Treating hypertriglyceridemic states with RNA interference – emergence of an exciting new modality to treat cardiovascular diseases

Global Summit on Cardiology and Heart Diseases Dubai, Sept 16-17, 2019 Bruce D. Given, MD COO, Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals



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## Disclosures

- Dr. Given is an employee and shareholder of Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- All products and indications discussed in this presentation are investigational



#### Outline

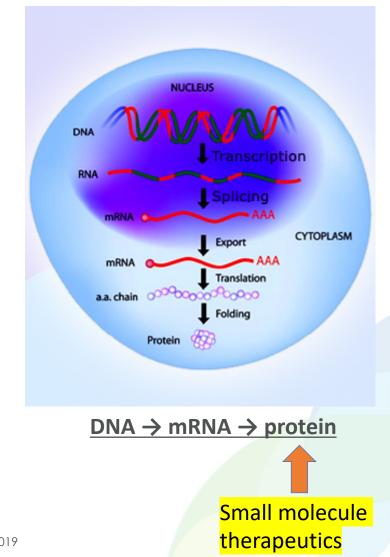
- Some Background on RNA Interference (RNAi)
- The CV Pipeline in RNAi
- Hypertriglyceridemia as an independent risk factor
- ApoC3 and AngPTL3 knockdown in animals and first data in humans

• Conclusions



#### Small Molecule Pharmaceuticals Generally Target Proteins

- The central dogma of molecular biology
  - Transcription and translation
    - the information in genes flows into proteins
- Small molecule pharmaceuticals generally target proteins
  - Enzymes
  - Receptors
- However
  - Not all proteins are targetable
  - Very difficult to address proteins in a tissuespecific manner





#### The Discovery of siRNA

- In 1998, RNAi was discovered by Andrew Fire and Craig Mello.
- In 2001, siRNA was first used as a tool to silence genes in mammalian cells
- Awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2006



Andrew Z. Fire Craig C. Mello

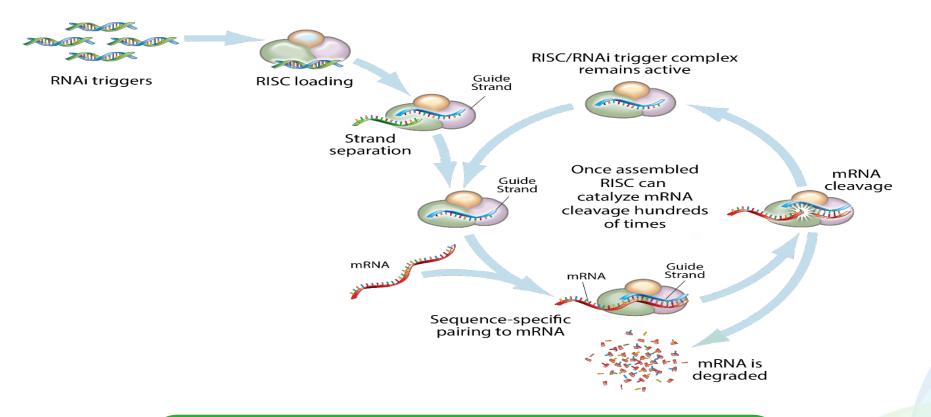


#### Basics of RNA interference (RNAi)

- Uses an endogenous host mechanism that modulates host gene expression post-transcription
- Designed for high specificity generally one RNAi molecule will knock down only one gene
- The field has learned how to avoid unwanted stimulation of innate immunity
- In early years, the field was held back by poor delivery, currently leading companies all use ligand mediated delivery



