

# **MEKi Focused Pipeline**

Program	Drug modality	Indication	Target	Target ID / Validation	Lead Selection	IND Enabling	Phase I	Milestones
PAS-004	Macrocyclic Small molecule	Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1) and solid tumors	MEK 1/2	FIH Phase	e 1 trial initi	ated Q1 20	)24	Interim data 2H 2024
PAS-003	Monoclonal antibody	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)	α5β1 Integrin					Partnership opportunity
PAS-001	Small molecule	Schizophrenia	C4A					Partnership opportunity

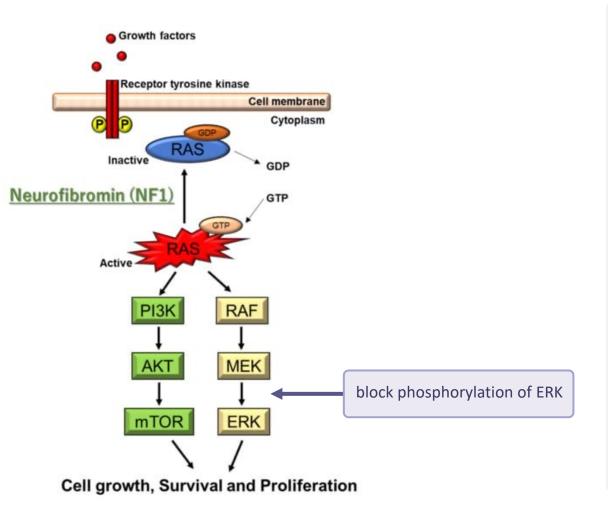


# **PAS-004**

Next Generation MEK Inhibitor for The Treatment of Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1) and Solid Tumors



# The MAPK Pathway activation is causal in Cancer and NF1/Rasopathies



The mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) pathway is a chain of proteins that are essential for cell function by regulating cellular transcription, proliferation, survival and other functions.

When abnormally activated, the MAPK pathway is critical for the formation and progression of tumors, fibrosis and other diseases.

Alterations in RAS or RAF have been described in many cancers, including melanoma and colorectal where MEK inhibitors are approved

NF1 arises from mutations in the NF1 gene, which encodes for neurofibromin, a key negative regulator of MAPK Pathway by inactivating RAS

Other genetic syndromes due to MAPK activation (Rasopathies)

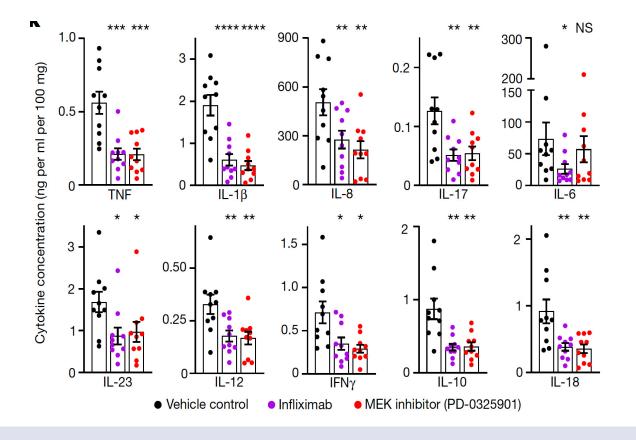


# MEK inhibitors (MEKi) modulates ETS2 pathway

- ETS2 gene is a central regulator of human inflammatory macrophages
- MEKi as a class are the strongest known ETS2 inhibitors
- MEKi modulation provides potent anti-inflammatory activity, phenocopying ETS2 knock-out, modulating multiple cytokines

#### A disease-associated gene desert directs macrophage inflammation through ETS2 C. T. Stankey<sup>1,2,3,35</sup>, C. Bourges<sup>1,35</sup>, L. M. Haag<sup>4,35</sup>, T. Turner-Stokes<sup>1,2</sup>, A. P. Piedade<sup>1</sup> https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-07501-1 C. Palmer-Jones<sup>5,6</sup>, I. Papa<sup>1</sup>, M. Silva dos Santos<sup>7</sup>, Q. Zhang<sup>8</sup>, A. J. Cameron<sup>9</sup>, A. Legrini<sup>9</sup>, Received: 17 April 2023 T. Zhang<sup>9</sup>, C. S. Wood<sup>9</sup>, F. N. New<sup>10</sup>, L. O. Randzavola<sup>2</sup>, L. Speidel<sup>11,12</sup>, A. C. Brown<sup>13</sup>, A. Hall<sup>14,15</sup>. F. Saffioti<sup>6,14</sup>, E. C. Parkes<sup>1</sup>, W. Edwards<sup>16</sup>, H. Direskeneli<sup>17</sup>, P. C. Grayson<sup>18</sup>, L. Jiang<sup>19</sup>, Accepted: 1 May 2024 P. A. Merkel<sup>20,21</sup>, G. Saruhan-Direskeneli<sup>22</sup>, A. H. Sawalha<sup>23,24,25,26</sup>, E. Tombetti<sup>27,28</sup>, A. Quaglia<sup>15,29</sup> Published online: 05 June 2024 D. Thorburn<sup>6,14</sup>, J. C. Knight<sup>13,30,31</sup>, A. P. Rochford<sup>5,6</sup>, C. D. Murray<sup>5,6</sup>, P. Divakar<sup>10</sup>, M. Green<sup>32</sup>, E. Nye<sup>32</sup>, J. I. MacRae<sup>7</sup>, N. B. Jamieson<sup>9</sup>, P. Skoglund<sup>11</sup>, M. Z. Cader<sup>16,33</sup>, C. Wallace<sup>16,34</sup>, Open access D. C. Thomas 16,33 & J. C. Lee 1,5,6 A Check for updates Approved IBD MEK inhibitors treatments 75 **HSP90** inhibitors Number of significantly ETS upstream enriched gene sets **JAK** inhibitors regulators 50 -**RAF** inhibitors SRC inhibitors 25 (Glucocorticoids) **ERK** inhibitors

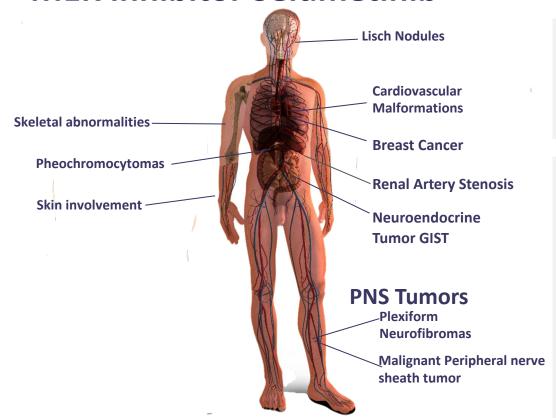
Drug classes





Article

# NF1 - PN: Large unmet medical need, only approved treatment is suboptimal MEK inhibitor Selumetinib



**Symptoms** 

- 1. Café-au-lait spots, Freckles in the axilla or groin
- 2. Eye involvement: Lisch nodules on the iris, Optic glioma
- 3. Siezures, headaches, brain tumors, learning difficulties
- 4. Scoliosis, Pseudoarthritis, Bone Deformities
- 5. Digestive issues: diarrhea, constipation, vomiting
- 6. Cutaneous neurofibroma

