

Highlights from EHA

Firenze 17.9.2016

GLOBULI ROSSI

Achille Iolascon

M.Domenica Cappellini



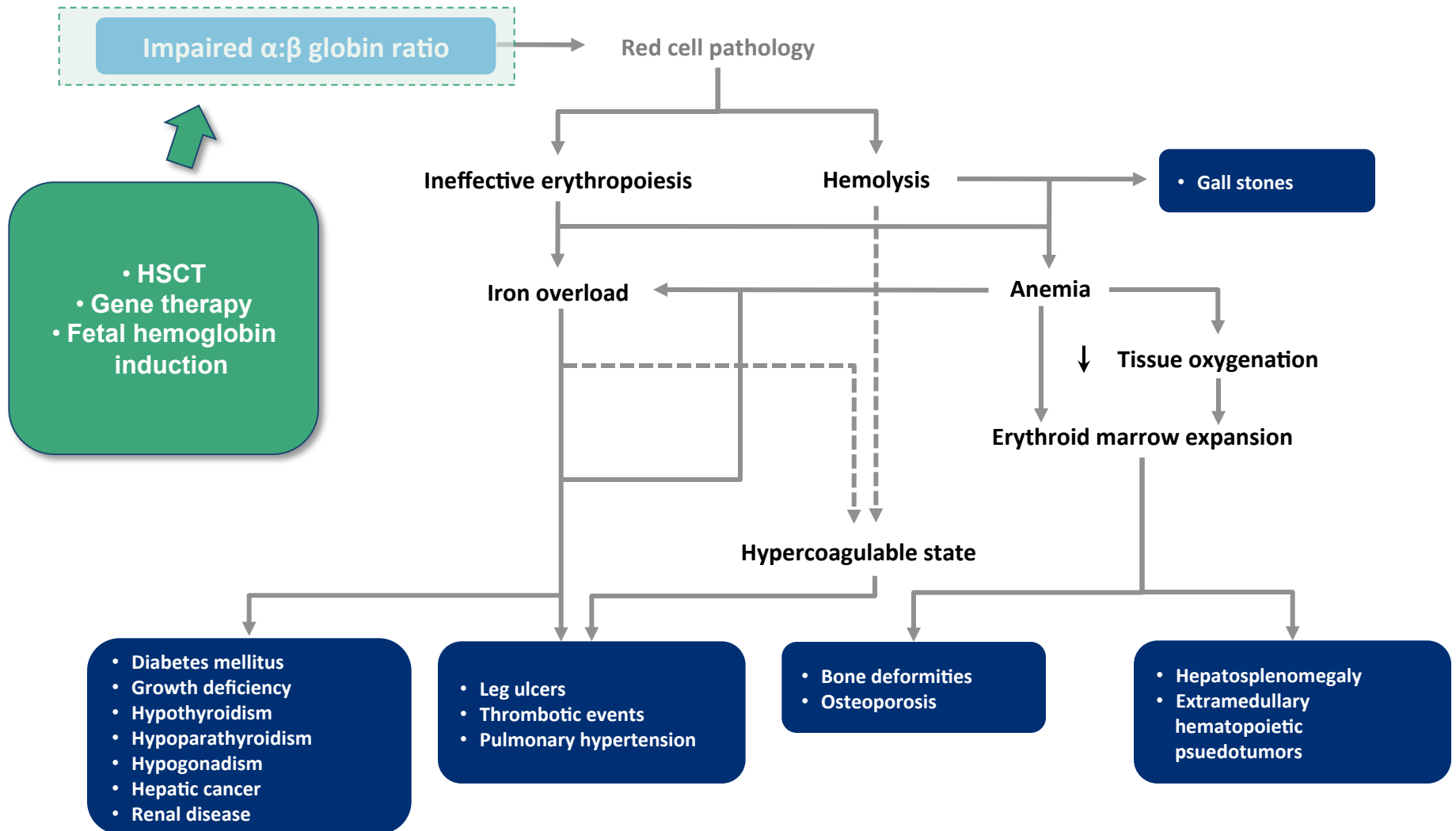
Globuli Rossi

- Nuove tecniche diagnostiche
- Nuove terapie nelle anemie caratterizzate da eritropoiesi
- Nuove terapie della carenza di ferro

What the future treatment for hemoglobinopathies

- Targeting α/β chain imbalance
- Targeting ineffective erythropoiesis
- Targeting iron dysregulation

Targeting α/β chain imbalance



Current BTHAL gene therapy trials

ClinicalTrials.gov

A service of the U.S. National Institutes of Health

A Study Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of the LentiGlobin® BB305 Drug Product in Beta-Thalassemia Major Subjects

This study is currently recruiting participants. (see [Contacts and Locations](#))

Verified June 2014 by bluebird bio

Sponsor:

bluebird bio

Information provided by (Responsible Party):

bluebird bio

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier:

NCT01745120

First received: December 6, 2012

Last updated: June 25, 2014

Last verified: June 2014

[History of Changes](#)

β-Thalassemia Major With Autologous CD34+ Hematopoietic Progenitor Cells Transduced With TNS9.3.55 a Lentiviral Vector Encoding the Normal Human β-Globin Gene

This study is currently recruiting participants. (see [Contacts and Locations](#))

Verified March 2014 by Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Sponsor:

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Information provided by (Responsible Party):

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier:

NCT01639690

First received: July 11, 2012

Last updated: March 4, 2014

Last verified: March 2014

[History of Changes](#)

A phase 1/2 study evaluating safety and efficacy of autologous hematopoietic stem cells genetically modified with GLOBE lentiviral vector encoding for the human globin gene for the treatment of patients affected by transfusion dependent beta thalassemia

Protocol design

open-label, single center, non randomized, non controlled, prospective, Phase I/II clinical trial

ACRONYM

PROMOTER

FINANCIAL SPONSOR

BTHAL project leader

PI

Co-PIs

TIGET-BTHAL

Ospedale San Raffaele (OSR)