#### Target the Gene, Silence the Disease



#### Therapeutic gene silencing with RNA interference is highly precise and efficient

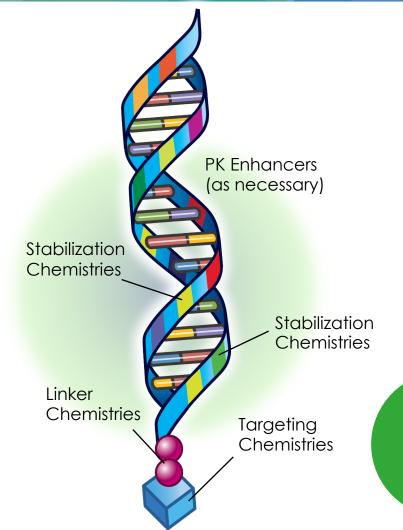


### When is RNAi the Right Choice?

- When ligand-mediated or local delivery can provide beneficial/needed organ specificity:
  - Addressing the target outside of the organ of interest creates unacceptable toxicity (e.g. amiloride analogs for blocking pulmonary ENaC or other similar targets, several NASH targets, etc)
- When antibodies don't fit the need
  - Target not accessible (various intracellular proteins)
  - The volume of protein produced is too high (Lp(a), hepcidin)
  - Target is both intracellular and extra-cellular (AngPTL3)
- When a longer (monthly or more) gap between doses delivers patient-centered benefits
  - The proposed advantage of PCSK9 RNAi drug



#### TRiM<sup>TM</sup>: Simplicity, Specificity, and Activity



#### Components:

- Stabilization chemistries
- PK enhancers as necessary
- Linker chemistries
- Targeting ligands

Now capable of achieving deep KD in diverse tissues using subQ, iv, and inhaled administration routes



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#### Public CV RNAi Programs

#### CV RNAi Programs

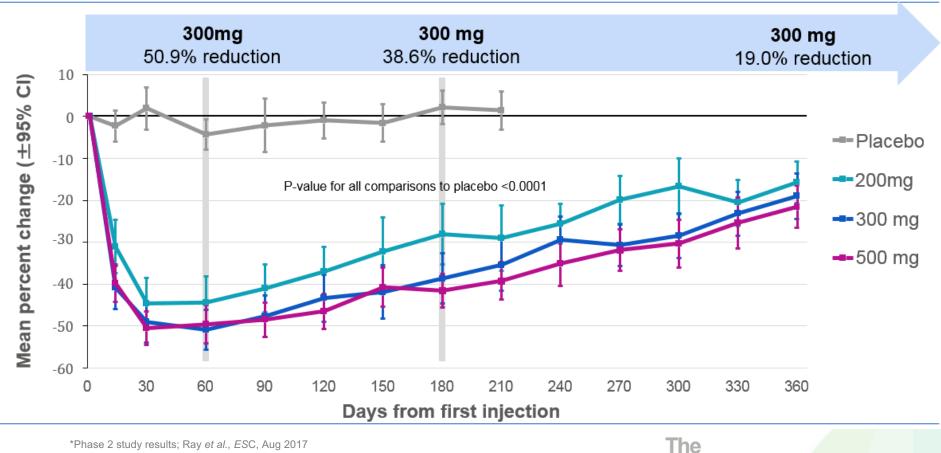
AngPTL3 APOC3 Cardiac amyloidosis Factor 12 Lp(a) PCSK9 Arrowhead Arrowhead Alnylam Arrowhead Amgen \* Medicines Company ^

\* Licensed from Arrowhead^ Licensed from Alnylam



#### **Robust and Sustained LDL-C Reductions with Inclisiran\***

#### Results to Day 360 Following One Dose



Medicines

Company

\*Phase 2 study results; Ray et al., ESC, Aug 2017 Inclisiran also known as "ALN-PCSsc" and "PCSK9si"

The Medicines Company is leading and funding development of inclisiran from Phase 2 onward and will commercialize the program, if successful

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#### Triglyceride Targets Emerge: APOC3, ANGPTL3

Plasma triglyceride levels are an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease (Rosenson, ACC, 2014)