An autosomal dominant genetic disorder

Affects approximately one in 3,000 newborns worldwide with ~100,000 patients living in U.S. with NF1

30-50% of NF1 patients develop plexiform neurofibromas (NF1-PN). Majority (>95%) develop cutaneous neurofibromas (NF1- CN)

PNs are benign peripheral nerve sheath tumors that can cause severe complications, including disfigurement, pain, motor dysfunction, and neurological impairment and have malignant transformation potential.

CNs present with great diversity and frequency and can cause disfigurement and quality of life challenges

Surgical resection is challenging

MEK inhibitor Selumetinib is the only FDA approved agent for NF1-PN treatment and only in pediatric population.



### **NF1 Tumor Conditions**

- Neurofibromas are noncancerous (benign) tumors that are derived from Schwann cell lineage
- Can undergo malignant transformation

#### **Cutaneous Neurofibromas**

# (c) (b)

#### Plexiform Neurofibromas





## Where and how to improve on Selumetinib limitations

**Next generation MEK inhibitor PAS-004** aims to achieve ORR in wider population >>50%, deeper responses including complete responses, less frequent dosing, no fasting requirement and limited DDI

#### Selumetinib has Suboptimal efficacy

- Most patients do not respond, and they achieve limited partial response
- ORR is 44% under BICR and average depth of response is only 27%
- Probably linked to limited pERK inhibition and plateau effect seen in cellular activity (Selumetinib was not active enough in cancer indications to get approved)

#### Selumetinib takes a long time to generate response

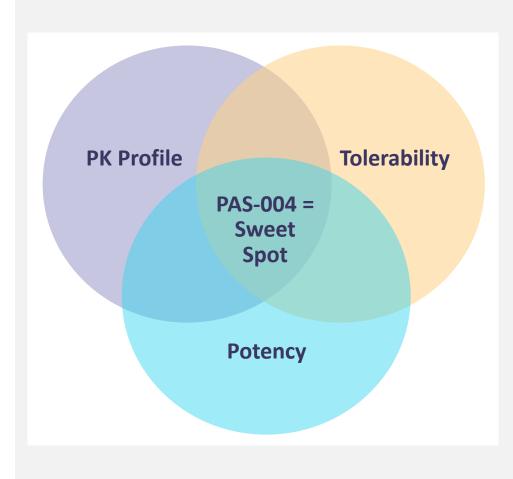
- Duration of treatment response is quite long (7.2 months)
- ~50% patients discontinue after 1 year because patients respond slowly or hard compliance to adhere

#### Selumetinib has poor tolerability and compliance

- Selumetinib requires BID (2x/day) dosing which leads to poor compliance
- Selumetinib has a food effect (requires fasting for 2 hrs before and 1 hr after dosing, major hurdle for pediatrics)
- Selumetinib has a poor AE profile where patients can experience a negative gastro effect or rash



# PAS-004 Target Product Profile: Unique Macrocycle Structure position as "Sweet Spot" among MEK Inhibitors for NF1 treatment



#### **Sustained suppression of phospho-ERK**

- Long Half Life (approved drugs in NF1 have short half life in human, less then 7.5 hours)
- May lead to better efficacy in NF1 disease

#### Improved risk-benefit profile

- Macrocyclic molecules are more rigid with possible less "off target" sideeffects vs MEK inhibitors with additional interactions
- Expected 90% pERK reduction at NOAEL dose
- Improved patient compliance due to 1x a day or less dosing

#### Improved PK/PD

- Possible to avoid fasting via 1x a day dosing or less
- 96% oral bioavailability seen in preclinical models
- High solubility seen in ADME studies

#### **Better combinability**

Superior properties may support better combination



# **Approved MEK Inhibitors**

#### **Typical liabilities associated with approved MEK Inhibitors:**

- High toxicity limits Maximum Tolerated Dose (MTD) & efficacy
- Toxicity and PK profile limits use in combination therapies

Drug	Company	Development Approach	Tumor Type	Key Properties	Liabilities	
Selumetinib (Koselugo)	AstraZeneca	Monotherapy (pediatric)	Neurofibroma (NF-1)	<ul><li>Short Half-Life</li><li>BID dosing</li><li>High Cmax/trough Ratio</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Dose limiting side effects</li> <li>Lack of efficacy at MTD in failed oncology trials</li> <li>Requires fasting before and after dosing</li> </ul>	
Trametinib (Mekinist)	Novartis	+ B-Raf inhibitors	Melanoma, NSCLC, Thyroid cancer, BRAF V600E	<ul><li>Long Half-life</li><li>High Potency</li></ul>	<ul><li>Dose limiting side effects</li><li>Discontinued in NF1</li></ul>	
Cobimetinib (Cotellic)	Genentech	+ B-Raf inhibitors	Melanoma	Long Half-Life	<ul><li>Dose limiting side effects</li><li>Discontinued in NF1</li></ul>	
Binimetinib (Mektovi)	Pfizer	+ B-Raf inhibitors	Melanoma	<ul><li>Short Half-life</li><li>BID dosing</li><li>High Cmax/trough Ratio</li></ul>	Dose limiting side effects	



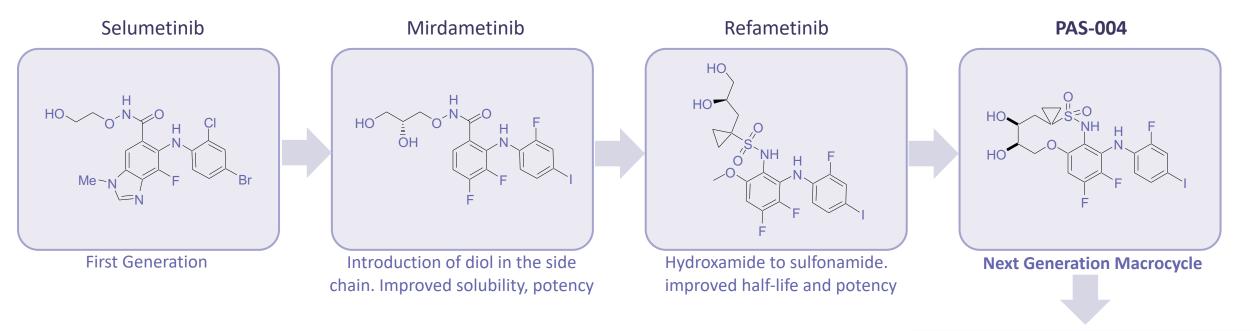
# Majority of MEK inhibitors in clinical development for Oncology indications