Fondazione Telethon

Giuliana Ferrari, PhD

Alessandro Aiuti, MD, PhD

Fabio Ciceri, MD

Sarah Marktel, MD

Maria Domenica Cappellini, MD

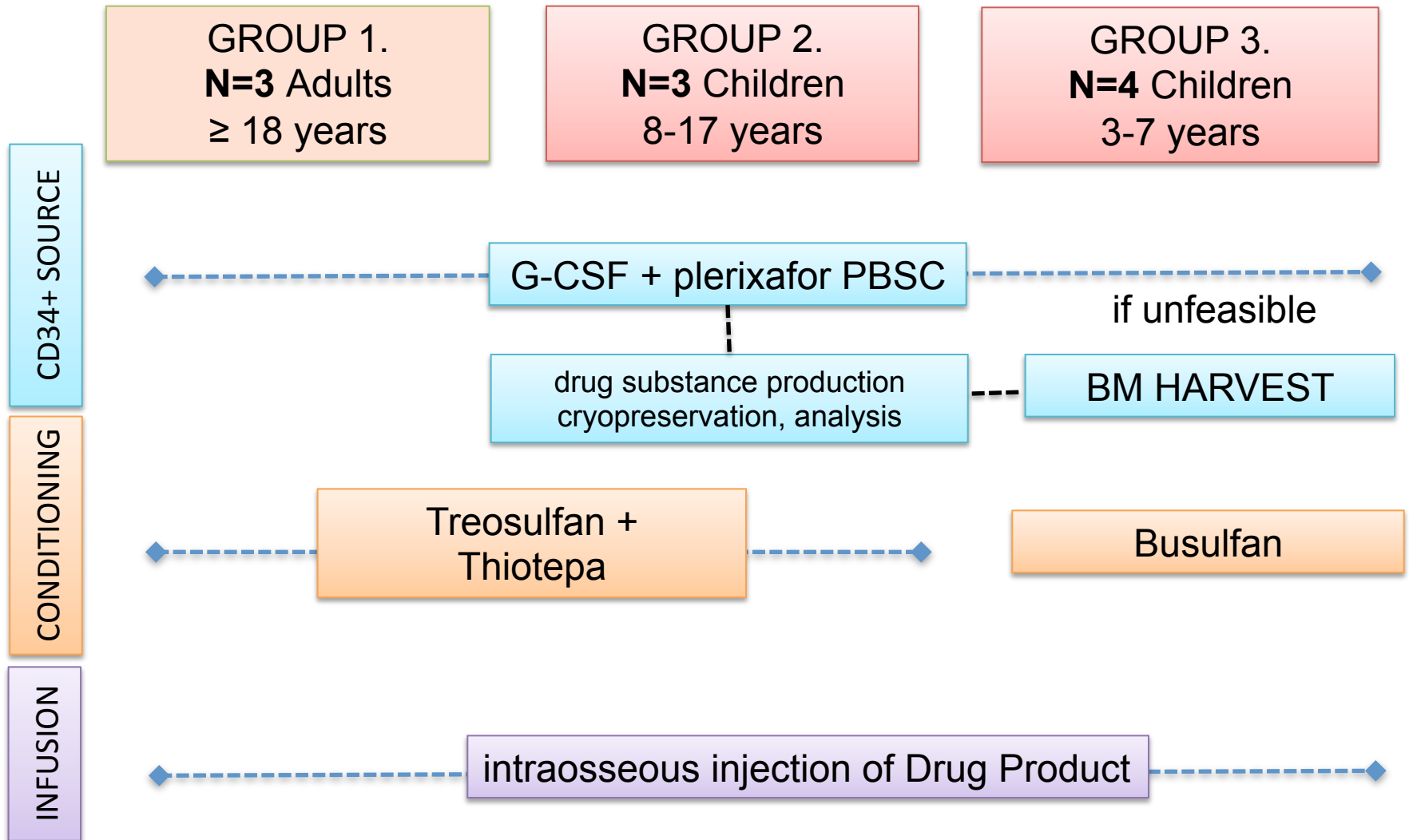
STATISTICIANS

Stefania Galimberti

Maria Grazia Valsecchi

TIGET-BTHAL Study Design

N= 10 patients in 3 groups



TIGET-BTHAL

Staggering strategy

Group 1
ADULTS ≥ 18 Yrs
N=3

Group 2
CHILDREN 8-17 Yrs
N=3

Group 3
CHILDREN 3-7 Yrs
N=4

The trial will proceed with inclusion of following group if at least 2 patients show all of the following:

1. No SAE related to mobilization
2. No SAE related to intrabone infusion
3. No early SAE related to drug product (within 60 dys)
4. Haematological engraftment achieved by day +60
5. Detection of transduced cells in the bone marrow at +30 or +60

TIGET-BTHAL: *conditioning* RATIONALE

ADULTS & PEDIATRIC > 7 years

Conditioning:

day -5 Thiotepa 6-8 mg
day -4 -2 Treosulfan 14 gr/mq (PK)

Rationale:

- Reduction of organ toxicity
- Effective on reduction of extramedullary haemopoiesis
- Engraftment data from adult allogeneic HSCT protocols in thalassemia (Bernardo, *Blood* 2012);

PEDIATRIC PATIENTS 3-7 years

Conditioning:

day -5 -2 (with PK adjustment)
iv busulfan 120 mg/mq

Rationale:

- Use of conditioning based on results of engraftment obtained from TIGET GT studies (MLD/WAS) and data in pediatric allogeneic transplant (Chiesa, BBMT 2010)

TIGET-BTHAL: *intrabone infusion*

RATIONALE

Direct intrabone transplant of unrelated cord-blood cells in acute leukaemia: a phase I/II study *Lancet Oncol. 2008*

Francesco Frassoni, Francesca Gualandi, Marina Podestà, Anna Maria Raiola, Adalberto Ibatici, Giovanna Piaggio, Mario Sessarego, Nadia Sessarego, Marco Gobbi, Nicoletta Sacchi, Myriam Labopin, Andrea Bacigalupo

Unrelated Cord Blood Transplantation: Outcomes After Single-Unit Intrabone Injection Compared With Double-Unit Intravenous Injection in Patients With Hematological Malignancies

Vanderson Rocha,^{1,2,3,17} Myriam Labopin,⁴ Annalisa Ruggeri,^{1,2,5} Marina Podestà,⁶ Andrea Gallamini,⁷ Francesca Bonifazi,⁸ Fermin M. Sanchez-Guijo,⁹ Montserrat Rovira,¹⁰ Gerard Socie,¹¹ Ioannis Baltadakis,¹² Mauricette Michallet,¹³ Eric Deconinck,¹⁴ Andrea Bacigalupo,¹⁵ Mohamad Mohty,¹⁶ Eliane Gluckman,^{1,2} and Francesco Frassoni⁶

- reduces early transplant related adverse events due to the limited number of cells infused
- faster myeloid and PLT recovery
- better engraftment at reduced cell dose?

Thanks to....