- o Genetic studies support causal relationship
- Independent of LDL-C or HDL-C

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

#### Loss-of-Function Mutations in *APOC3* and Risk of Ischemic Vascular Disease

Anders Berg Jørgensen, M.D., Ph.D., Ruth Frikke-Schmidt, M.D., D.M.Sc., Børge G. Nordestgaard, M.D., D.M.Sc., and Anne Tybjærg-Hansen, M.D., D.M.Sc. The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

#### Loss-of-Function Mutations in *APOC3*, Triglycerides, and Coronary Disease

The TG and HDL Working Group of the Exome Sequencing Project, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute\*

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Genetic and Pharmacologic Inactivation of ANGPTL3 and Cardiovascular Disease



#### Genetic Validation, Clinical Data for APOC3 & ANGPTL3

Mean or Median changes in lipid parameters after therapy and in heterozygotes and homozygotes for APOC3 and ANGPTL3 LOF mutations versus non-carriers

Metric (serum level)	APOC3 deficient heterozygote <sup>1</sup>	APOC3 deficient homozygote <sup>2</sup>	APOC3 ASO inhibition <sup>3</sup>	ANGPTL3 deficient heterozygote <sup>4</sup>	ANGPTL3 deficient homozygote <sup>4</sup>	ANGPTL3 ASO inhibition <sup>6</sup>	ANGPTL3 Mab Inhibition <sup>7</sup> 25 mg/kg IV
ApoC-III	-46%	-88.9%	-77.5%	NA	NA	-58.8%	NA
ANGPTL3	NA	NA	NA	-40% to -87%	undetectable	-84.5%	NA
Triglycerides	-39%	-59.6%	-43.8%	-21.1%	-71.2%	-50.4%	-76% i.v. (median)
LDL-C	-16%	Similar to non- carrier	-3.9%	-8.6%	-67.2%	-32.9%	-25%
HDL-C	+22%	+26.9%	+8.0%	-16.8%	-39.0%	-26.9%	-25%
CAD risk	-40%	Not reported	NA	-41%5	NA	NA	NA
Adverse Phenotype/AEs	None described	None described	Thrombocytopenia ISRs, renal	None described	None described	None described	Elevated ALT (11% in active v 0% PBO)

1. Triglyceride working group, NEJM 2014

#### 2. Saleheen et al., Nature 2016

3. Graham et al., Circulation Research 2013. [Phase 1 MAD study, 400 mg dosed D1, D3, D5, D8, D15 and D22 with non-GalNac targeted ASO. Median % change 1-week after last dose in NHV population compared to baseline]
4. Minicocci et al., J of Lipid Research 2013

#### 5. Dewey et al, NEJM 2017

6. Graham et al., NEJM 2017 [Six weekly 60 mg doses using GalNac conjugate ASO in NHV population, mean values 1 week after last dose versus baseline]
7. Dewey FE, Gusarova V, Dunbar RL, et al. Genetic and pharmacologic inactivation of ANGPTL3 and cardiovascular disease. N Engl J Med 2017;377:211-21. [approximate mean nadir reduction at highest IV dose]



#### Outline

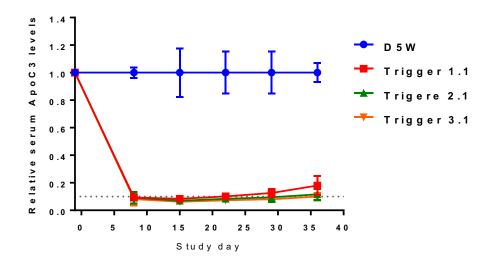
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#### ARO-APOC3 RNAi TRiM™ Candidate Targeting APOC3

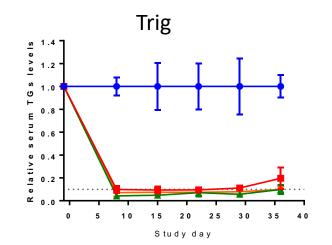


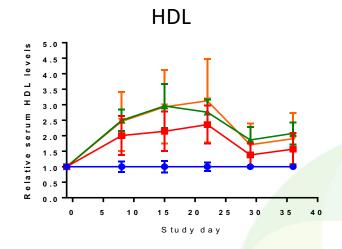
#### Single-dose Study in ApoC3 Transgenic Mice



