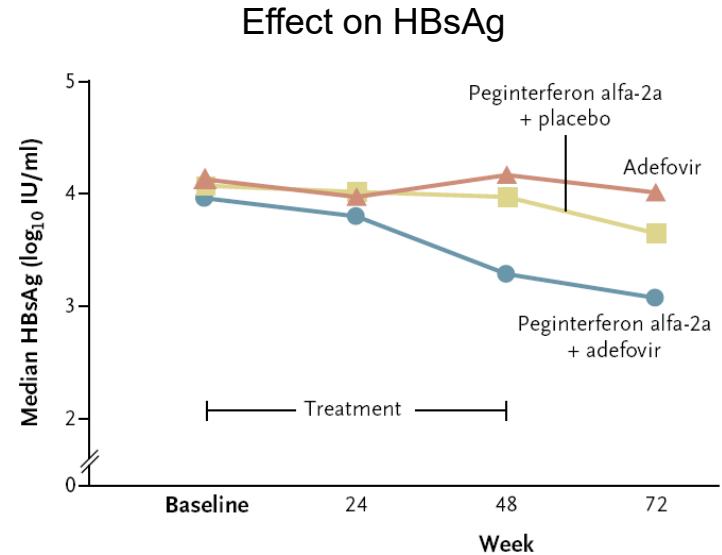
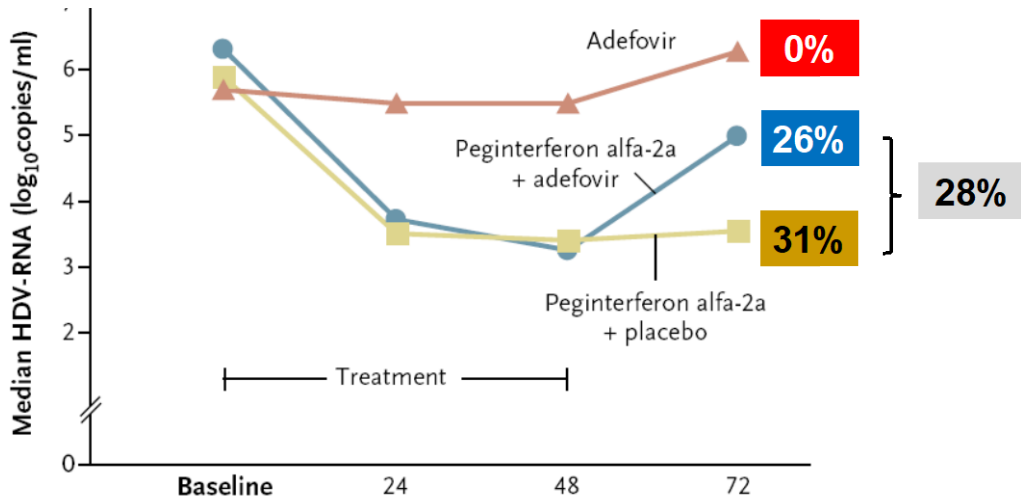
APASL: Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver; EASL: European Association for the Study of the Liver; HBV: hepatitis B virus; HBsAg: hepatitis B surface antigen; HDAg: hepatitis D antigen; HDV: hepatitis D virus; RNA: ribonucleic acid; WHO: World Health Organization.

1. Terrault N, et al. *Hepatology* 2018;67:1560-99;

2. Sarin SK, et al. *Hepatol Int* 2016;10:1-98;

3. European Association for the Study of the Liver. *J Hepatol* 2017;67:370-98.

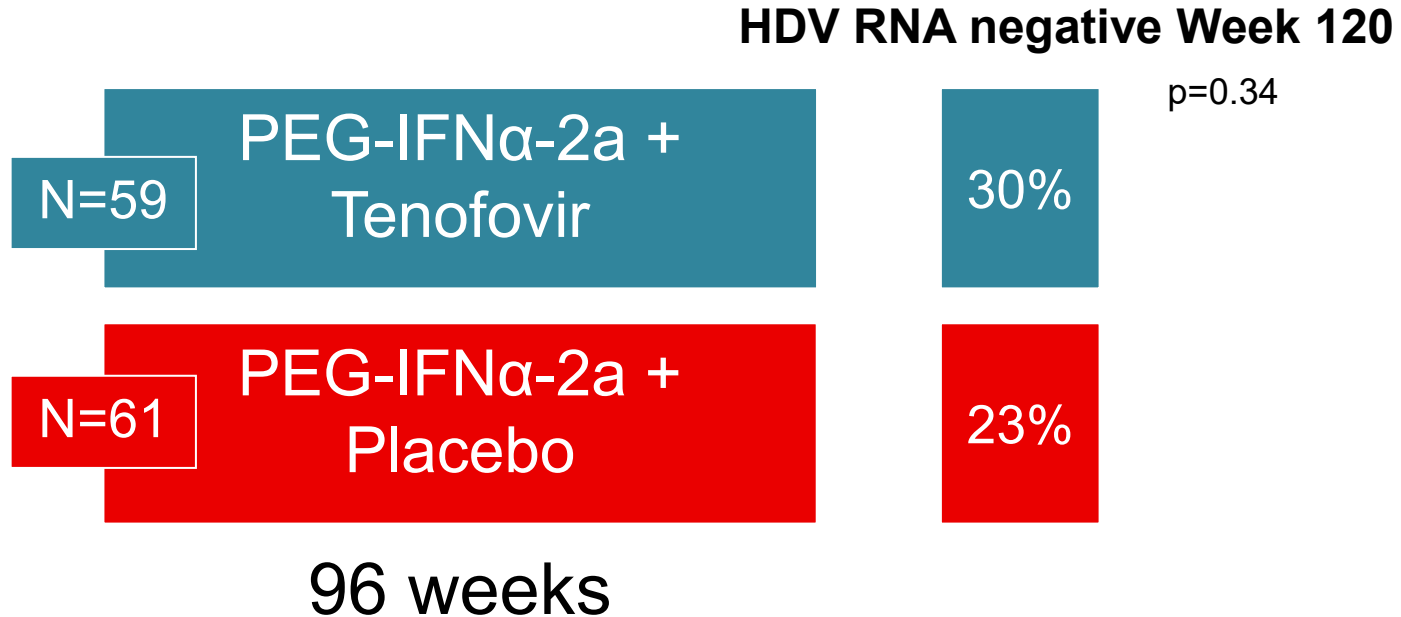
# Treatment of chronic hepatitis delta: Only PEG-IFN $\alpha$ leads to decline of HDV RNA