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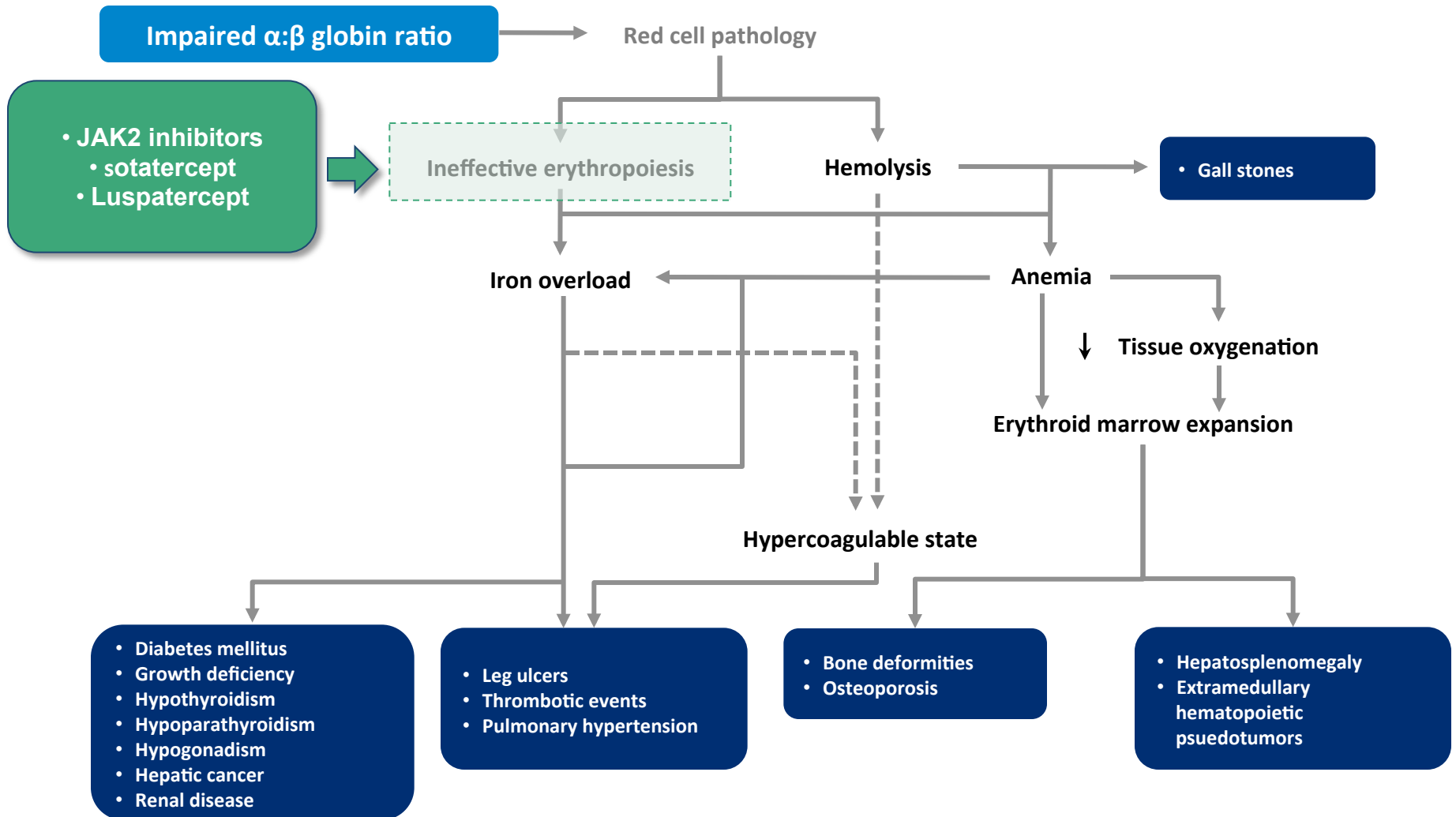
MolMed S.p.A

Policlinico, UniMi, Milan

IME, Rome

ANMI, Rome

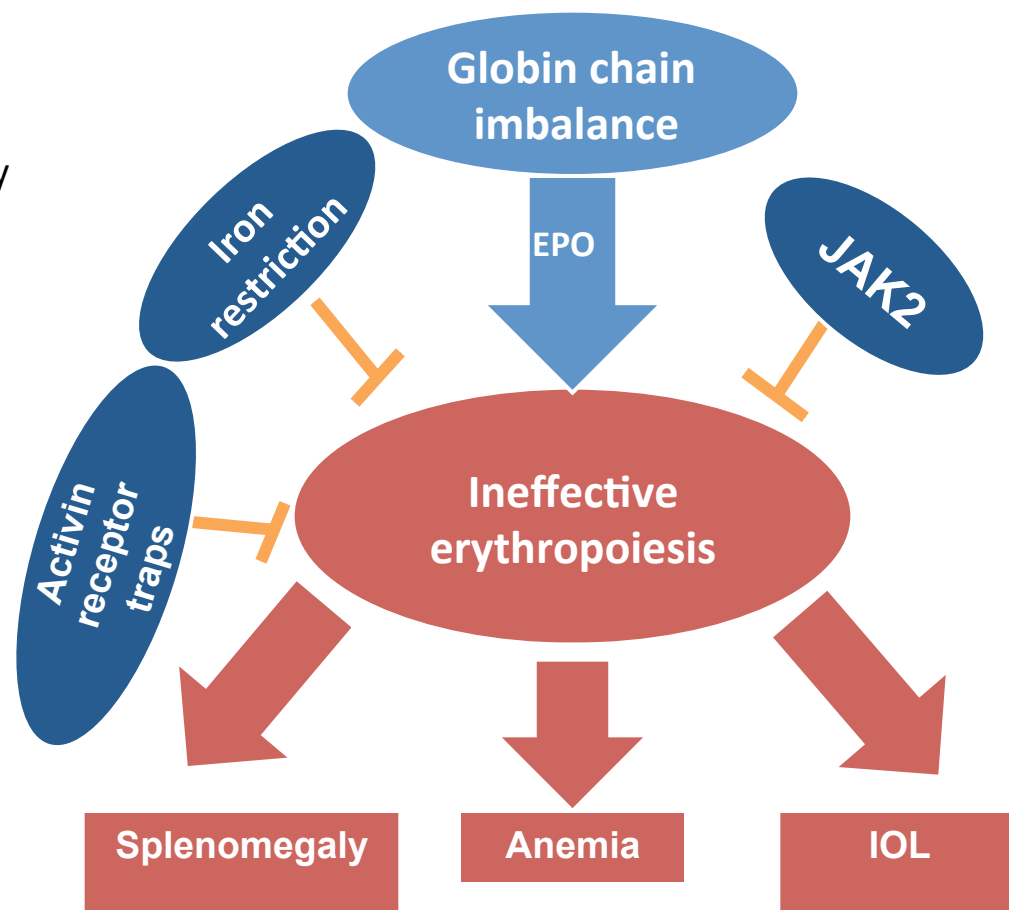
Targeting ineffective erythropoiesis



Targeting ineffective erythropoiesis in thalassemia

- **Benefits of reducing IE include:**¹
 - Improved anemia
 - Reduced spleen and extramedullary expansion
 - Indirect increase in serum hepcidin
 - Improved QoL

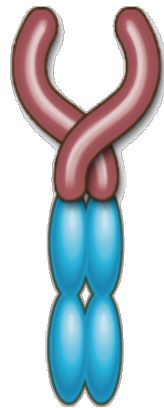
- **Approaches:**
 - Hb F promotion
 - Stimulation of proliferation (EPO)
 - JAK2 inhibitors¹
 - Activin receptor traps
 - Sotatercept and luspatercept^{3,4}
 - Iron restriction^{1,2}



ACE 011- ACE-536

- ACE-011, ACE-536 promote late-stage erythroid differentiation via a mechanism distinct from ESAs (*Suragani R et al., Nature Med 2014*)