- Deep KD after a single dose
- Max KD sustained for 3 weeks
- Expected effects on lipid
   profile

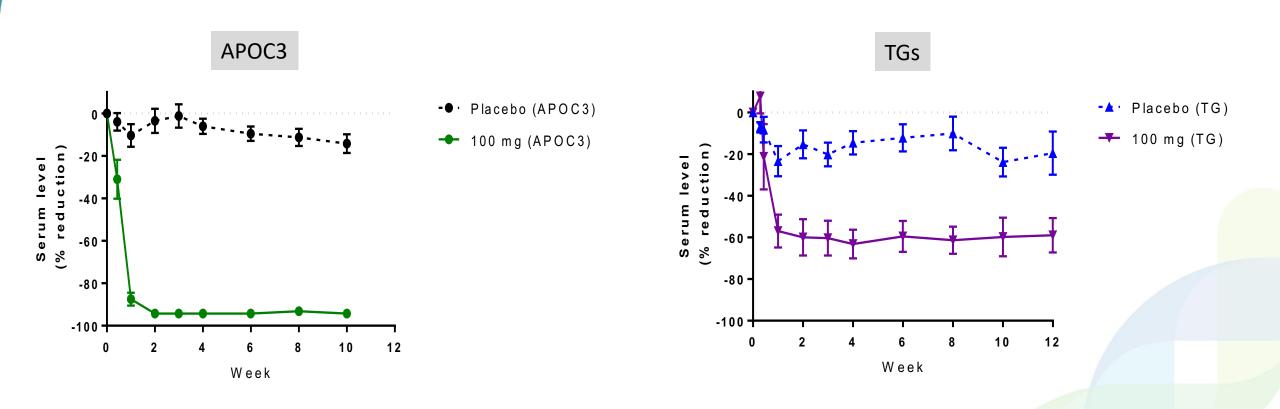
All dosed on study day 1 at 2 mpk Data normalized to pre-dose and D5W control







#### First Look at ARO-APOC3 in Healthy Volunteers - Single 100 mg dose through week 12





#### Top Line Safety Observations with ARO-APOC3

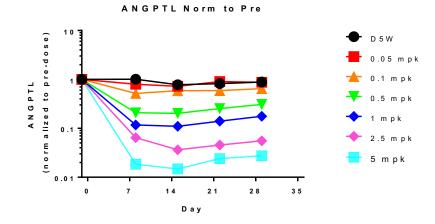
- No premature discontinuations in 24 healthy volunteers treated with ARO-APOC3
- No serious adverse events (such as deaths, hospitalizations, etc)
- No adverse events rated as severe
- Most common reported AEs: headache, upper respiratory infections and (all mild) injection site findings (flushing, bruising, etc)

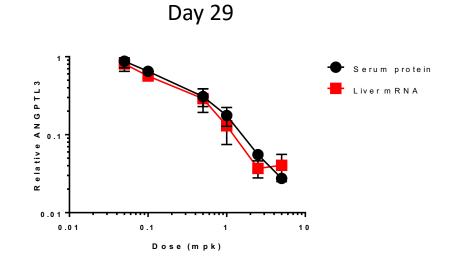


#### ARO-ANG3 RNAi TRiM™ Candidate Targeting AngPTL3



#### ANGPTL3 Dose Response in WT mice





- Max KD on day 15
- 5 mpk close to assay detection limits

- Similar relative mRNA and protein KD on day 29
- If any, ANGPLT3 from other tissues is minimal



