



# siRNA Gene Silencing Approach for AATD Liver Disease

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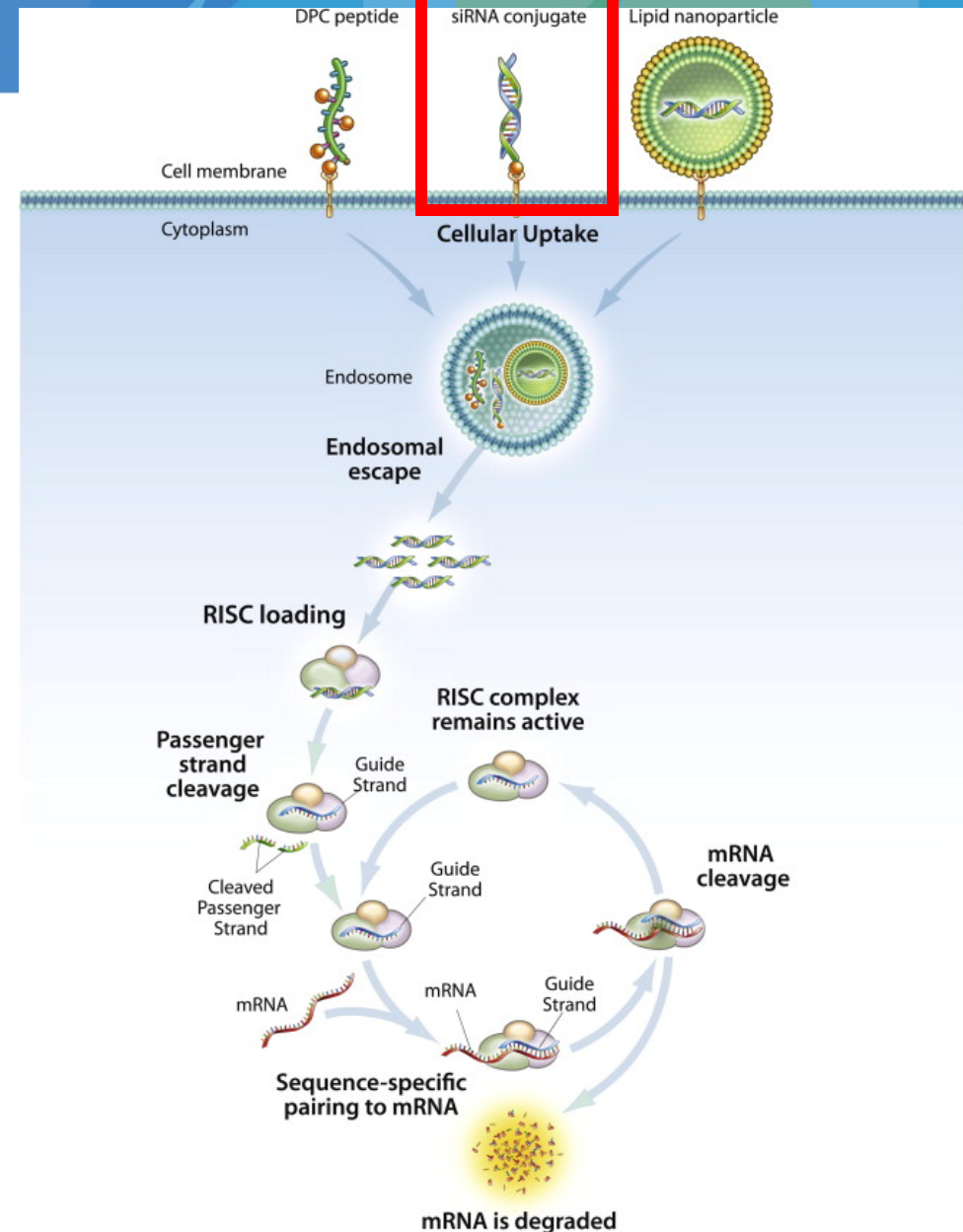
Sept. 20, 2019

# Agenda

- Background: siRNA and Therapeutic Approach
- Animal model efficacy data: preventative and improvement
- Clinical Studies with RNAi therapeutic ARO-AAT

# siRNA Gene Silencing: An Emerging Therapeutic Modality

- RNAi is a method of silencing gene targets and is an emerging therapeutic modality
- Relies on delivery of siRNA into the cytoplasm
  - Liposomes or ligand directed hepatocyte uptake via asialoglycoprotein receptor
- Stable siRNA molecules survive endosome, engage with RISC to silence mRNA
- Catalytic nature of siRNA leads to long duration of potent gene silencing



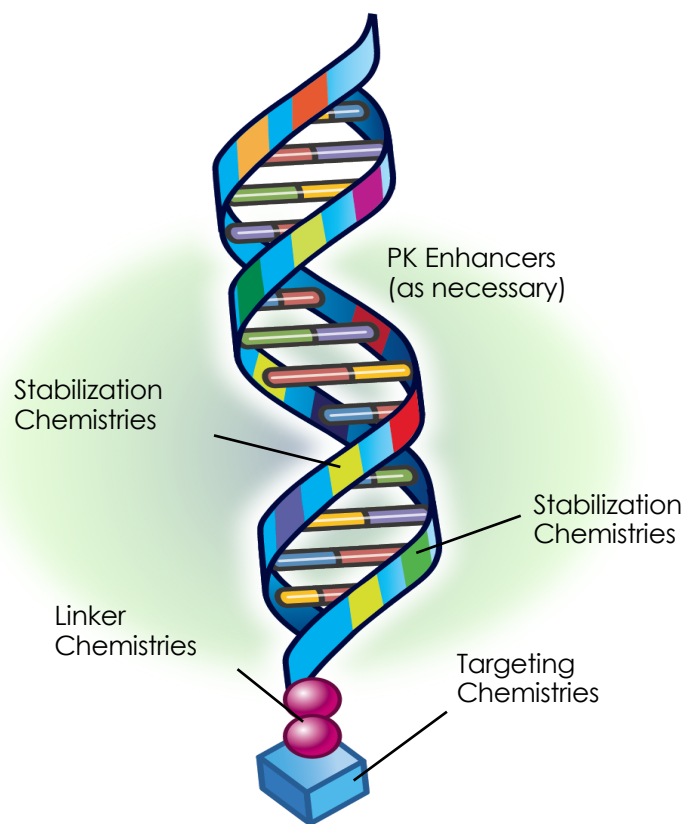
# siRNA Gene Silencing: A Maturing Therapeutic Approach