Market value of Pasithea does not reflect the potential of NF1 and is not in line with other development stages MEK companies

	Pasithea (KTTA)	Day One (DAWN)	Recursion (RXRX)	Spring Works (SWTX)	Fosun Pharma (656 HK)	Verastem (VSTM)	Immuneering (IMRX)
MEK Inhibitor	PAS-004	Pimasertib	REC-4881	Mirdametnib	FCN-159	Avutometinib (MEKi + RAF clamp)	IMM-1-104 (Universal RAS)
NF 1 Intention	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Development Phase	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2b	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 1
Clinical Trials Indications	<ul><li>- Advanced</li><li>Solid tumors</li><li>- Bridge to NF1</li><li>pediatrics and adults</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Recurrent or progressive solid tumors</li> </ul>	- Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP)	<ul><li>NF1 pediatrics and adults</li><li>Advanced solid tumors</li></ul>	- Phase 2 data in NF1 patients	- Low Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer	- Advanced Solid tumors
~Market Cap (06/27/24)	\$5 million	\$1.2 billion	\$1.7 billion	\$2.7 billion	N/A	\$72 million	\$42 million



# PAS-004 was designed to Address the Liabilities of Previous MEK Inhibitors





- Primary alcohol reduced potential for active metabolites
- PAS-004 is the first MEK inhibitor with a Macrocyclic structure
- Improved oral bioavailability, PK properties and Potency

#### Biochemical (MEK1/2 enzyme)

Assay  $IC_{50} = 40 \text{ nM}$ 

#### **Mechanism-based Cellular**

Assay (p-ERK)	$IC_{50} = 2 \text{ nIVI}$
Rat PK	T <sub>1/2</sub> = 11.5 h; %F = 39%
Dog PK	T <sub>1/2</sub> = 52 h; %F = 96%
Chemistry	9-step synthesis

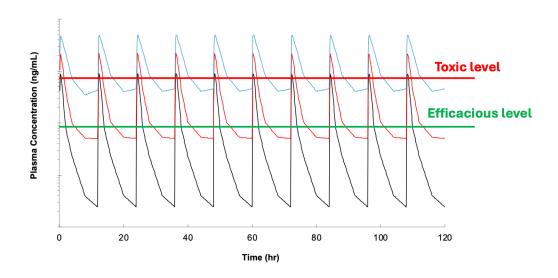


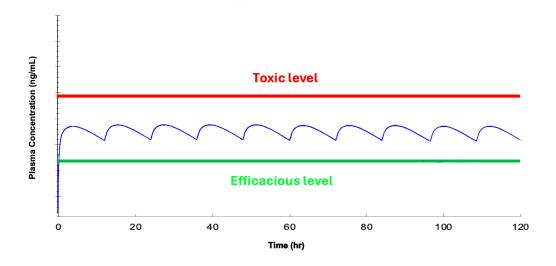
# Constant suppression of the MAPK pathway

• PK profile suited to enhance efficacy and avoid toxicity

Short half life = No accumulation Target is not continuously inhibited

Long half life = Accumulation to reach steady state Target is continuously inhibited







# PAS-004 profile is superior to Approved MEK inhibitors

• Higher Cmax, Less Potent at hERG Inhibition (ie. less cardiotoxicity) and Long Half Life

	Trametinib (21 day-GLP) <sup>1</sup>	Cobimetinib <sup>2</sup>	PAS-004 (28-day GLP)
Studies performed on Rats			
pERK (EC <sub>50</sub> )	2 nM	2 nM	2 nM
(M) NOAEL Dose, 28-day GLP	(HNSTD) 0.125 mg/m <sup>2</sup> /day (0.02 mg/kg)	3 mg/kg (HNSTD)	5 mg/kg
28 <sup>th</sup> day, Cmax at NOAEL Dose	2.89 nM	54 nM	2404 nM
Cmax/ pERK IC <sub>50</sub>	<2	27	1202
Studies performed on Dogs			
NOAEL Dose	0.5 mg/m²/day HNSTD (0.025 mg/kg)	13-week study, <<1 mg/kg	0.5 mg/kg
28 <sup>th</sup> day, Cmax at NOAEL Dose	5.41 nM	67 nM (day 30), 0.3 mg/kg	820 nM
Cmax/ pERK IC <sub>50</sub>	<5	33.5	>>200
Additional Information			
hERG Inhibition (IC <sub>50</sub> )	1 μΜ	0.5 μΜ	13 μΜ
Pharmacokinetic, Rat Half-life	5.5h	5.56h	11.5h
Pharmacokinetic, Dog Half-life	13h	6.21h	52h

#### **HNSTD** = Highest non-severely toxic dose

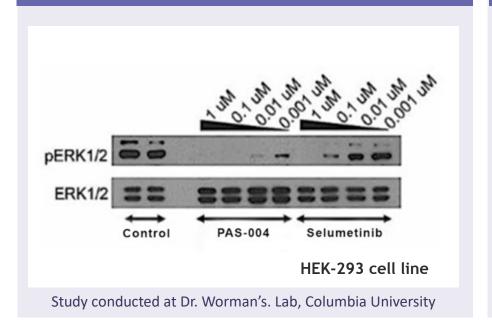
- 1. Center for drug evaluation and research, Pharmacology review, Application Number 204114Orig1s000
- 2. Center for drug evaluation and research, Pharmacology review, Application Number 206192Orig1s000



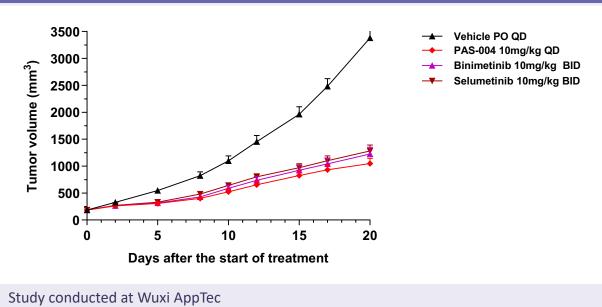
# **Comparative Preclinical Efficacy of PAS-004**