# Mouse Disease Models Interrogated with KD of ANGPTL3

- Mouse models
  - LDL receptor knock-out (LDLr -/-) mice, western diet
  - Diet-induced obese (DIO) mice, 60% fat diet
  - Leptin receptor defective db/db mice, 60% fat diet
- All studies dosed at 3 mg/kg



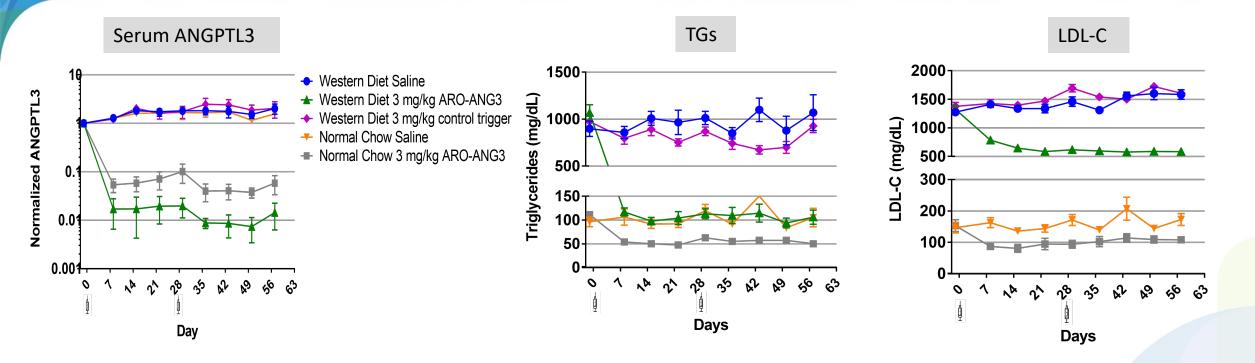
#### Mouse Disease Models: Pre-Dose Baseline Lipid Profiles

Mouse Model	WT Normal Chow	DIO 10% Fat Diet	DIO 60% Fat Diet	LDLr-/- Normal Chow	LDLr-/- Western Diet	db/db 6% Fat Diet
# of animals	N= 39	N=9	N=29	N= 16	N=39	N=30
Trig (mg/dL)	41 ± 6	52 ± 9	65 ± 14	98 ± 11	980 ± 288	172 ± 58
Chol (mg/dL)	69 ± 6	136 ± 17	195 ± 27	211 ± 30	1467 ± 253	184 ± 48
HDL (mg/dL)	61 ± 5	115 ± 16	170 ± 21	99 ± 7	234 ± 33	157 ± 41
LDL (mg/dL)	12 ± 2	22 ± 7	34 ± 8	114 ± 27	1327 ± 232	43 ± 16

All from day -1 pre-dose bleed



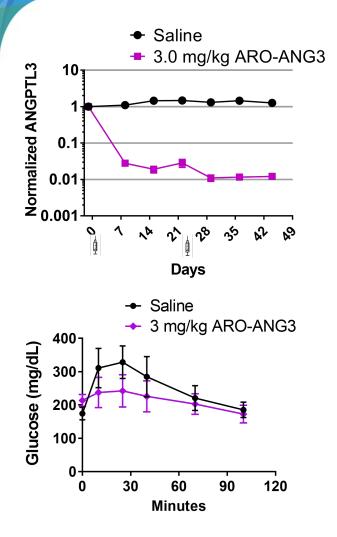
### Effects of ANGPTL3 KD in LDLr -/- Mice



- Maximum serum ANGPTL3 reductions of 98-99% (Western diet) and 95-96% (chow)
- TGs reductions of 90% (Western diet) and 48% (chow)
- LDL-C reductions of 48% (Western diet) and 43% (chow) through LDLr independent pathways

