Ahead of the Curve – Emerging CF Therapies 2009: Who needs CFTR?: Alternatives to Activation of the CFTR for Therapeutic Intervention in CF

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## Disclosures

- Patents for cAMP mediated sweat rate test, nanoparticle delivery systems to airways, and butyrate correctors for CF
- Licensing agreements for IB3-1, S9, C38 cell lines
- Medical Advisory Board for Cobiprostone, Sucampo Pharmaceuticals
- Lectures for France Foundation
- Clinical Trials with Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Pharmaxis, PTC Corporation, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, CFTDN
- Grants from NHLBI, CFF, FDA



# Normal Airway (hydration)

# Cystic Fibrosis Airway (dehydration)



AHEAD OF CURVE EMERGING CF THERAPIES 2009

Zeitlin, JCI 2008

# Hydration



- Master Controller CFTR
  - ORCC
  - CIC-2??
  - ENaC
- CFTR Independent
  - CaCC
  - CIC-2 ??



#### **Functional Interactions**



- CFTR—cAMP-regulated chloride
- ORCC—activated by CFTR-transported ATP
- ENaC—inhibited by CFTR
- P2Y2 receptor responds to ATP, increases intracellular calcium and activates CaCC



# **CF** Dehydration



- Absence of master channel CFTR
- Absence of ORCC
- Diminution of CIC-2
- Excessive ENaC
- Increased CaCC except when 17beta estradiol levels high
- Impaired mucociliary clearance (MCC)



# **Alternative Chloride Channel Agonists**

#### Denufosol (USA)

- Ongoing Phase III trial
- Future trial multinational
- Moli1901 (Canada/Germany/USA) Improves FEV<sub>1</sub> in two European trials
- Prostones (Japan/USA)
  - Oral formulation for CF liver disease
  - Aerosol in development for CF and COPD



# Denufosol tetrasodium (INS37217)

- Second generation, chemically stable, selective P2Y2 receptor agonist
- Increases chloride and mucin secretion, tracheal mucus velocity and cilia beat frequency
- Metabolized more slowly than ATP and UTP
- Cumulative published data in 120 healthy volunteers and 222 patients with CF
- Doses 20-60 mg are well tolerated in CF patients with FEV1 > 75% for 28 days, given t.i.d.
- Over 650 patients/volunteers in 8 completed trials



# Tiger 1—08-108

- Met primary efficacy endpoint at trial endpoint (24 weeks) of change from baseline in FEV1 (in liters) vs. placebo
- 45 ml treatment effect (p < 0.047)</li>
- "Real world" design (broader population; patients on multiple therapies that improve FEV1)





# Tiger 2—08-110

- Currently enrolling
- Multiple sites (~100 sites) in US/Canada/Australia/New Zealand
- As of September 29, 2009, 413/450 patients enrolled (92%)
- 48-week placebo-controlled study
- Option for additional open-label 48 week treatment study upon completion of Tiger 2
- Usual standard of care medications allowed
  - Exception: no hypertonic saline



# Lancovutide (Moli1901)

- 19 amino acid polycyclic peptide that increases intracellular calcium and chloride secretion
- Binds to polar heads of phosphotidyl ethanolamine and induces change in intracellular calcium levels and activation of calcium-activated chloride channels
- Direct application to nasal epithelium in normal and CF volunteers led to sustained increases in chloride secretion at higher doses
- Prolonged half-life in non-human airways
- Aerosol formulation well-tolerated for 28 days at 2.5 mg daily with increase in FEV1 +2% vs -3% for placebo (Lantibio Inc.)



Clunes and Boucher Curr Opin Pharmacol 2008 8

## CIC-2



- Voltage regulated
- pH activated (acidic)
- Volume activated (hypotonic)



# Prostones as CIC-2 agonists

- CIC-2 is present and possibly partially dependent on CFTR in intestine
- CIC-2 is present in airway epithelium of mouse and human. In absence of CFTR in mice, CIC-2 responds to both lubiprostone and cobiprostone (MacDonald and Zeitlin)
- Lubiprostone is non-adsorbable and remains in intestinal lumen where it increases chloride and water secretion in humans
- Lubiprostone is FDA approved for idiopathic constipation
  - In clinical trial in pediatric patients with CF
- Cobiprostone
  - Oral, soluble, absorbable, rapidly metabolized
  - Phase I/II clinical trial in CF demonstrated safety but no significant absorption or change in NPD
  - Re-formulation in progress (Sucampo Pharmaceuticals)



# **Sodium Channel Inhibitors**

#### Under preclinical development

- Novartis (UK)-QAU145
- Parion (USA)—P552 and P680
- Goal is to improve mucociliary and cough clearance
- Short acting sodium channel blockers (e.g. amiloride by inhalation) are not effective or cause decline in lung function when administered before hypertonic saline
- Long acting sodium channel blockers are still under evaluation



# Hypertonic Saline



#### Effective in CF

- NaCl is deposited into periciliary fluid layer and water is drawn into it
- Restores MCC in CF
- Currently under study in CF infants (ISIS)
- Rapidly embraced in USA by CF Care Centers



# Inhaled mannitol

- Simple sugar, dry powder formulation, hydrates lung and improves MCC
- More slowly permeating, longer lasting than NaCl, but higher MW requires larger doses
- Unique dry powder device requires multiple capsules to be inhaled in each dose, given twice daily
- Second Phase III multi-national trial in CF achieved its recruitment goal September 09.
- Second Phase III clinical trial for use in bronchiectasis underway (Pharmaxis).



# rhDNase plus ???

- rhDNase, TOBI, and hypertonic saline are currently used in USA for CF lung disease
- A typical sequence is bronchodilator, then rhDNase, then TOBI
- The effect of rhDNase in combination with other novel therapies is under study



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