Wedemeyer et al. *New Engl J Med* 2011, 364(4); 322-31.

Note:  
PEG-IFN $\alpha$  is not approved for the treatment of hepatitis delta

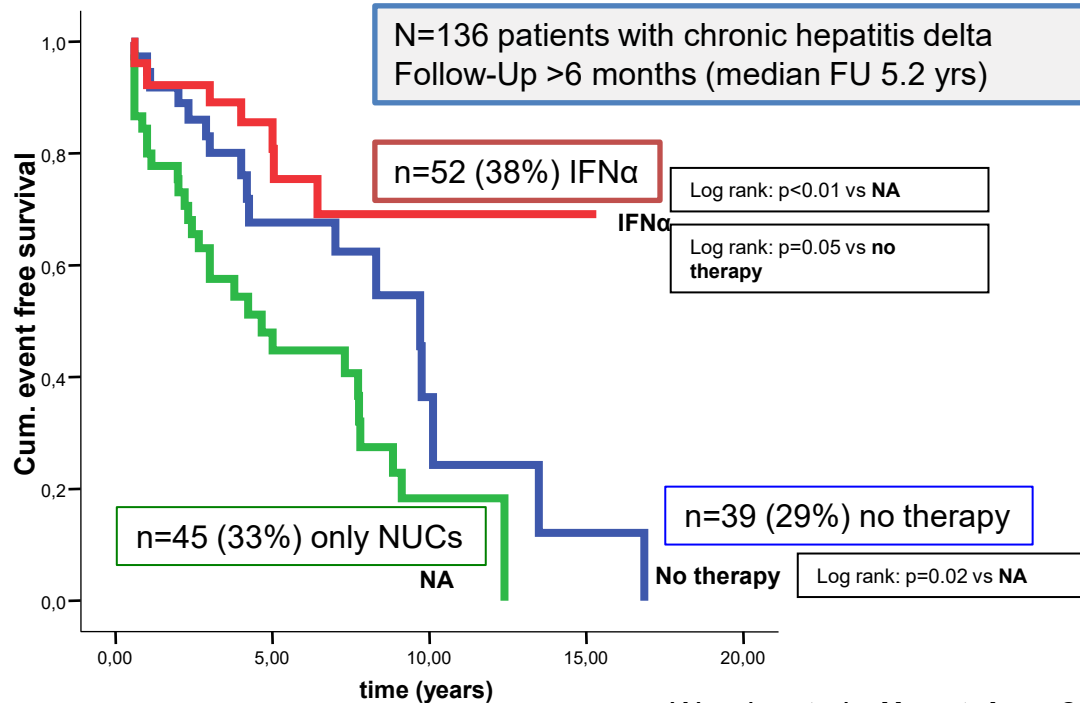
# HIDIT-2: Longer treatment with PEG-IFN $\alpha$ does not increase response; no additional benefit of tenofovir



Wedemeyer et al., *Lancet Infect Dis* 2019 Mar;19(3):275-286.

Note:  
PEG-IFN $\alpha$  is not approved for the treatment of hepatitis delta

# IFN therapy is associated with improved clinical long-term outcome of hepatitis D (delta)



Wranke et al., *Hepatology* 2016 Oct 22. doi:10.1002/hep.28876.

Note:  
PEG-IFN $\alpha$  is not approved for the treatment of hepatitis delta

# Hepatitis D (Delta)

- Epidemiology and natural history of disease
- Standard of care
- **New treatment concepts**

# Regulatory and guideline efficacy endpoints



## Chronic On-Therapy Endpoint

*“...a greater than or equal to 2-log<sub>10</sub> decline in HDV RNA and ALT normalization on-treatment could be considered an acceptable surrogate endpoint”*