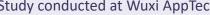
- Better potency (>10x) than Selumetinib in inhibiting p-ERK in vitro
- Superior efficacy when dosed 1xday than approved MEKi dosed 2xday

#### PAS-004 vs. Selumetinib In Vitro Potency



#### PAS-004 vs. Approved MEKi In Vivo Efficacy



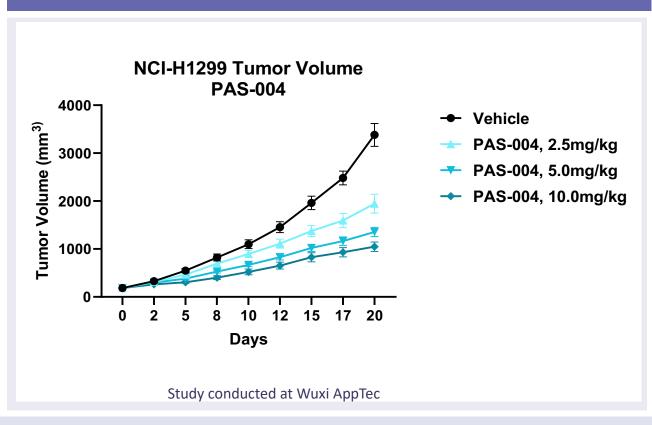




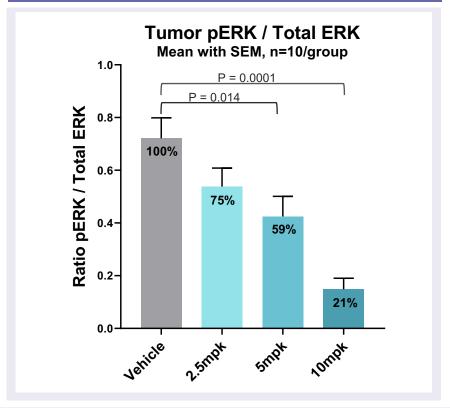
# Dose Dependent inhibition of pERK which correlate with clinical efficacy

Analysis of clinical data from approved MEKi indicates partial p-ERK is needed in NF1

#### In Vivo Dose dependent efficacy (NCI-HI299 xenograft)



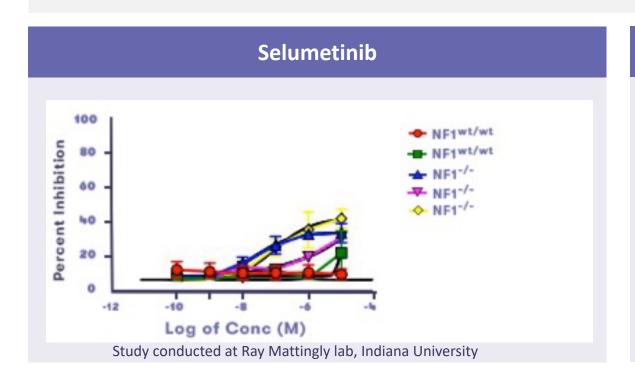
# In Vivo Dose dependent pERK reduction (NCI-HI299 xenograft)

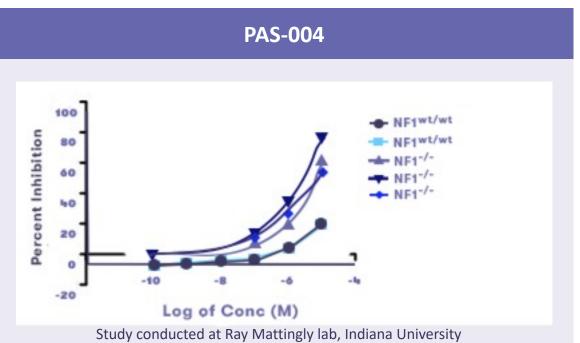




#### PAS-004 is More Potent than Selumetinib in In Vitro NF1 Model

- When comparing NF1 WT vs NF1 mutated Plexiform Neurofibroma (PN) cells
- PAS-004 is more potent in all 3 NF1 mutated cell lines than Selumetinib
- No Plateau Effect was observed for PAS004 = potential for deeper activity in patient
- Limited activity against the control NF1 WT cells=support good safety profile





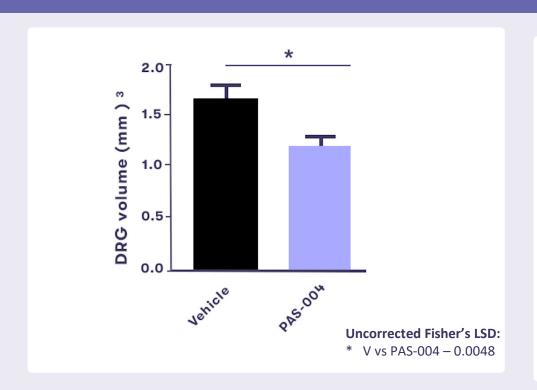
Reference for the 3D culture assay: Ray Mattingly et al, Wayne State Exp. Neurology 2018, 289

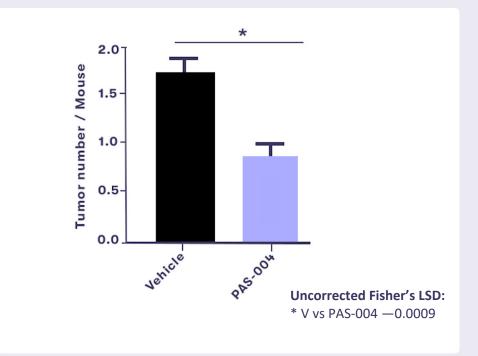


# PAS-004: Genetic Engineered Mouse Model (GEMM) of NF1

- PAS-004 exhibits significant reduction in tumor volume
- PAS-004 exhibits significant reduction in tumor number
- PAS-004 is dosed 1x day, where other agents require 2x day

#### PAS-004 efficacy in GEMM model







# **Intellectual Property**

#### New IP filed in Jan 2024

- Based on identification of a stable crystalline form composition of matter
- Anticipated patent protection at least until 2045

#### Orphan Exclusivity

— For rare diseases: 7 years in U.S. and 10 years in European Union

#### US Patent (composition of matter)

- 9034861 Issued, Exclusivity Protection until 9/4/32 with extension estimated to be 3/4/37
- Additional 6-month exclusivity for pediatric application

#### Patent issued in multiple geographies

- Potential new IP filings
  - Process Patent, follow-up compounds



# Phase I Clinical Trial and Clinical Program Timelines to Registration

#### Patient Population (n=~36)

Patients with MAPK pathway driven solid tumors with a documented RAS, NF1, or RAF mutations or patients who have failed BRAF/MEK inhibition