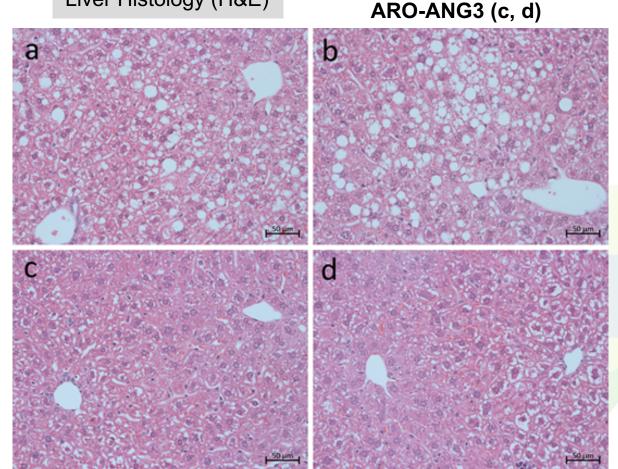


# Improvements in glucose tolerance and reduction in hepatic steatosis in 8 week old DIO mice



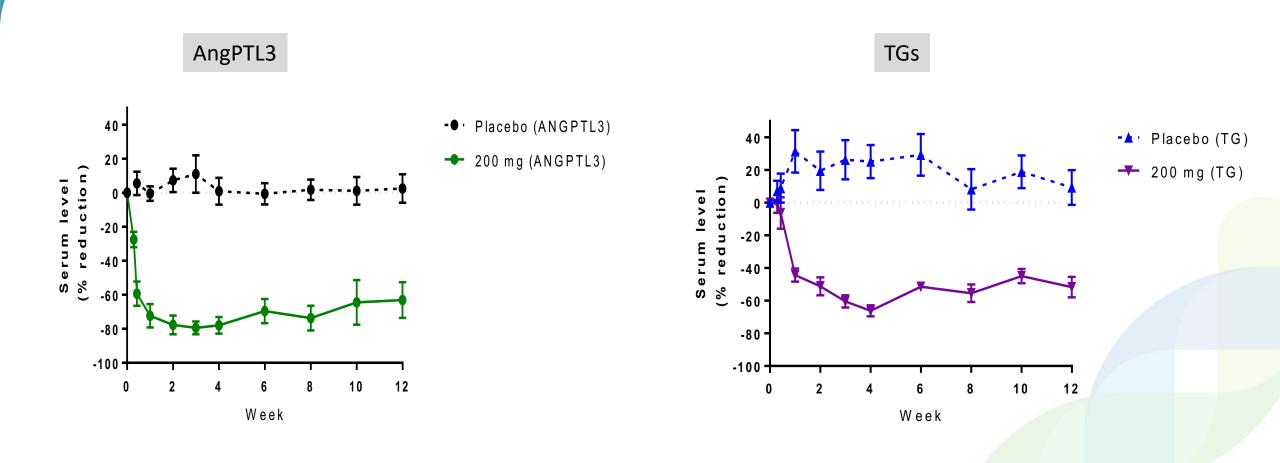
- Maximum serum ANGPTL3 reductions of 99% (after second dose)
- Maximum TGs reductions of 54% (from 70 mg/dL to 31 mg/dL)
- Maximum LDL-C reductions of 65% (from 20 mg/dL to 7 mg/dL)

#### Liver Histology (H&E)



Saline (a, b)

# First Look at ARO-ANG3 in Healthy Volunteers – Single 200 mg dose through week 12





#### Top Line Safety Observations with ARO-ANG3

- No premature discontinuations in ~36 volunteers/patients treated with ARO-ANG3
- No drug-related serious adverse events (such as deaths, hospitalizations, etc)
- No drug-related adverse events rated as severe
- Most common reported AEs: headache and upper respiratory infection



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- Some Background on RNA Interference (RNAi)
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#### Conclusions Regarding RNAi in CV Diseases

- Certain CV targets very well suited for RNAi
- Current advanced programs limited to hepatocyte targets
  - Once the platform is established in a cell type, simple to address most new targets
  - Rapid advances point to future programs outside the liver
- Ligand-directed RNAi offers the advantage of specificity
  - Tissue
  - Gene
  - This specificity offers potential for safety advantages
- Dosing intervals of 3-6 months expected to be the norm



