

## **Neurotrope Phase 2 Trial**

## Evidence that Bryostatin Improves Cognitive Function in Advanced Alzheimer's Patients

January 7, 2018

## **Bryostatin Phase 2 Trial Design**



- Double-blind, randomized, controlled, exploratory trial
- Moderate to severe patients (MMSE 4-15)
- Stable background therapy with cholinesterase inhibitors and/or memantine
- Three arms (1:1:1) 20µg, 40µg and control
- 7 doses over 12 weeks: 0, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11
- Efficacy evaluated at weeks 5, 9, 13 (primary and secondary endpoints)
- Week 15: 30-day safety & efficacy exploratory endpoint
- Post-Hoc endpoints: memantine vs. non-memantine (background therapy)
- All p-values one-tailed as pre-specified in the statistical analysis plan, unless specified otherwise 2



#### **Top Line Results of 150 Patients Exploratory Phase 2 Trial:**

- Safe, sustained improvement in SIB (Severe Impairment Battery) in 20μg dosing arm (but not the 40μg\*) compared to control group through week 13
- The primary efficacy endpoints with SIB were pre-specified to be tested on the mITT and the Completers (CAS) population\*

#### **Exploratory Analyses:**

• Improvements in SIB sustained at week 15 (30 days after last dose at week 11)

#### **Post-Hoc Analyses:**

- Increased cognition (SIB) observed in the absence of memantine (an NMDA receptor antagonist) as background therapy
- Efficacy at week 5 (reported at AAIC 2017) was significantly correlated with week 9, 13 efficacy evidence of sustained improvement
- 20µg dose validated as effective by body surface area (BSA)
- Multiple sensitivity analyses reinforce prospective statistical model

<sup>\* 40</sup>  $\mu$ g – ineffective, explained by PKC downregulation

## Pre-Clinical Studies: PKC Signaling Pathways Integral to Memory and Learning



 Bryostatin/PKCe activity generates new synaptic networks (<u>synaptogenesis</u>), enhances cognition, prevents neuronal death, and reduces Aβ and hyperphosphorylated tau

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#### **Cultured Rat Hippocampal Neuronal Networks**

Treated With Aβ Oligomers<sup>a</sup>

Treated With Bryostatin & AB Oligomers

Red = Presynaptic staining (Synaptophysin) Green = Postsynaptic staining (PSD-95) Yellow = Merged, Synaptic Formation

\*Increased red, green (yellow) overlapping of presynaptic & postsynaptic staining indicates increased synaptic formation Sen A et al. *J Biol Chem*. 2012;287(19):15947-15958. Sen A et al. *J Biol Chem*. 2016;291(32):16462-16467. Image courtesy of Daniel L. Alkon, MD.

## Bryostatin SIB Improvement by Visit (Completers)



Sustained Benefit

Persistent Benefit 30 Days Post-Dosing Enhanced Benefit Off memantine

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## Topline Phase 2: SIB Change From Baseline mITT & Completer (CAS) Analyses at Week 13



- Consistent effect for 20µg vs control across all time points
- Lack of effect for 40µg vs control across all time points



|                 | Week 5 | Week 9 | Week 13 |
|-----------------|--------|--------|---------|
| Difference 20µg | 3.0    | 1.0    | 1.9     |
| 1-sided p-value | 0.056  | 0.290  | 0.134   |
| Difference 40µg | 0.6    | -0.6   | 0.8     |
| 1-sided p-value | 0.368  | 0.638  | 0.314   |



|                 | Week 5 | Week 9 | Week 13 |
|-----------------|--------|--------|---------|
| Difference 20µg | 4.0    | 1.9    | 2.6     |
| 1-sided p-value | 0.016  | 0.165  | 0.070   |
| Difference 40µg | 2.1    | 0.1    | 1.5     |
| 1-sided p-value | 0.137  | 0.476  | 0.191   |

Cf. NTRP AAIC 2017 One-tailed; powered p <0.1

## **30 Day Post-Dosing Data – Exploratory End Pt.**

## **Evidence for Persistent, Enhanced Benefit**

- Consistent SIB effect across time points, increased D at week 15



\* for all subjects who were not re-randomized



Consistent SIB Effect across time points, increasing D at week 15\*



Post-Hoc Analyses: Evidence of Memantine's Negative Impact on Bryostatin's Therapeutic Benefits

## PKC, Activated by Bryostatin, Regulates NMDA Receptor Function in Multiple Pathways





Protein kinase C (PKC), which is activated by mGluR5 receptor stimulation, phosphorylates NMDA receptors to increase the cationic conductance of this receptor. PKC can also phosphorylate mGluR5 receptors to modulate their function.

Pathways Include:

- Synaptogenesis
- NMDA Receptor Traffic
- NMDA Conductance
- mGluR5-NMDA modulation

#### **References**

Pharmaceuticals (Basel). 2013 Feb; 6(2): 251–268. Published online 2013 Feb 6.,

The Journal of Biological Chemistry, 2011 July; 286,25187-25200,

Nature Neuroscience, 2001, April, Vol. 4, no 4

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## SIB By Visit: OFF-Memantine patients in mITT Group at weeks 13 and 15





SIB By Visit: Comparison of OFF vs. ON-Memantine in mITT Group at Weeks 13 and 15



#### **SIB- OFF-Memantine**



## SIB By Visit: <u>OFF-Memantine</u> Completers (CAS) at Weeks 13 and 15





SIB By Visit: Comparison of OFF vs. ON-Memantine in Completers at Weeks 13 and 15







\*Results from Week 15 are from a model that included all visits, all other results are consistent with the CSR results (Tables 14.2.1.3 for FAS and 14.2.1.4 for Completers) that did not include Week 15