3 sites in Eastern Europe

	TRIAL OBJECTIVES
Primary	To evaluate the safety and tolerability of PAS-004 in patients with MAPK pathway driven advanced solid tumors.
	Pharmacokinetic (PK) profile
Secondary	Pharmacodynamic (PD) effects ERK phosphorylation
Secondary	Define the recommended Phase 2 dose

To evaluate the preliminary anticancer activity

TRIAL ORIFCTIVES

2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029

**FIH Solid Tumors** 

Solid Tumor expansion

NF-1 Ph1 and Ph2a

**NF-1 Phase 2 (registrational)** 



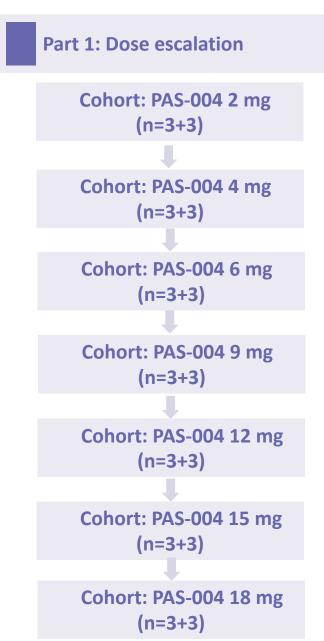
#### **PAS-004 Phase I Clinical Trial**

#### Patient Population (n=~36)

Patients with MAPK pathway driven solid tumors with a documented RAS, NF1, or RAF mutations or patients who have failed BRAF/MEK inhibition

Up to 7 sites in US and Eastern Europe

	TRIAL OBJECTIVES							
Primary	ary  To evaluate the safety and tolerability of PAS-004 in patients with MAPK pathway driven advanced solid tumors.							
	Pharmacokinetic (PK) profile							
Secondary	Pharmacodynamic (PD) effects ERK phosphorylation							
,	Define the recommended Phase 2 dose							
	To evaluate the preliminary anticancer activity							





## **Near-Term Clinical Milestones**

1Q 2024	Initiated Phase 1 Clinical Trial
2H 2024	Interim Clinical Trial Readout
4Q 2024	Initiate NF1 Patient Cohort



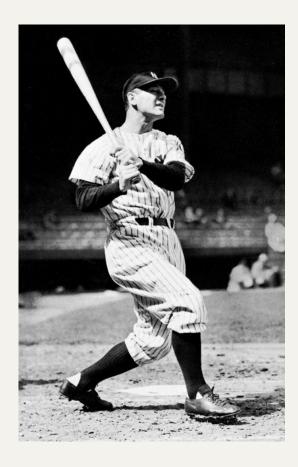
# **PAS-003**

Monoclonal Antibody Targeting  $\alpha 5\beta 1$  Integrin for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)



# ALS is a Devastating Disease with Few Treatment Options and Limited Impact

- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a degenerative neurological disorder that causes muscle atrophy and paralysis
- ALS is frequently called Lou Gehrig disease in memory of the famous baseball player Lou Gehrig, who died from the disease in 1941
- Current treatment options have limited effects on symptoms and slowing of disease progression
  - Rilutek (riluzole, now generic)
  - Radicava™ (edaravone)
  - Relyvrio (AMX0035; sodium phenylbutyrate and taurursodiol)
  - Qalsody (tofersen; for mutant SOD1 gene carriers)
- Tremendous need for better treatments



#### Average age of onset is mid-50s

Sporadic: 90%-95% of all cases

SOD1: 3% C9orf72: 8-10% TDP43: ≈90%

Familial: 5%-10% of all cases

Male-Female ratio: 3:2 Incidence: 1.0-2.5/100,000 Prevalence: 5/100,000

#### Clinical Manifestations:

#### Early stage

Dysphagia, Dysarthria, Emotional lability, Spasticity, Fasciculations, Cramps, Muscle weakness, Atrophy

#### Late Stage

Dementia
Respiratory failure
Aspiration pneumonia
Oculomotor nerve affected
May resemble locked-in syndrome

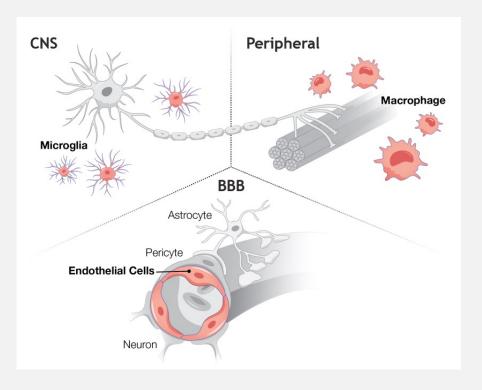


Non-Confidential 24

# $\alpha$ 5 $\beta$ 1 Integrin is a Druggable Target for ALS

- $\alpha$ 5 $\beta$ 1 is overexpressed in human and mouse ALS
- $\alpha$ 5 $\beta$ 1 integrin is a well characterized target
  - Anti- $\alpha$ 5 $\beta$ 1 mAbs developed for cancer by PDL/Biogen, Pfizer & Genentech
  - Volociximab advanced to Phase II with acceptable safety profile
- Blocking integrins relieves inflammation
  - Three FDA-approved mAbs targeting integrins Tysabri,
     Entyvio & ReoPro
- The primary ligand of a5b1, fibronectin, is implicated in several inflammatory conditions of the CNS & PNS

# $\alpha$ 5 $\beta$ 1 is expressed in 3 cell types central to neuroinflammation

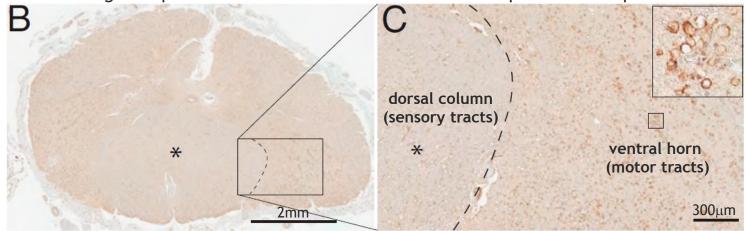




# $\alpha$ 5 $\beta$ 1 Integrin is Elevated in Motor Areas of ALS Postmortem Tissue

Data collection and analysis conducted at Mayo Clinic (in collaboration with Pasithea scientists) 132 autopsy samples with various clinical ALS phenotypes (familiar and sporadic form) and disease duration Elevation of  $\alpha 5\beta 1$  expression in all samples, irrespective of disease duration and subtype Striking spatial zonation of  $\alpha 5\beta 1$  integrin expression, confined to the primary motor cortex and spinal cord