*“...a 2-log reduction in HDV RNA might suffice.”*

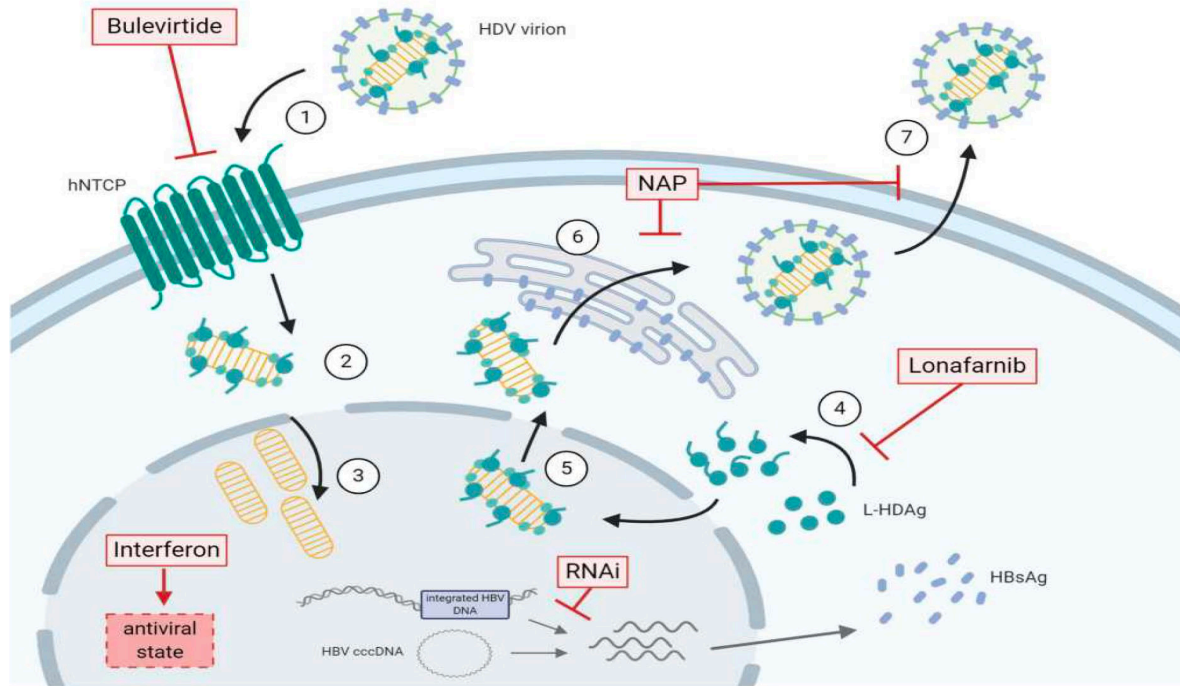
## Cure Off-Therapy Endpoint

*“The proportion of trial patients with undetectable serum HDV RNA (defined as less than the lower limit of quantification (LLOQ), target not detected (TND)) and ALT normalization.”*

*“...undetectable serum HDV RNA 6 months after stopping treatment as the endpoint ...Normalisation of ALT is also desired”*

1. FDA. <https://www.fda.gov/media/132137/download>. Accessed February 2021;
2. Cornberg M, et al. *J Hepatol* 2020 Mar;72:539-57. doi: 10.1016/j.jhep.2019.11.003.

# New treatment concepts for hepatitis delta

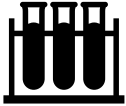


Sandmann & Cornberg. *J Exp Pharmacol* 2021 Apr 16;13:461-468.

# Efficacy and safety of bulevirtide monotherapy



- 50-60% HDV RNA decline  $\geq 2\log_{10}$  IU/ml
- ALT normalization 43-73%
- No HBsAg decline



- Asymptomatic and dose-dependent elevation of serum bile salts, reversible upon discontinuation of treatment



- Injection site reactions such as swelling, redness, irritation, itchiness, infection, haematoma and local pain. Local reactions more likely if injection is accidentally misplaced

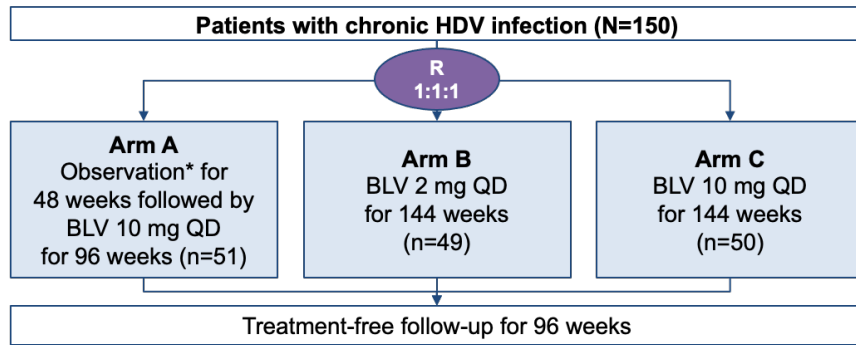


- Discontinuation of bulevirtide can lead to reactivation of HDV and HBV infection and exacerbation of hepatitis

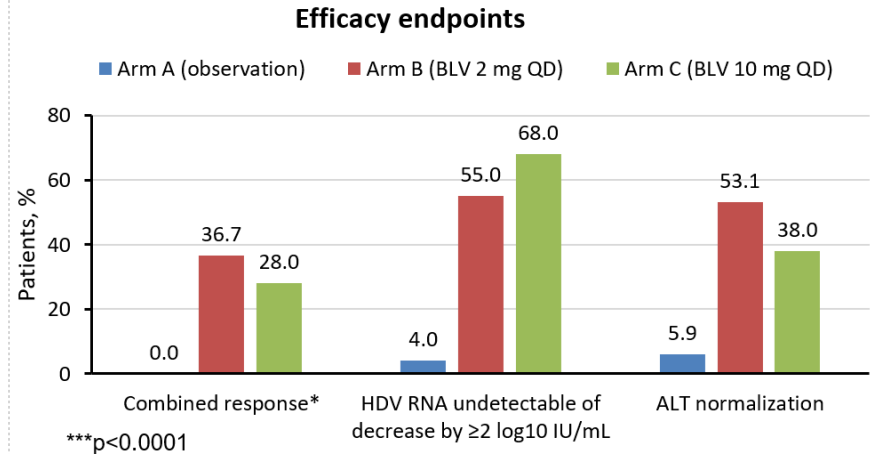
Bulevirtide, Summary of Product Characteristics. October 2020.