Sotatercept



ECD of
ActRIIA

Fc Domain of
human IgG₁
Antibody

Luspatercept



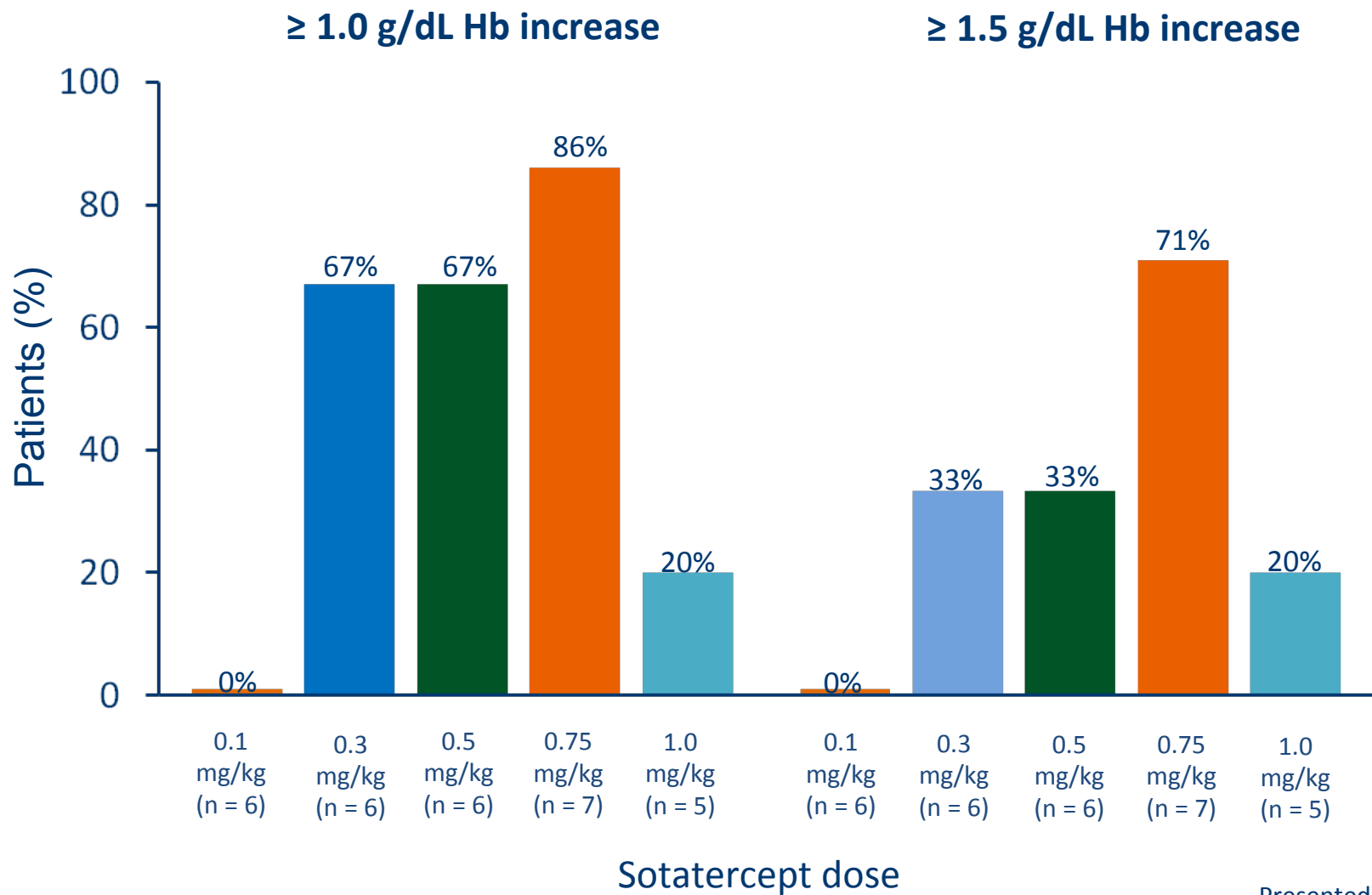
Modified ECD of
ActRIIB

Fc Domain of
human IgG₁
Antibody

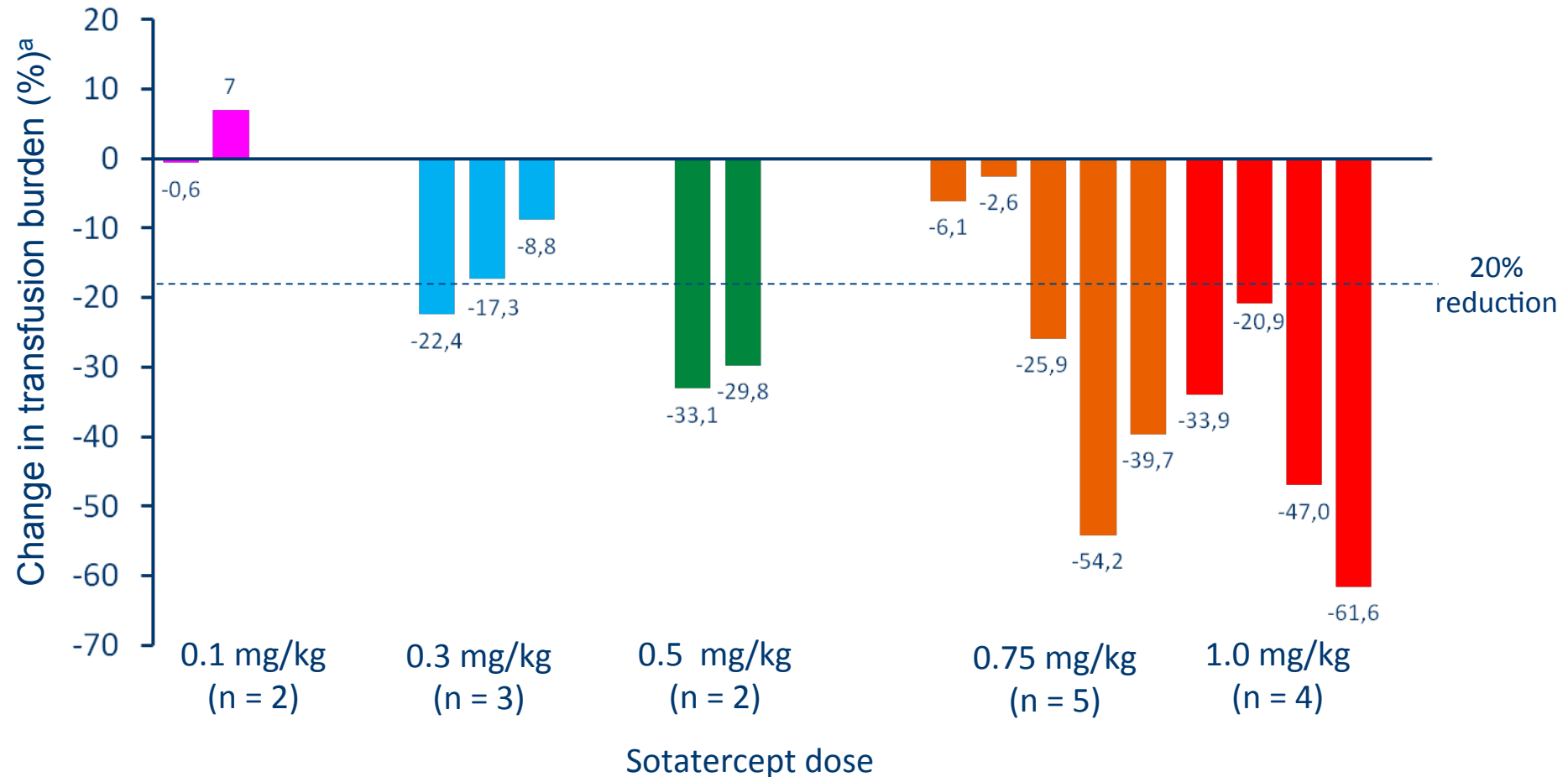
- Luspatercept and sotatercept bind to various ligands in the TGF- β superfamily with differing affinities
 - Both bind to GDF11 and inhibit Smad 2,3 signaling

ESA, erythroid stimulating agent; ECD, extracellular domain;
TGF- β , transforming growth factor β ; GDF, growth differentiation factor