 $\alpha$ 5 integrin expression is elevated in motor area of ALS postmortem spinal cord

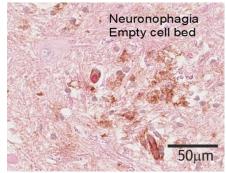


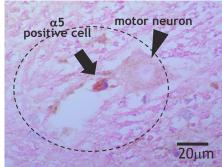


Elevated  $\alpha 5$  integrin expression on myeloid cells in motor areas in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is a therapeutic target

Aude Chiot<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Shanu F. Roemer<sup>c,1</sup>, Lisa Ryner<sup>d</sup>, Alina Bogachuk<sup>a,b</sup>, Katie Emberley<sup>a,b,e,0</sup>, Dillon Brownell<sup>a,b</sup>, Gisselle A. Jimenez<sup>a,b</sup>, Michael Leviten<sup>d</sup>
Randall Woltjer<sup>f</sup>, Dennis W. Dickson<sup>c</sup>, Lawrence Steinman<sup>g,2,0</sup>, and Bahareh Ajami<sup>a,b,2,0</sup>

#### $\alpha 5$ at sites of neuronophagia



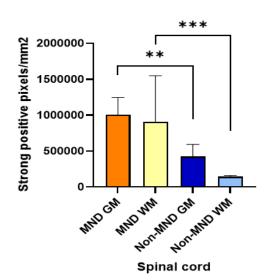




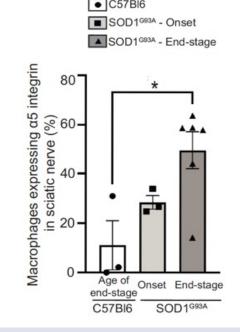
# $\alpha$ 5 $\beta$ 1 Integrin is Elevated in Motor Areas of ALS Postmortem Tissue

Elevation of  $\alpha 5\beta 1$  expression was not observed in human healthy controls Specificity of  $\alpha 5\beta 1$  to ALS Pathology (no increase in other integrins expression) Expression of  $\alpha 5\beta 1$  increases with disease progression (preclinical SOD mouse model)  $\alpha 5\beta 1$  gene expression increases with disease progression (ALS human data)

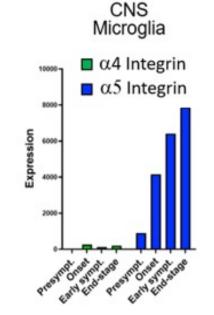
#### $\alpha$ 5 $\beta$ 1 in ALS vs HC



# $\alpha$ 5 $\beta$ 1 disease progression



# $\alpha$ 5 $\beta$ 1 vs other integrins



# ALS gene expression

Spinal Cord Tissue

α5 is the top differentially expressed alpha integrin in ALS motor-region of spinal cord tissue

	Gene	Fold Change	P-value		
	ITGA5	2.9	2.00E-04		
-	ITGA11	2.5	5.00E-05		

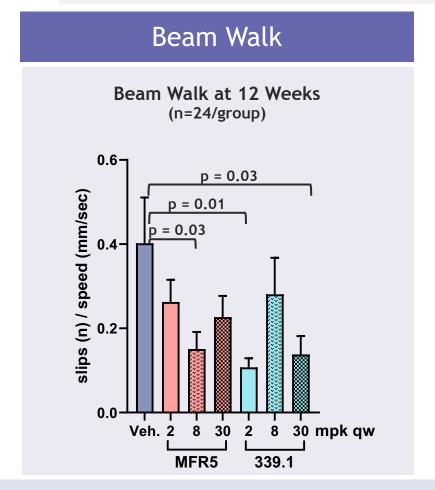
Ventral horn of ALS tissue (n=6)

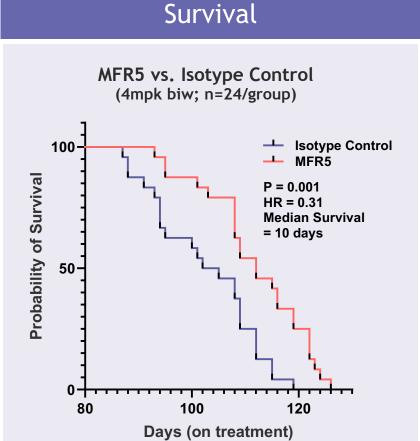
Matched normal subjects (n=5)



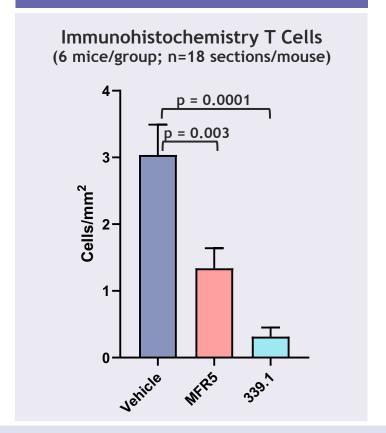
# Mouse SOD1<sup>G93A</sup> Model: Anti- $\alpha$ 5 Treatment Improves Behavior, Survival & Reduces T Cell Infiltration into the CNS

- Preclinical Gold-Standard model
- Data replicated in 3 different studies





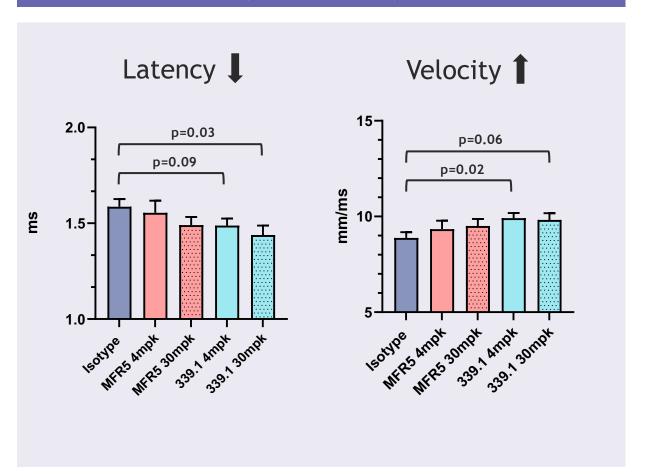
#### CD4+ T Cells in Spinal Cord



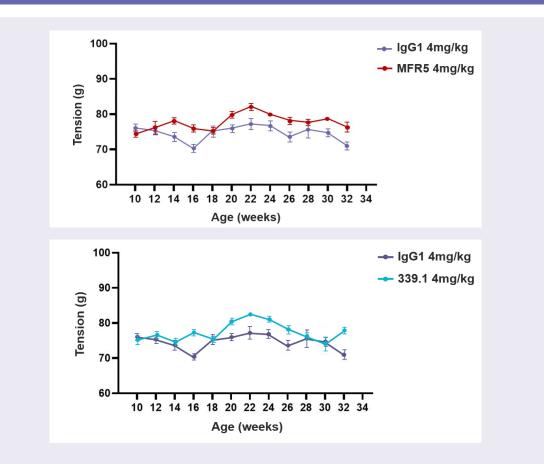


# TDP-43 ALS Mouse Models: Anti- $\alpha$ 5 Treatment Improves Muscle Function

Muscle Electrophysiology CMAP in TDP-43<sup>rNLS8</sup> (Short Model)