# 24 week interim analysis of the Phase 3 MYR301 Study



- 57.3% of patients were male, 82.7% white, and the mean age was 41.8 years
- HDV RNA levels were 5.05 log<sub>10</sub> IU/mL and ALT mean levels were 110.9 U/L
- 47.3% of patients had compensated liver cirrhosis

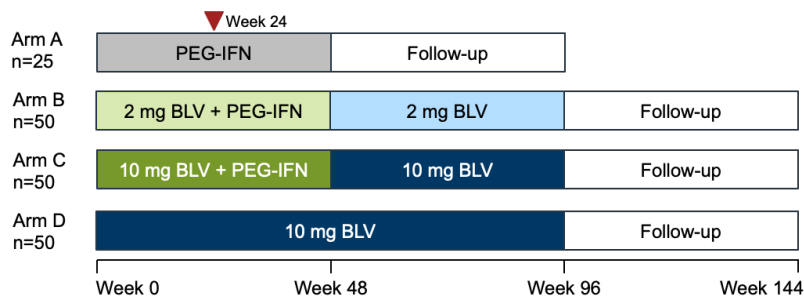


Wedemeyer et al., dILC 2021; LBP-2730

# 24 week interim analysis of the Phase 2b MYR204 study

## Bulevirtide as monotherapy and in combination with PEG-IFN $\alpha$

N=175 HDV randomized 1:2:2:2



Results at Week 24: % of patients with response			
	Undetectable HDV RNA	ALT normalization	Combined response <sup>†</sup>
PEG-IFN	12.5	12.5	12.5
2 mg BLV + PEG-IFN	24.0	30.0	30.0
10 mg BLV + PEG-IFN	34.0	24.0	24.0
10 mg BLV	4.0	64.0	50.0

Asselah T, et al. dILC 2021; OS-2717

# Summary of new treatment concepts for hepatitis delta


			HDV RNA decline	ALT decline	Safety
<i>Bulevirtide</i> Entry inhibitor	Subcutaneous ± PEG-IFN $\alpha$	Phase 3	✓	✓	Increase bile acids, local reactions
<i>Lonafarnib</i> Prenylation inhibitor	Oral ± PEG-IFN $\alpha$	Phase 3	✓	✓	Dosing with RTV improves GI tolerability
PEG-IFN lambda	Subcutaneous ± lonafarnib +RTV	Phase 2	✓	On-Tx flares	Less side effects than PEG-IFN $\alpha$
<i>REP2139</i> Nucleic Acid Polymers	Intravenous + PEG-IFN $\alpha$	Phase 2	✓	On-Tx flares	Limited data in HDV
<i>JNJ-3989</i> RNAi	Subcutaneous	Phase 2		-No data in HDV-	

Note: very subjective and simplified description of the data

# HDV - Unmet Needs

- Worst form of viral hepatitis
- 12 million chronic HDV carriers may be an underestimation due to incomplete global epidemiology
- High prevalence in risk groups and migrant populations
- No universal HDV screening of HBsAg carriers
- Efficacious, tolerable and affordable HDV-targeted therapies

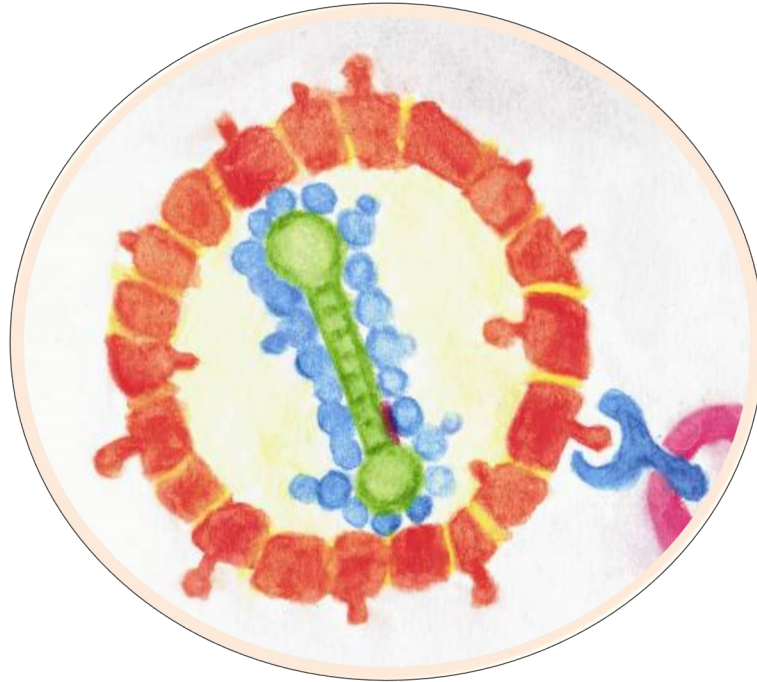
# HDV - Opportunities

-  Greatest unmet needs in viral hepatitis are therapies for chronic hepatitis D
- Many molecular targets have been identified and there are several molecules at various stages of clinical development
- Interferon a candidate for combination therapy
- Curing HBV would also cure HDV, but development of a cure for HBV is still early

# Acknowledgements

Markus Cornberg, Hannover

# Thank you for your attention!



# Agenda

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- Q&A
- Anticipated 2022 Progress
  - John McHutchison





# Chronic HDV Infection – Current Unmet Need



HDV infection results in the most severe form of viral hepatitis with few treatment options