## Memantine Blocks Bryostatin SIB Improvement



• Larger treatment effects were seen in patients treated with 20µg bryostatin OFF-memantine vs. ON-memantine in MITT and Completer groups

| SIB     | 20 μg<br>bryostatin<br>vs. control | mITT             |                 | Completer (CAS)  |                 |
|---------|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
|         |                                    | Off<br>memantine | On<br>memantine | Off<br>memantine | On<br>memantine |
| Week 5  | Δ                                  | 4.48             | 1.96            | 5.38             | 2.94            |
|         | p-value*                           | 0.0857           | 0.1973          | 0.0487           | 0.1016          |
| Week 9  | Δ                                  | 2.08             | 0.09            | 2.66             | 0.90            |
|         | p-value*                           | 0.2597           | 0.4847          | 0.2071           | 0.3522          |
| Week 13 | Δ                                  | 5.11             | -0.14           | 5.53             | 0.56            |
|         | p-value*                           | 0.0437           | 0.4752          | 0.0338           | 0.3988          |
| Week 15 | Δ                                  | 5.93             | 0.79            | 6.36             | 1.45            |
|         | p-value*                           | 0.0576           | 0.3927          | 0.0488           | 0.3120          |

\*All p- value are one-tailed as pre-specified unless otherwise denoted

Top Line: SIB Improvement at Weeks 5, 9 & 13 Was Significantly Correlated for the 20µg Dose



Significant correlations (p <.001) between SIB values for 20μg (vs. control) at successive weeks – 5, 9,13</li>

- Shows that the same patients who improved at week 5 improved throughout the trial.
  - Improvement, and not only reduction in the rate of decline, suggests treatment of disease vs. symptomatic relief

• Supports the sustained nature of the 20µg dose efficacy

\*mITT: modified intent-to-treat population, +P-values for correlations are two-tailed

## Bryostatin - 20µg Dose Further Validated as Effective by Body Surface Area (BSA) Analysis



 Normalization of the 20μg dose to each patient's BSA revealed that the 20μg doses (on a per-patient-basis) were tightly distributed around the 12.5μg/m<sup>2</sup>. The week 13 mean dose adjusted for BSA was 11.33 μg/m<sup>2</sup> in the 20μg dose arm.



#### Narrow Dose Response Distribution around 11.33µg/m<sup>2</sup> for 20µg/dose

F-ratio for 20µg vs. 40µg variance of 3.97 and a corresponding 2sided p-value of <0.0001, supported a conclusion of unequal variances between the two dosage groups.



- 1. 20µg bryostatin showed evidence of safely produced, sustained cognitive improvements (SIB scores) in advanced AD patients
- These improvements, not just reduction in the rate of decline, persisted at week 15 (30 days after the last dose at week 11) suggesting treatment of disease in addition to symptomatic relief.
- 3. Greater cognitive improvement in the 20μg arm was observed in the absence of memantine a known partial NMDA receptor antagonist
- 4. 20µg dose validated as an effective, safe dose by Body Surface Area
- 5. Sensitivity analyses generally agreed with the results of the analysis by Mixed Model for Repeated Measures (MMRM) and included:
  - ANCOVA similar to MMRM used here
  - Imputation of drop outs also similar to MMRM
  - Adjusting for additional baseline covariates
  - Pooling sites
  - Linear vs. quadratic model over time



A confirmatory trial in advanced AD, non-memantine patients

- 1. Leverage Phase II data by incorporating memantine-free patients into the study
- 2. Confirm marked improvement in SIB scores among memantinefree patients
- 3. Draw conclusions on possible long-term effects of bryostatin on SIB improvement from baseline
  - Trial expected to begin in early 2018

## **Supplemental Slides**

### Appendix: PKC Dosing in AD:

## Increase Activation, Avoid Downregulation



#### Activation of PKC by Bryostatin ∎0.04 nM 0.2 nM 200 ⊃KC activity (% of control) SH-SY5Y cells 150 100 50 -Activation-Downregulation -► < Recovery > 0 2 3 24 4 0 Hours

- High dose downregulates
  PKCε (oncology), lower dose
  leads to increased activation
  of PKCε (Cognitive Disorders)
  and *de novo* synthesis of
  PKCε.
- The primary objective of treatment of cognitive disorders with bryostatin is the sustained activation of PKCε, not down-regulation as was attempted in oncology.
- The Next Clinical Trial will optimize dosing by maximizing PKC activation and minimizing down regulation.





### 20µg Group Showed Persistent SIB Improvement 30 Days Post-Dosing

 At week 15 (30 days after last dose at week 11), 20µg arm showed a persistent SIB improvement over baseline as compared to the control group in both mITT and Completers (CAS). The week 15 endpoint was an exploratory endpoint.

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|           |            | 20µg Bryostatin |                        |  |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|------------------------|--|
| SIB       |            | mITT            | Completer<br>@ week 13 |  |
| N*        | 20µg       | 44              | 38 (34*)               |  |
| (N=15 wk) | Control    | 46              | 42 (33*)               |  |
| Week 15   | D          | 3.59            | 4.09                   |  |
|           | p-value ** | 0.0503          | 0.0293                 |  |

- mITT: At week 15, 20μg treated
  patients showed an Ismean SIB
  improvement of 1.77 while the control
  group showed a decline in Ismean SIB
  scores of -1.82 for an overall treatment
  D of 3.59 from baseline; p = 0.0503).
- Completers (CAS): At week 15, 20µg treated patients showed an Ismean SIB improvement of 1.96, while the control group showed a decline in Ismean SIB scores of -2.13 for an overall treatment D of 4.09 from baseline; p = 0.0293).

\* For all subjects in model at any visit, only subjects who were not re-randomized at week 15.

\*\*All p- value are one-tailed as pre-specified unless otherwise denoted.