Results: NTD Thalassaemia Patients With Hb Increase Sustained for ≥ 12 Weeks



Results: Reduction in Transfusion Burden for TD β -Thalassemia Patients



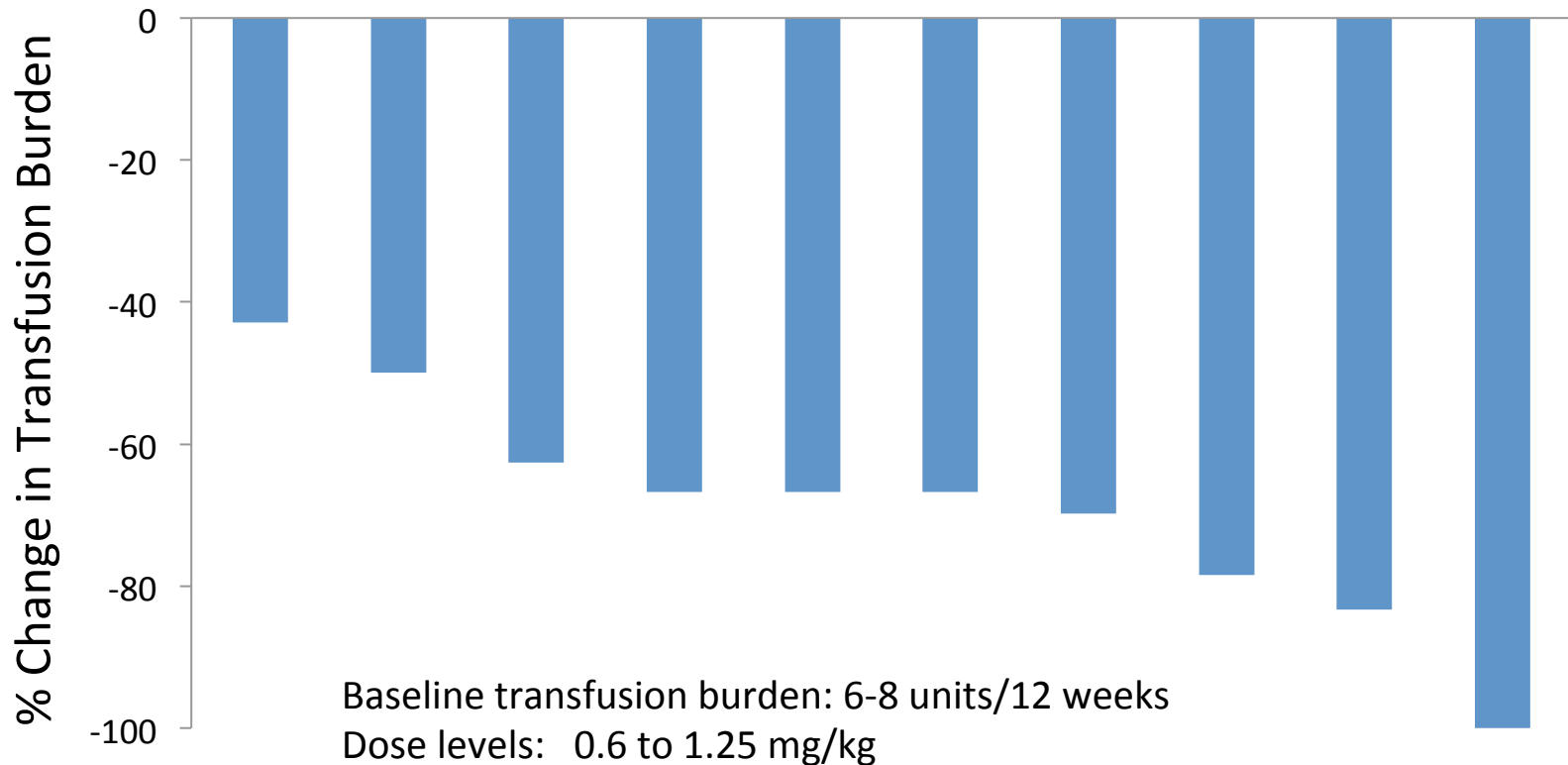
- **Mean transfusion burden reduction among patients treated with sotatercept \geq 0.5 mg/kg was 32.25%**

^a Percentage change in transfusion burden (units/168 days) from baseline to on-treatment.

Luspatercept Reduced Transfusion Burden

- 10/14 patients were treated for ≥ 12 weeks and were evaluable for change in transfusion burden
- All 10 evaluable patients had $>40\%$ reduction in transfusion burden over 12 weeks

Individual Patient Data



The BELIEVE Study

Phase 3 study of luspatercept in beta-thalassemia



BELIEVE

PATIENT POPULATION

Adult beta-thalassemia patients who are regularly transfused

STUDY DESIGN

Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled
300 patients, randomized 2:1
(200 luspatercept, 100 placebo)

KEY INCLUSION CRITERIA

Patients who receive 6-20 units of RBCs over past 24 weeks and no transfusion-free period \geq 35 days (regularly transfused patients)

The BELIEVE Study

Phase 3 study of luspatercept in beta-thalassemia



- Multicenter (110 sites), multinational (20 countries) study
- 12-week prospective pre-treatment period to calculate baseline transfusion burden

Luspatercept Treatment Leads to Long Term Increases in Hemoglobin and Reductions in Transfusion Burden in Patients with Low or Intermediate-1 Risk Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS): Preliminary Results from the Phase 2 PACE-MDS Extension Study

Uwe Platzbecker, MD¹, Aristoteles Giagounidis, MD, PhD², Ulrich Germing, MD³, Katharina Götze, MD⁴, Philipp Kiewe, MD⁵, Karin Mayer, MD⁶, Oliver Ottmann, MD⁷, Markus Radsak, MD⁸, Thomas Wolff, MD⁹, Detlef Haase, MD¹⁰, Monty Hankin¹¹, Dawn Wilson¹¹, Xiaosha Zhang¹¹, Adberrahmane Laadem, MD¹², Matthew L. Sherman, MD¹¹ and Kenneth M. Attie, MD¹¹

¹Universitätsklinikum Carl Gustav Carus, Dresden, ²Marien Hospital Düsseldorf,

³Universitätsklinikum Düsseldorf, ⁴Technical University of Munich, ⁵Onkologischer Schwerpunkt am Oskar-Helene-Heim, Berlin, ⁶University Hospital Bonn, ⁷Universitätsklinikum Frankfurt, Goethe Universitaet, Frankfurt/Main, ⁸Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz, ⁹OncoResearch Lerchenfeld UG, Hamburg, ¹⁰Universitätsmedizin Göttingen, Germany; ¹¹Acceleron Pharma, Cambridge, MA, ¹²Celgene Corporation, Summit, NJ, USA