Lowering viral load improves patient outcomes, **however.....**



Current treatment options have drawbacks in convenience and side effects



There is a need for safe, simple, and effective oral therapies



# Hepatitis B Virus and Hepatitis Delta Virus

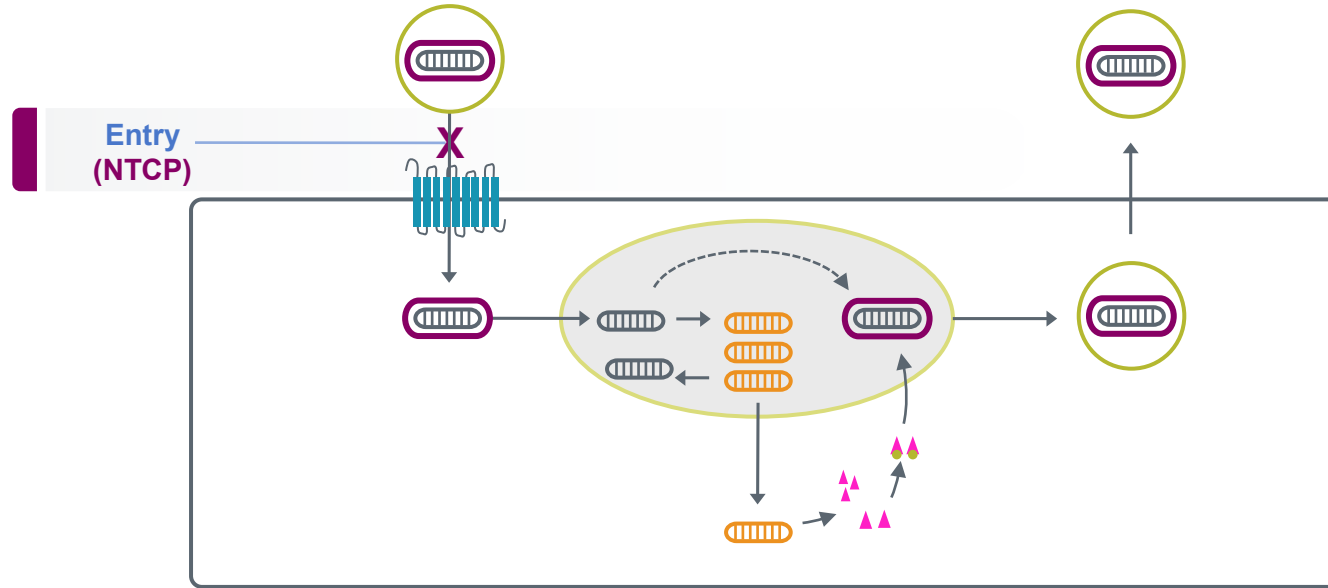


- Small enveloped DNA virus
- Infects human hepatocytes
- Partially double-stranded 3.2 kb DNA genome
- Encodes HBcAg, HBeAg, HBV Pol, HBsAg, HBxAg
- Replicates by reverse transcription using its own Pol

- Small enveloped RNA virus
- Infects human hepatocytes
- Single-stranded 1.7 kb circular RNA genome.
- Encodes only two proteins: S- and L-HDAg
- Replicates using host RNA Pols I & II
- Is a “satellite” virus of HBV (requires HBsAg)



# HDV Replication Cycle: Target for Antiviral Intervention



# Sodium Taurocholate Cotransporting Polypeptide (NTCP)

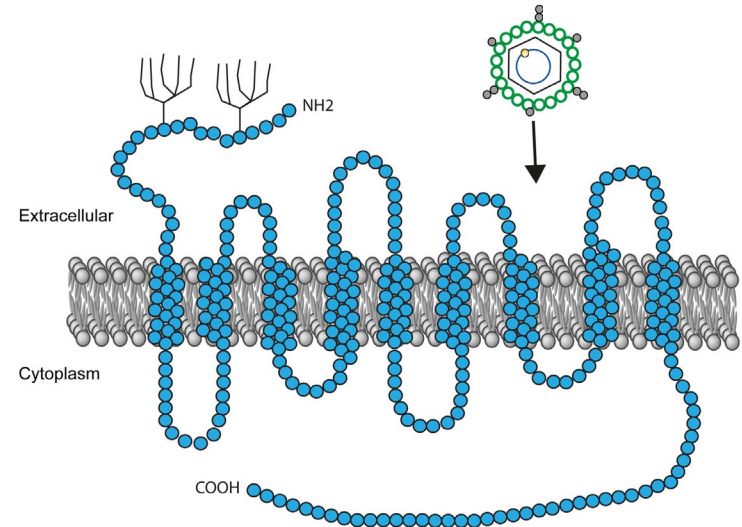
Bile acid/Na<sup>+</sup> uptake transporter with multiple transmembrane domains

Selective expression on hepatocytes

- regulates uptake of bile acids into the liver

Identified as the receptor for HBV and HDV

- HBsAg binds specifically to human NTCP to mediate viral entry

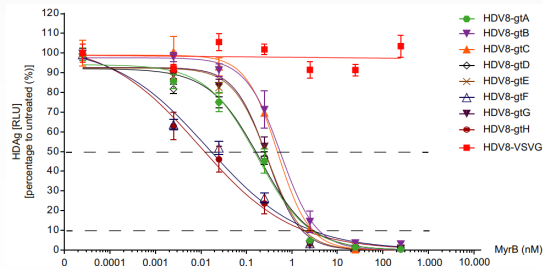


Appelman et al. BBA – Mol. & Cell Biology of Lipids, 2021



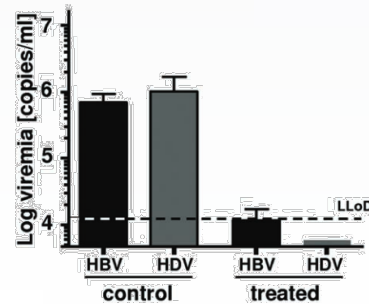
# Target Validation for NTCP by Bulevirtide