# Initial Conclusions Regarding ARO-ANG3 and ARO-APOC3

- Genetic studies indicate that plasma triglycerides are an independent risk factor for CV disease
- Loss of function mutations of APOC3 or AngPTL3 are associated with markedly reduced triglycerides and other lipid parameters without reported adverse phenotype
- Knockdown of APOC3 in familial chylomicronemia patients with anti-sense (data not shown) was associated with marked reductions in plasma triglycerides
- Topline data with ARO-APOC3 in healthy volunteers indicate that it reduces plasma APOC3 and triglycerides without serious or severe adverse events
- In animal studies AngPTL3 has endocrine effects on triglyceride and LDL-C metabolism and apparent autocrine effects on hepatic steatosis and insulin sensitivity
  - ARO-ANG3 reduces triglycerides and LDL-C in LDL receptor knockout mice
  - ARO-ANG3 also ameliorates steatosis and improves insulin sensitivity in diet-induced obese mice
- Topline data with ARO-ANG3 in healthy volunteers indicate that it reduces plasma AngPTL3 and triglycerides without drug-related serious or severe adverse events
- If accepted, more complete data will be available at AHA 2019 in November



# Arrowhead Team



# Backup Slides



#### Comparison of Single Dose Results (APOC3)

Mean Maximal % reduction from baseline (SD)	Serum ApoC3	Triglycerides	
ARO-APOC3 (100 mg)	94.2% (1.3)	63.2% (16.9)	
AKCEA-APOCIII-L <sub>Rx</sub> (60 mg)* <sup>1</sup>	64.7% (21.7)	43% (19.7)	
AKCEA-APOCIII-L <sub>Rx</sub> (120 mg)**1	91.2% (2.5)	79.6% (3.7)	

ARO-APOC3 inclusion criteria of TG > 80 mg/dL

\*60 mg dose was the highest dose given to subjects with fasting TG  $\geq$  90 mg/dL

\*\* 120 mg dose was the highest dose given to subjects with inclusion criteria of TG >200 mg/dL

<sup>1</sup>Alexander et al, Eur Heart J, 2019 40:2785-2796.



# Single Dose comparison (ANGPTL3)

Mean Maximal % reduction from baseline (SD) [unless noted]	Serum ANGPTL3	Triglycerides
ARO-ANG3 ( 200 mg)	79.4% (8.4)	66.2% (7.6)
AKCEA-ANGPTL3-L <sub>Rx</sub> (80 mg)* <sup>1</sup>	61.7% (1.1)	56.1% (1.1)
Evinacumab (250 mg, SC) <sup>2</sup>	NR**	51.1% <sup>&amp;</sup>
Evinacumab (250 mg, SC) <sup>3</sup>	NR**	55.5% <sup>&amp;</sup>

\* Inclusion criteria of TG = 90-150 mg/dL

\*\* Dose-depended increases in ANGPTL3 indicating target binding of evinacumab were observed

<sup>&</sup> Median % change

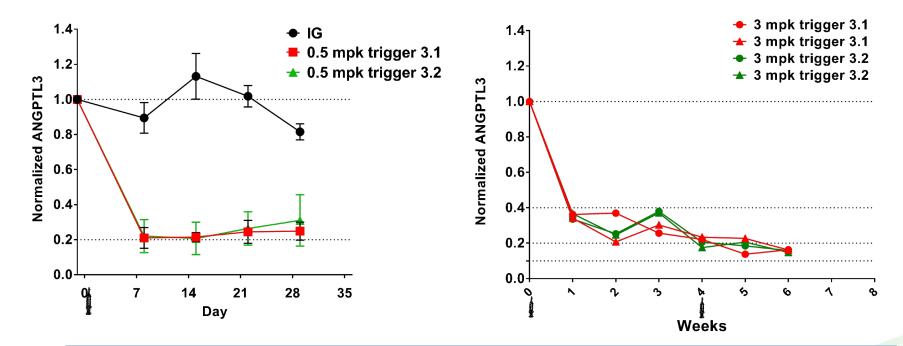
<sup>1</sup> Graham et al, NEJM 2017 377:222-232