Ineffective Erythropoiesis in MDS

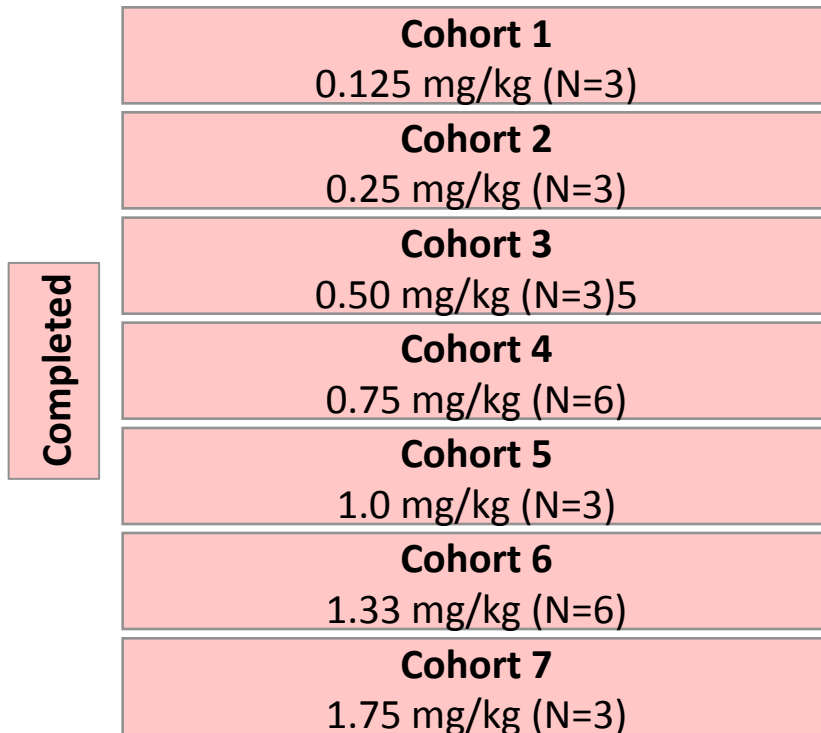
- Anemia, a hallmark of MDS, is a significant clinical challenge to treat, particularly after failure of ESAs¹
- Defects in maturation of erythroid precursors (ineffective erythropoiesis) lead to erythroid hyperplasia and anemia
- Ineffective erythropoiesis is driven by excessive Smad2/3 signaling²

Luspatercept Lower-Risk MDS Phase 2 Study

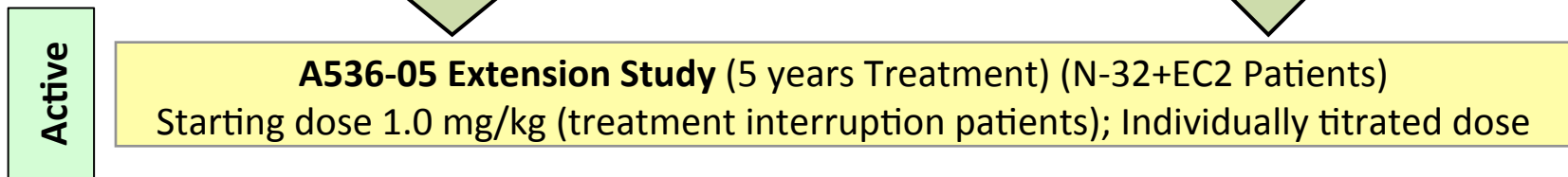
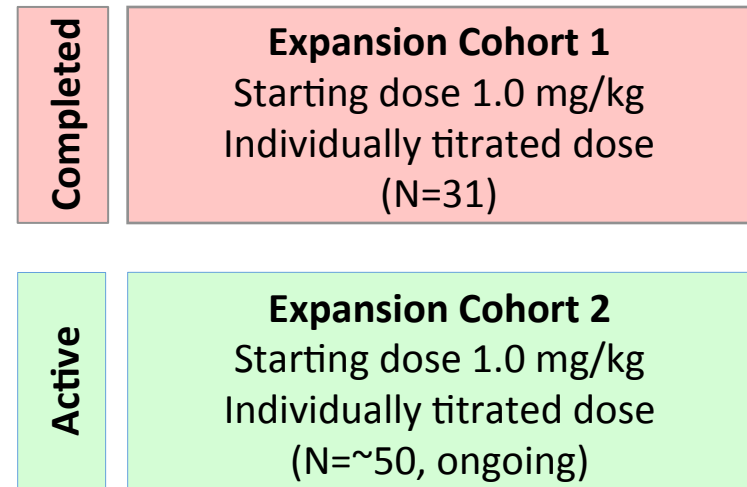
- A phase 2, multicenter, open-label, 3-month dose escalation study in adults with lower-risk MDS, followed by a 5-yr extension study
- **Eligibility criteria:**
 - Age \geq 18 years
 - IPSS Low or Int-1-risk MDS
 - Anemia, defined as high transfusion burden (**HTB**; \geq 4 RBC units/8 weeks) or low transfusion burden (**LTB**; $<$ 4 RBC units/8 weeks with Hb $<$ 10.0 g/dL)
 - Nonresponsive or refractory to ESA or EPO $>$ 500 U/L
 - No prior AZA or DAC and no current LEN, ESA, G-CSF, GM-CSF
- **Study endpoints include:**
 - Hb increase in LTB patients (\geq 1.5 g/dL over 8 weeks)
 - Reduction in RBC transfusion burden in HTB patients (4 U or 50% reduction over 8 weeks)
 - Achievement of transfusion independence \geq 8 weeks
 - Time to/duration of HI-E response
 - Safety, PK
 - HI-N, HI-P, HR-QoL (FACT-An), PD and iron biomarkers

Luspatercept MDS Studies A536-03/05

A536-03 Dose Escalation Phase (3 Months Treatment)



A536-03 Expansion Phase (3 Months Treatment)



Safety Summary – AEs by Dose Level (3 Months)

- Majority of adverse events (AEs) were grade 1 or 2
- One possibly related grade 3 AE: blast cell count increase
- Two possibly related serious AEs: gr 3 myalgia; gr 3 worsening of general condition

Adverse Events (All Grade Regardless of Causality) in ≥ 4 Patients

| Preferred Term n (%) | 0.125-0.5 mg/kg N=9 | 0.75-1.75 mg/kg N=49 | Overall N=58 |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Diarrhoea | 2 (22%) | 5 (10%) | 7 (12%) |
| Myalgia | 2 (22%) | 5 (10%) | 7 (12%) |
| Nasopharyngitis | 1 (11%) | 6 (12%) | 7 (12%) |
| Fatigue | 0 | 6 (12%) | 6 (10%) |
| Abdominal pain upper | 1 (11%) | 4 (8%) | 5 (9%) |
| Bone pain | 1 (11%) | 4 (8%) | 5 (9%) |
| Bronchitis | 0 | 5 (10%) | 5 (9%) |
| Headache | 0 | 5 (10%) | 5 (9%) |
| Hypertension | 0 | 5 (10%) | 5 (9%) |
| Anaemia | 0 | 4 (8%) | 4 (7%) |
| Muscle spasms | 2 (22%) | 2 (4%) | 4 (7%) |

Safety Summary - Patients in Long-Term Extension Study

- No serious or grade 3 or 4 adverse events related to study drug reported during the extension study
- 7/32 (22%) patients discontinued early: patient request (n=3), lack of effect (n=2), progression (n=1), death (n=1)

Adverse events at least possibly related to study drug during the extension study (N=32)

| Preferred Term | No. Patients (%) |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| At least 1 related AE | 3 (9.4) |
| Bone pain | 1 (3.1) |
| Headache | 1 (3.1) |
| Hypotonia | 1 (3.1) |
| Myalgia | 1 (3.1) |
| Nausea | 1 (3.1) |

Conclusions

- Lower risk MDS patients treated with therapeutic doses of luspatercept demonstrated a robust increase in hemoglobin levels and reduced transfusion burden
- Patients with ring sideroblasts (RS+) and SF3B1 mutation were most likely to respond to luspatercept treatment
- Luspatercept was generally safe and well-tolerated
- Increased Hb and transfusion independence up to 1 year (ongoing) were observed in responders
- Responders included patients who were refractory to prior ESA or had serum EPO >200 U/L
- These results supported the initiation of a Phase 3 study of luspatercept in patients with lower-risk MDS ([MEDALIST](#))