## IN VITRO



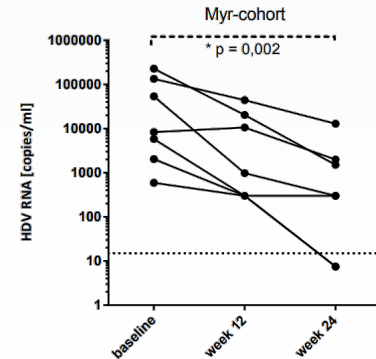
Wang et al. JHep, 2021

## HUMANIZED MOUSE



Lütgehetmann et al. Hepatology, 2012

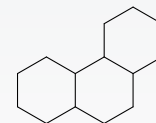
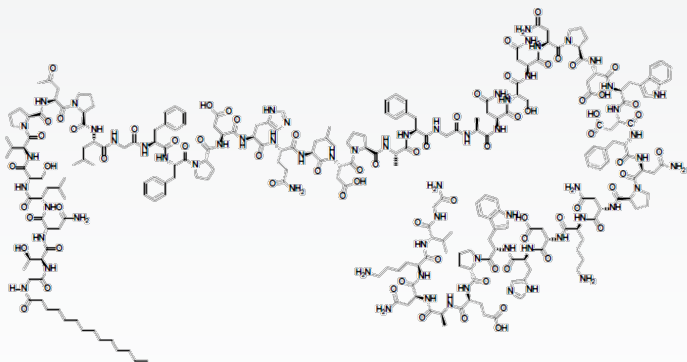
## PHASE 2



Bogomolov et al. JHep, 2016



# Assembly Small Molecule Approach



Bulevirtide has shown safety & efficacy in clinical trials, **but.....**

- Requires daily injections
- Is a very large, complex molecule

- Opportunity to develop a safe & effective oral small molecule



- Improved convenience



- Potential for enhanced treatment uptake and diagnosis rates

# HBV/HDV Entry Inhibitor Target Product Profile (TPP)

## Virologic Profile

- Potent HBV and HDV antiviral activity ( $EC_{50} \leq 10$  nM)
- Pan-genotypic for HBV & HDV

## PK Profile

- Once daily oral dose ( $\leq 300$  mg)
- Plasma  $C_{min} \geq 10$ -fold above protein adjusted antiviral  $EC_{50}$
- Conventional formulation suitable for coformulation

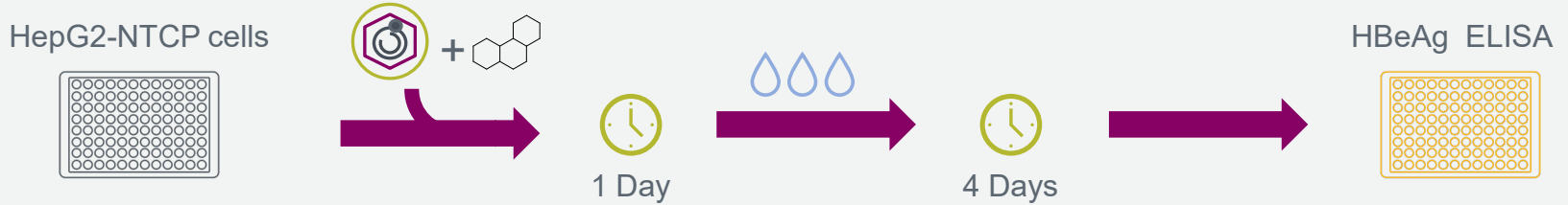
## Safety Profile

- No clinically-significant side effects; suitable for chronic dosing
- Low potential for drug-drug interactions