# Grip Strength in Males TDP-43<sup>Q331K</sup> (Long Model)

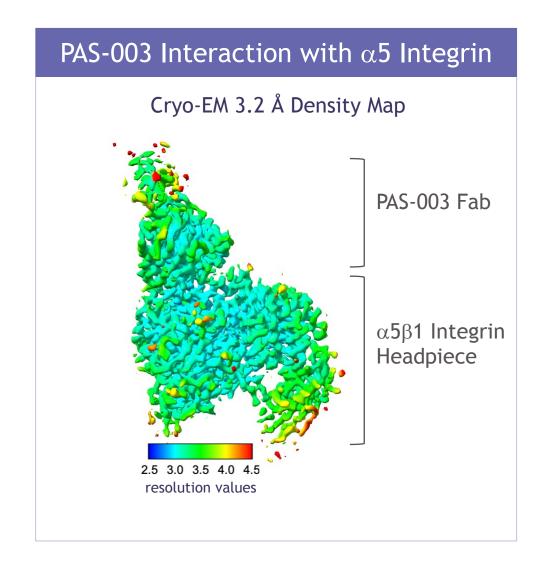




# PAS-003 Monoclonal Antibody Antagonist of $\alpha$ 5 $\beta$ 1 for ALS

# Roadmap

- Humanized lead candidate selected
  - ✓ Blocks binding of primary ligand fibronectin
  - ✓ Inhibits adhesion & migration of  $\alpha$ 5 expressing cells
  - ✓ Exhibits favorable developability profile
  - ✓ Composition of matter and use patents filed
- Identify partner to support IND-enabling studies
- Discuss orphan drug designation with FDA





# **PAS-001**

Small molecule targeting the Complement Component 4A (C4A) for the treatment of Schizophrenia



## Synaptic loss is present in schizophrenia both in-vivo and human post-mortem

#### ARTICLE

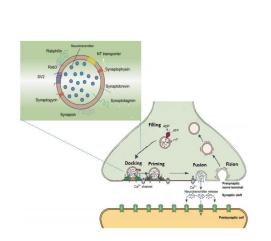
https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-14122-0

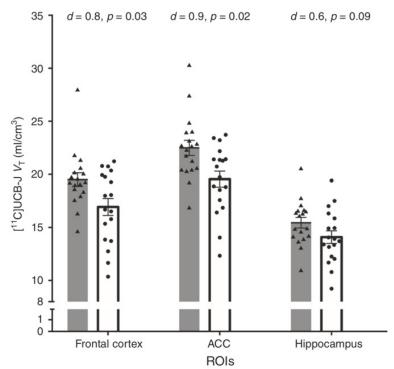
**OPEN** 

Synaptic density marker SV2A is reduced in schizophrenia patients and unaffected by antipsychotics in rats

Ellis Chika Onwordi<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, Els F. Halff<sup>©</sup> <sup>3</sup>, Thomas Whitehurst<sup>1,3,4</sup>, Ayla Mansur<sup>5</sup>, Marie-Caroline Cotel<sup>6</sup>, Lisa Wells<sup>7</sup>, Hannah Creeney<sup>6</sup>, David Bonsall<sup>7</sup>, Maria Rogdaki <sup>©</sup> <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, Ekaterina Shatalina<sup>1,2</sup>, Tiago Reis Marques<sup>1,3,4</sup>, Eugenii A. Rabiner<sup>7,8</sup>, Roger N. Gunn<sup>5,7</sup>, Sridhar Natesan <sup>©</sup> <sup>1,3</sup>, Anthony C. Vernon <sup>©</sup> <sup>6,9</sup> & Oliver D. Howes<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>\*

⁴ HV◆ SCZ





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#### **REVIEW ARTICLE**



## Synaptic loss in schizophrenia: a meta-analysis and systematic review of synaptic protein and mRNA measures

Emanuele Felice Osimo 31,2,3,4 · Katherine Beck1,2,5,6 · Tiago Reis Marques1,2,5,6 · Oliver D Howes1,2,5,6

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#### Synaptic density in schizophrenia

1950

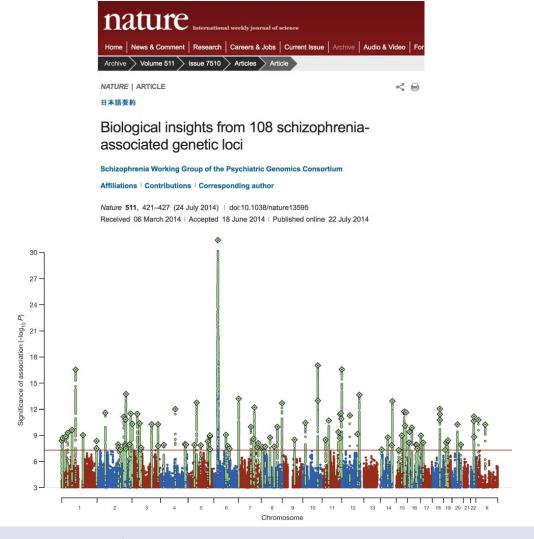
Meta-Analysis of Studio	es o	f Synaptophysin in F	Hippocar	mpus			scz	V ctr	Hedge's ES
Browning at al, 1993 (53)		-					7	7	-0.31 [-1.70, 1.09]
Eastwood et al, 1995 (61)		-		•			11	13	-0.53 [-1.78, 0.72]
Young et al, 1998 (107)		-	-		4		13	13	-0.74 [-1.97, 0.49]
Davidsson et al, 1999 (57)	-			<b>-</b>			13	10	-1.58 [-2.93, -0.23]
Vawter et al, 2002 (105)			-	-			16	13	0.24 [-0.94, 1.43]
Talbot et al, 2004 (97)		-		•			17	17	-0.29 [-1.43, 0.85]
Chambers et al, 2005 (56)		-	-	$\rightarrow$			14	14	-0.91 [-2.13, 0.32]
Matosin et al, 2016 (87)			_				20	19	-1.19 [-2.34, -0.05]
RE Model for All Studies		and other in actions have in	_		la servicio la c	ahinanhaania			-0.65 [-1.08, -0.21]
		reduction in schizophrenia	_		increase in s	chizophrenia			
	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2			
			Etto	et Siza					