- <sup>2</sup> Dewey et al, NEJM 2017 377:211-221
- <sup>3</sup> Ahmad et al, Circulation 2019 140: 470-486

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#### ANGPTL3 Triggers – WT Mice and Cynos

0.5 mpk single subQ injection in wild type mice – Trigger 3.1 and 3.2 3 mpk subQ injection on days 1 and 29 in NHP – Trigger 3.1 and 3.2

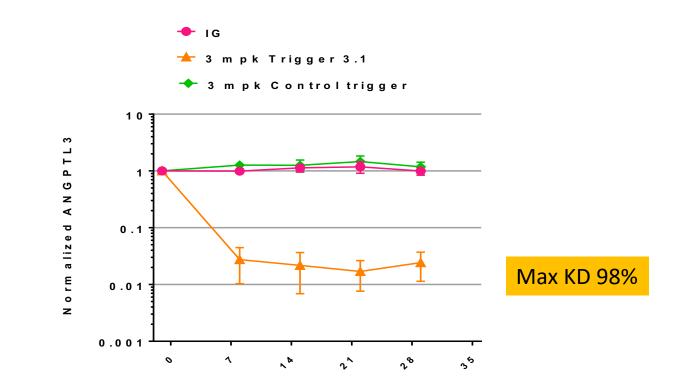


• 80% KD with good duration at 0.5 mpk dose in mouse study

Single dose at 3mpk provided 80% KD in NHP



### ANGPTL3 Protein KD in db/db mice

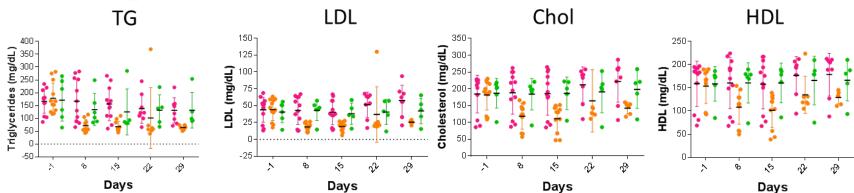


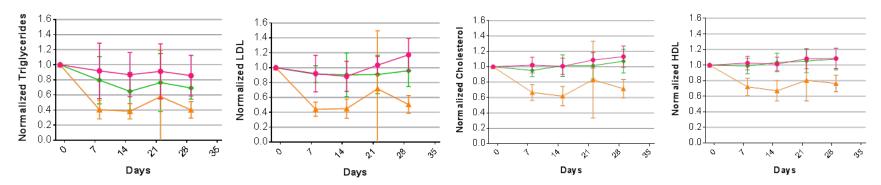
Days



### Effects of ANGPTL3 KD on Lipid Parameters: db/db Mice

- IG
- 3 mpk Trigger 3.1
- 3 mpk Control trigger





 Lipid parameters not as high as the Western diet-fed LDLr<sup>-/-</sup> mice but 3-4 fold higher than WT mice

• ~ 60% reduction in TG and LDL levels



## Mouse Disease Models: Pre-Dose Baseline Lipid Profiles

Mouse Model	WT Normal Chow	DIO 10% Fat Diet	DIO 60% Fat Diet	LDLr-/- Normal Chow	LDLr-/- Western Diet	db/db 6% Fat Diet
# of animals	N= 39	N=9	N=29	N= 16	N=39	N=30
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All from day -1 pre-dose bleed



## ASOs appear to aid steatosis while Mabs do not

 Monoclonal antibodies cannot target intrahepatocyte ANGPTL3, will not improve NAFLD which is typical in metabolic syndrome in contrast to KD approach