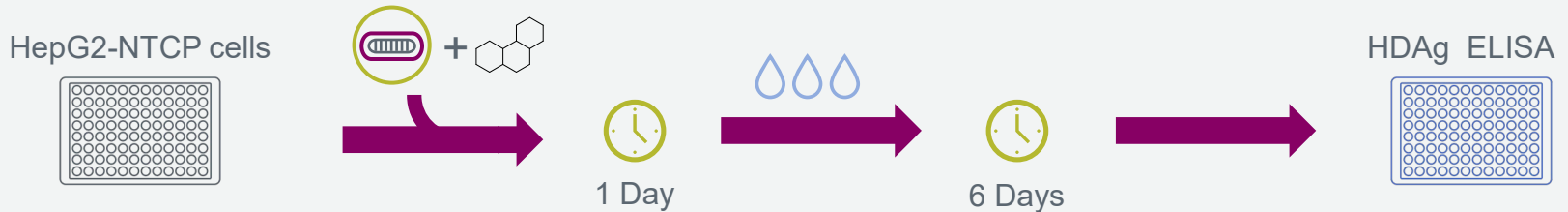


# Identification of Novel Potent HBV/HDV Entry Inhibitors

## Cell-based Preclinical Antiviral Activity



**Inhibition of HBeAg indicates HBV entry and cccDNA formation are inhibited**



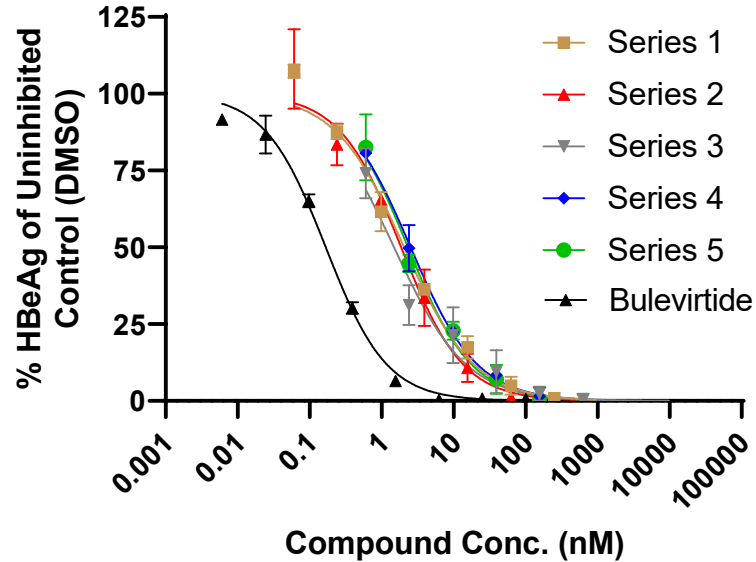
**Inhibition of HDAg indicates HDV entry and HDV RNA replication are inhibited**





# Identification of Novel Potent HBV/HDV Entry Inhibitors

## Cell-based Preclinical Antiviral Activity



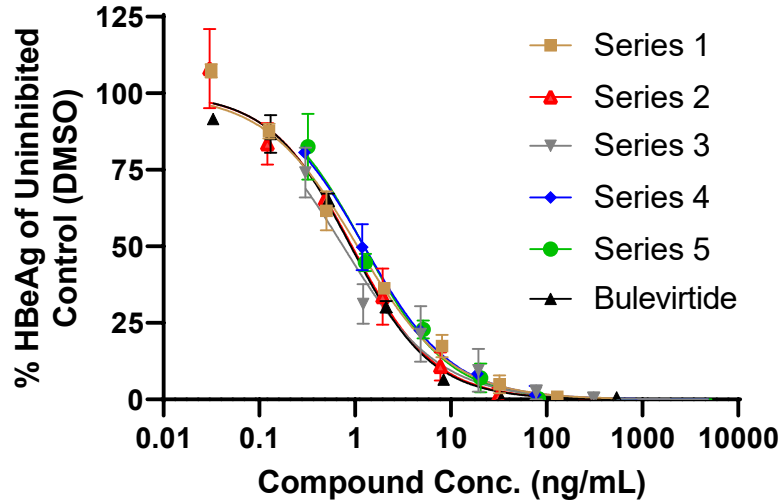
Compound	HBeAg EC <sub>50</sub> (nM)
Series 1 Inhibitor	2.1
Series 2 Inhibitor	1.9
Series 3 Inhibitor	1.5
Series 4 Inhibitor	2.5
Series 5 Inhibitor	2.3
Bulevirtide	0.2

Bulevirtide molecular weight: 5,399 g/mol  
Series 1-5 molecular weight: ~500 g/mol



# Identification of Novel Potent HBV/HDV Entry Inhibitors

## Cell-based Preclinical Antiviral Activity



Compound	HBeAg EC <sub>50</sub> (ng/mL)
Series 1 Inhibitor	1.1
Series 2 Inhibitor	0.9
Series 3 Inhibitor	0.8
Series 4 Inhibitor	1.2
Series 5 Inhibitor	1.2
Bulevirtide	0.9

Bulevirtide molecular weight: 5,399 g/mol  
Series 1-5 molecular weight: ~500 g/mol



# HBV/HDV Entry Inhibitor: Progress and Goals

## Project is in Lead Optimization

- Highly resourced to progress to development candidate nomination quickly
- Multiple chemically-differentiated leads with single digit nM potency
- HBV entry assays in place, HDV assay in development
- Currently optimizing DMPK properties
- Anticipate advancing compounds into preclinical safety profiling throughout 2022

Development candidate nomination expected in first half of 2023



# HBV/HDV Entry Inhibitor Project: Summary

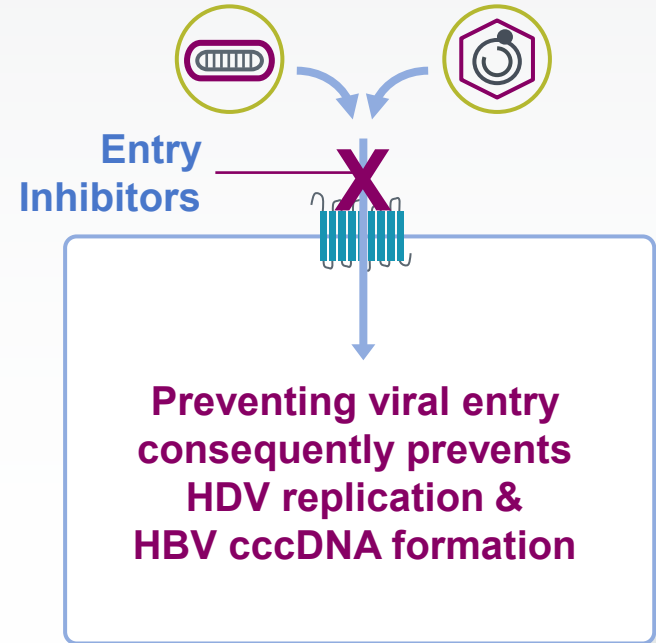
HDV: most severe form of viral hepatitis; an important subgroup of HBV patients with high unmet need