The MEDALIST Study

Phase 3 Study of Luspatercept in MDS



Patient Population / Study Design

Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in very low, low or intermediate risk (IPSS-R) MDS patients with ring sideroblasts (RS+) who require RBC transfusion
210 patients randomized 2:1; luspatercept 1 mg/kg SC every 3 weeks, titration up to 1.75 mg/kg possible

Key Inclusion Criteria

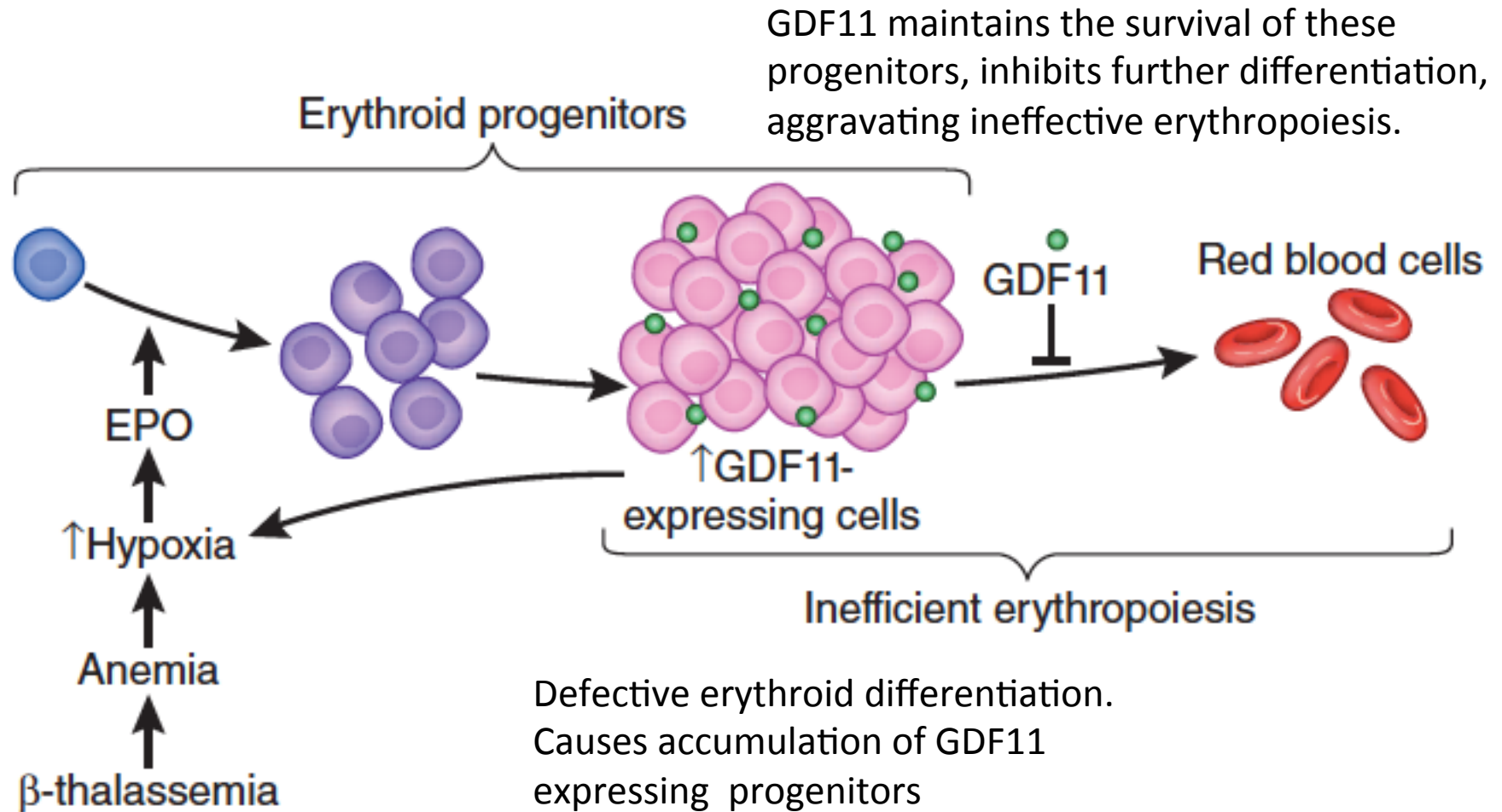
Refractory / intolerant to prior ESA *or* EPO > 200 U/L
RS+; <5% blasts; no prior HMA or lenalidomide
≥ 2 units RBCs transfused / 8 weeks
Excluded: del(5q), secondary MDS

Primary Efficacy Endpoint

Proportion of patients that become RBC-transfusion independent (≥ 8 weeks) during the first 24 weeks

Sponsored by Celgene

Role of GDF11 in IE



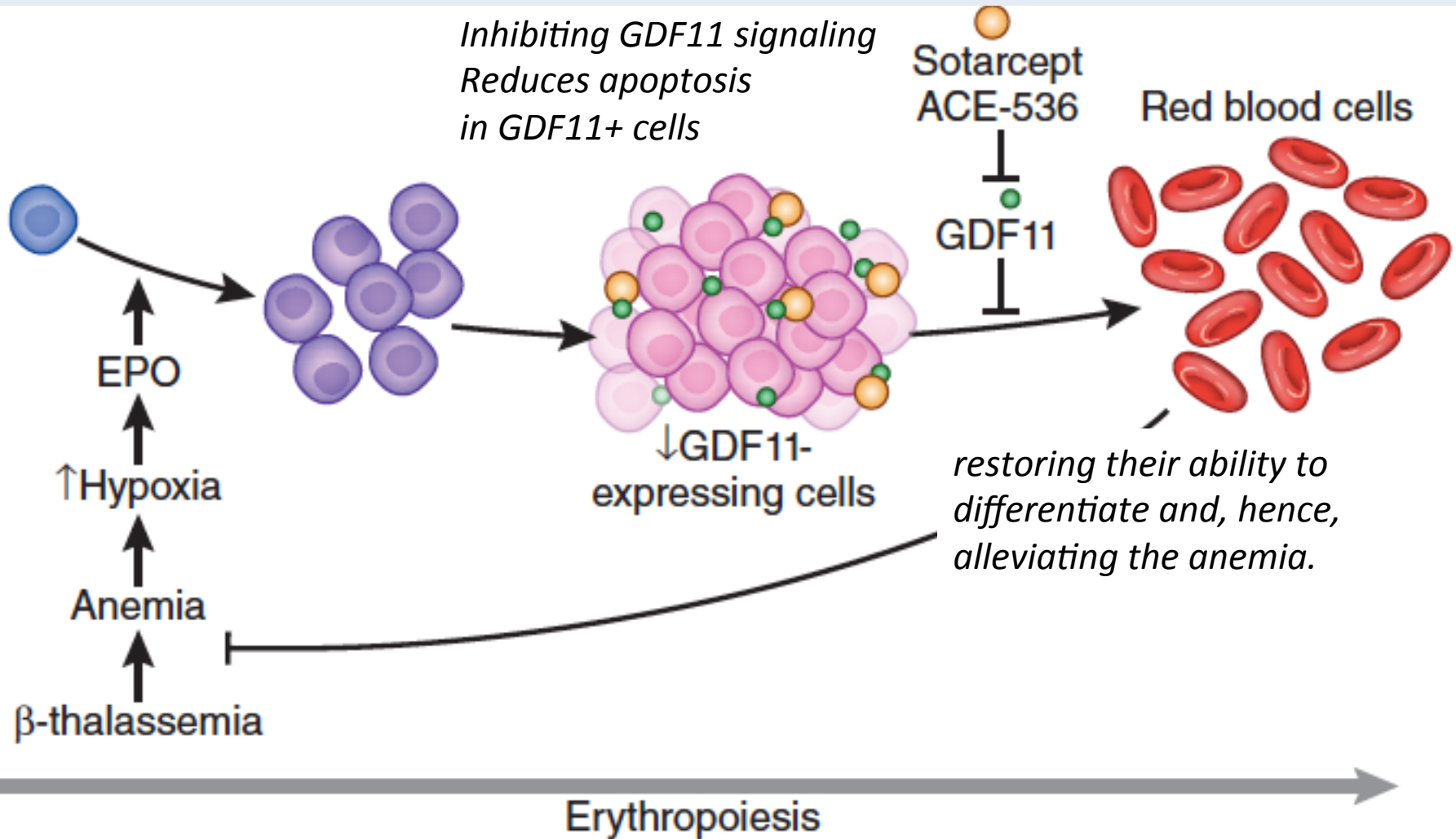
Paulson. Nature Medicine Editorial , 20 , 4 , 2014