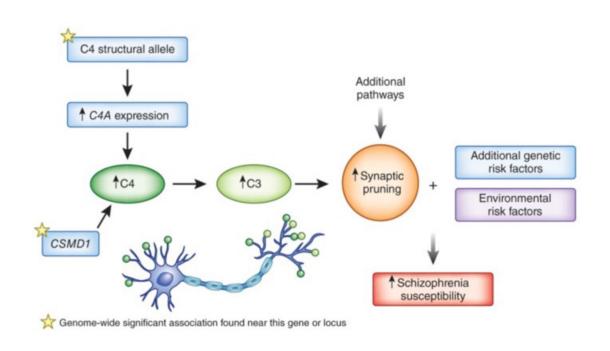
Fig. 2 Forest plot showing the effect sizes for studies of synaptophysin in hippocampus in schizophrenia patients as compared to controls. There was a significant reduction in schizophrenia (effect size = -0.65, p = 0.0036)



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# C4 the first and only gene linked to a specific mechanism underlying the disease





- the most strongly associated GWAS locus, located in the extended Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC) region on chromosome 6.
- This locus contains multiple copies of two closely related genes that codes for variants of C4: C4A and C4B.



# Increase in C4A leads to synaptic loss and behavioral changes in preclinical models





Check for updates

Overexpression of schizophrenia susceptibility factor human complement *C4A* promotes excessive synaptic loss and behavioral changes in mice

Melis Yilmaz<sup>⊙1,5</sup>, Esra Yalcin<sup>⊙1,5</sup>, Jessy Presumey<sup>1,5</sup>, Ernest Aw¹, Minghe Ma<sup>⊙1</sup>,
Christopher W. Whelan<sup>©2,3</sup>, Beth Stevens<sup>2,4</sup>, Steven A. McCarroll<sup>©2,3</sup> and Michael C. Carroll<sup>©1,∞</sup>

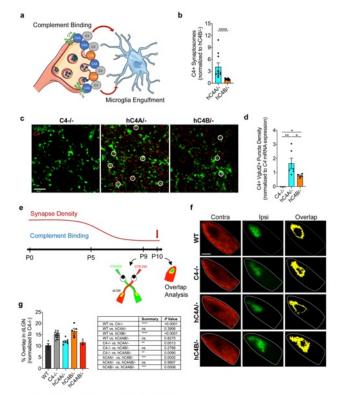


Fig. 21. Human C4A is more efficient than C4B in synaptic pruning. a, At the synapse, complement-dependent pruning is carried out by the classical complement cascade. After C1q tagging, C4 binds the synapse and C3 is then activated for microglia recognition by the receptor CR3. Microglia engulf the complement-bound synapses for refinement. b, Synaptosomes from  $C4^{-/-}$  mice were isolated and incubated with serum containing the same amount of C4 from  $hC4A^{/-}$  (n=10) or  $hC4B^{/-}$  (n=9) mice. C4 deposition on synaptosomes was detected and quantified by flow cytometry (serum from three independent experiments; Mann-Whitney test, two-tailed, \*\*\*\*P<0.0001). c.d. C4

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#### ARTICLE

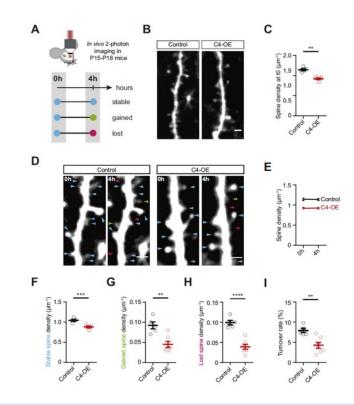


Elevated expression of complement C4 in the mouse prefrontal cortex causes schizophrenia-associated phenotypes

Mélanie Druart (3)<sup>2,3</sup> · Marika Nosten-Bertrand (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Stefanie Poll (6<sup>4</sup> · Sophie Crux<sup>4</sup> · Felix Nebeling<sup>4</sup> · Célia Delhaye (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Yaëlle Dubois (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Manuel Mittag<sup>4</sup> · Marion Leboyer<sup>5,6</sup> · Ryad Tamouza (5<sup>5,6</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>2,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>3,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>3,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>3,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>3,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>3,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>3,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>3,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le Magueresse (1<sup>3,3</sup> · Martin Fuhrmann (4 · Corentin Le M

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# **Discovery of Small Molecule Inhibitors of C4A Levels**



# Pasithea Therapeutics Corp. and Evotec SE Enter into Drug Development Agreement

October 11, 2021 6:50am EDT

-- Company contracts leading global drug development company to advance initial drug candidate --

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Oct. 11, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Pasithea Therapeutics Corp. (Nasdaq: KTTA) ("Pasithea" or the "Company"), a biotechnology company focused on the research and discovery of new and effective treatments for psychiatric and neurological disorders, today announced the initiation of a new chemical entity ("NCE") development program and named Evotec as its NCE research partner.



Ref for bp #3

# **Primary Screen for C4A Regulators**

• Hit rate : 1%

4174 Hits

**Primary screen** 

400K cpds, 10μM, n=1

•S/B: Batch 1: 84 / Batch 2 : 52

•RZ': Batch 1: 0.81 / Batch 2: 0.76

RZ': 0.80

•Median of Baricitinib 3µM: Batch 1: 35% / Batch 2: 29%

67% of confirmation

2787 confirmed Hits

**Hit Confirmation** 

4151 cpds, 10µM, n=3

•S/B : 55

•RZ': 0.78

•**HiBiT:** S/B: 48.3

•Median of Baricitinib 3µM: 31.2%

206 specific compounds

**Hit Profiling** 

HiBiT, CTF, Cell Lysate

736 cpds, 11 concentrations, n=2

•CTF: S/B: 5.9 RZ': 0.88

•Cell Lysate: S/B: 51 RZ': 0.78

Median of Baricitinib 3µM: 32%

• 20 Priority 1 Hits



# **Summary**

- Novel target agnostic small molecule program targeting C4A regulation
  - Transcription, translation, post-translation
- Extensive Genetic and Preclinical and human data supporting the target
  - C4A increases lead to excessive synaptic elimination
- Patient research conducted by the CEO of Pasithea, Dr. Tiago Reis Marques
  - Co-author in several landmark studies for the synaptic hypothesis of schizophrenia
- 20 priority 1 hits with high drug-likeness and brain penetrance scores
- Research plan in place to advance to a lead candidate





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