Progress in HDV therapeutics encouraging; significant room for improvement (convenience and side effects)

An oral, QD HDV entry inhibitor meeting our target profile would be a significant advance to currently used therapies; potential to increase diagnosis and treatment rates

We have discovered novel single digit nM entry inhibitors; aim to nominate a candidate within a year

- Potential to simplify and improve access to HDV therapy
- Potential to intensify antiviral pressure on HBV



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# Q&A

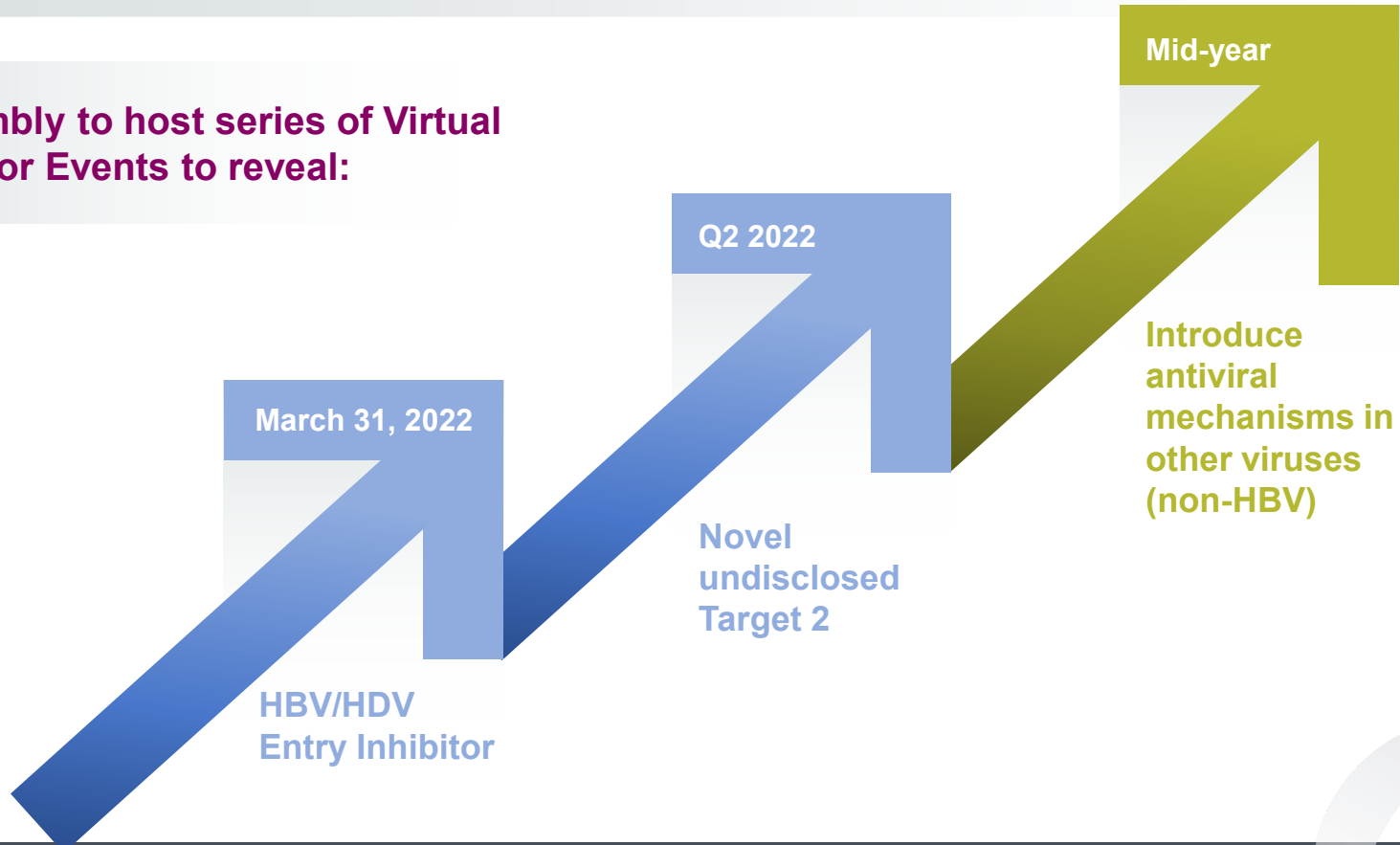
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# Expanded Research Engine - Expectations for 2022

Assembly to host series of Virtual Investor Events to reveal:





# 2022 Key Objectives and Anticipated Progress

1H  
2022

- Introduce HBV/HDV entry inhibitor program ✓
- Reveal novel undisclosed HBV Target 2
- Introduce R&D initiatives aimed at other viruses (non-HBV) – *mid-year*
- Both Phase 2 Triple Combo Studies (IFN and RNAi) fully enrolled ✓
- Initiate Phase 2 Triple Combo Study – ASPIN
- Initiate Phase 1b Study – 3733

2H  
2022

- Interim Phase 2 On-Treatment Data Triple Combo Study – IFN
- Interim Phase 2 On-Treatment Data Triple Combo Study – RNAi
- Initiate Phase 1a Study – 4334
- Interim Phase 1b Data – 3733

## Balance Sheet

~\$175M in cash (as of 12/31/21) sufficient to fund operations into 2H 2023



# HBV/HDV Entry Inhibitor Research Webcast

**MARCH 31, 2022**