After: Dussiot *et al.* Nat Med, 4, 398-407, 2014

Suragani *et al.* Nat Med, 4, 408-14 2014

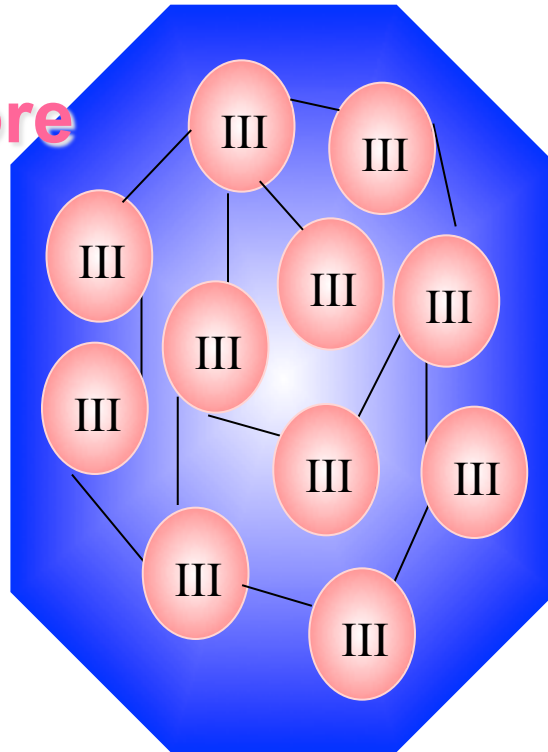
Role of ACE-11 and ACE-536

GDF11 in IE



Advances on i.v. iron

Iron Core



Carbohydrate shell

1947: Fe-Saccharide



1954: Fe-Dextran (HMW)



1999: Fe-Gluconate



2000: Fe-Sucrose

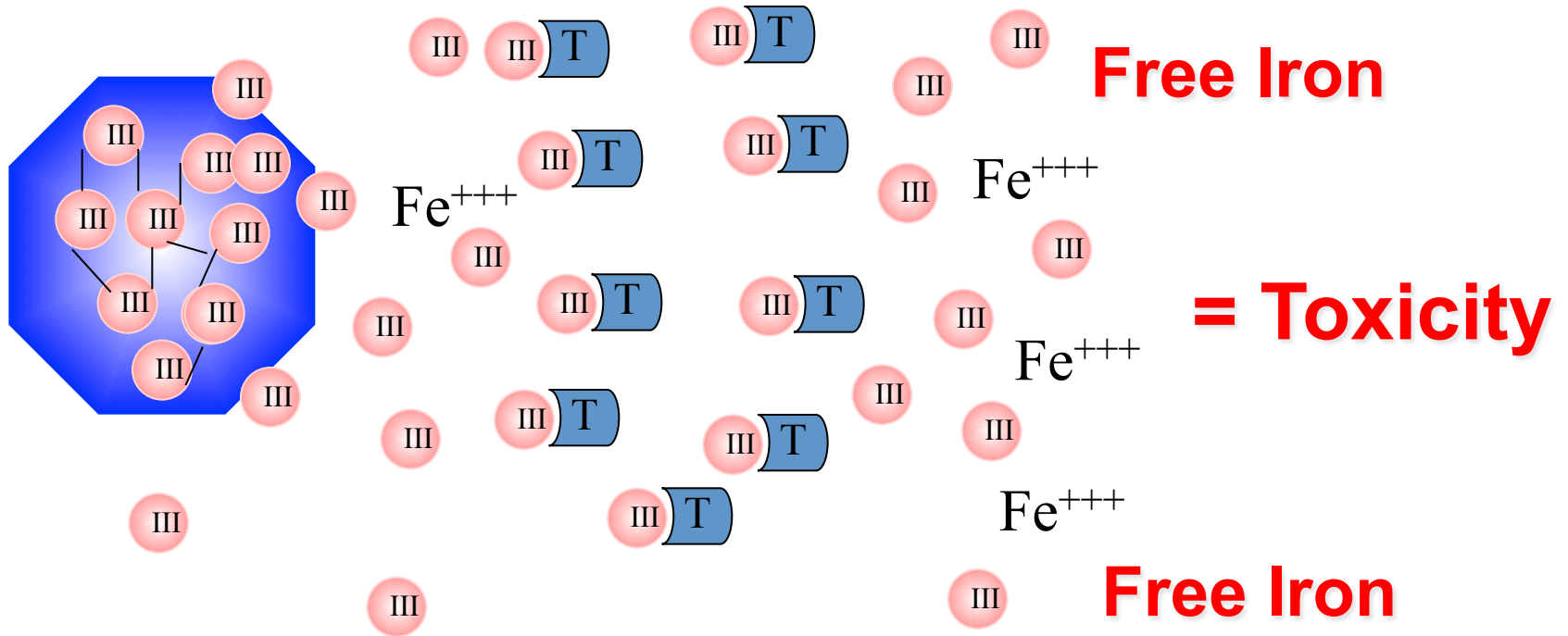


2009: Ferumoxytol



2011: Fe-Carboxymaltose

Iron toxicity (limiting dose) depends on stability of the iron/carbohydrate complex

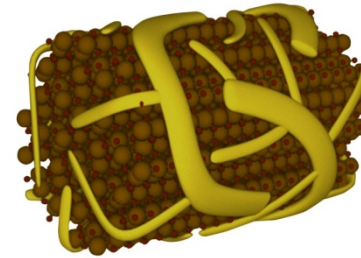


III = Iron

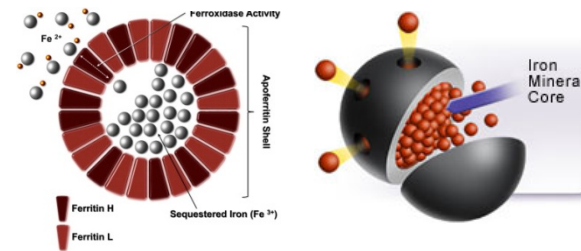
T = Transferrin

Features of new Fe(III)-hydroxide carbohydrate complexes

➤ highly stable complexes, do not release large amounts of ionic iron



➤ “Similar” to ferritin



➤ Macrophage uptake