- May be ideal for:
  - Targets not addressable with small molecules or monoclonal antibodies
  - Where systemic exposure and off target effects may lead to unacceptable toxicity.
- One FDA approved product (patisiran for hereditary transthyretin mediated amyloidosis) utilizing liposomal intravenous delivery
- Multiple “GalNac” conjugates in late stage development



# ARO-AAT

Targeted RNAi Molecule  
TRiM™ platform



**ARO-AAT: Investigational product in development to address liver disease in AATD**

Hepatocyte targeted RNAi molecule

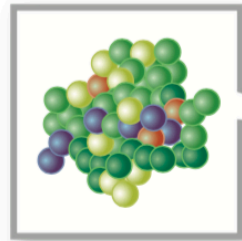
Specifically targets AAT mRNA

Silencing is hepatocyte specific

Designed to minimize off-target gene silencing

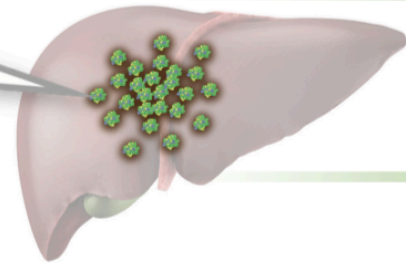
# Liver Disease in Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency

Alpha-1 Antitrypsin protein

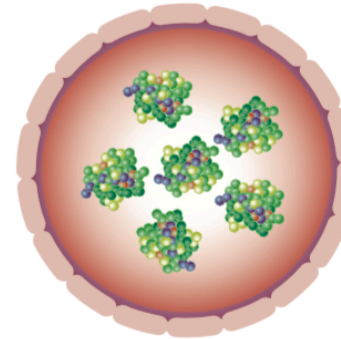


Normal AAT

Normal liver

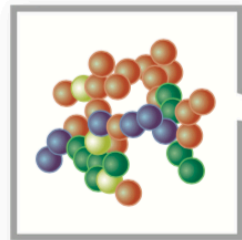


Normal secretion into the blood



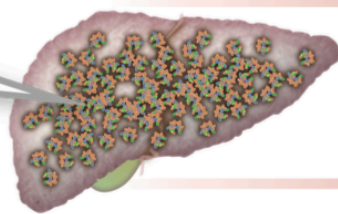
*Normal blood levels of normal protein protect lungs, no liver accumulation*

Misfolded Alpha-1 Antitrypsin protein

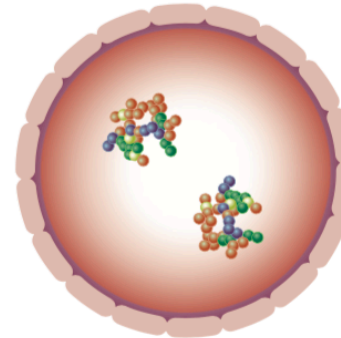


Abnormal AAT (Z-AAT)

Liver affected by AATD



Abnormal secretion into the blood



*Low blood levels of abnormal protein leaves lung susceptible to damage from inflammation caused by inhaled irritants or infection, accumulated protein injures liver*

*High accumulation of misfolded Alpha-1 Antitrypsin protein leads to liver injury*

**No current treatment**

**Lung Disease Treated with AAT protein replacement therapy today**

# What is the Risk of Developing Liver Disease

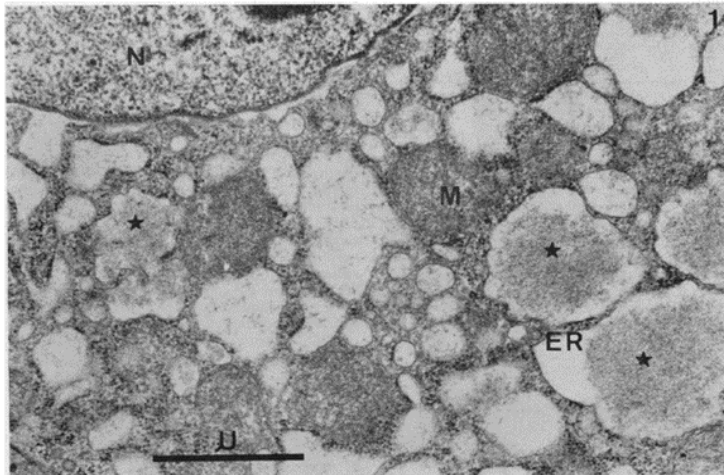
Recent baseline data from natural history study on liver involvement in AATD (Clark et al., 2018)

- Evaluated liver biopsy in 94 PiZZ AATD adult patients
- 35% demonstrated clinically significant ( $\geq$  F2) liver fibrosis based on biopsy
- Additionally, common medical conditions may further increase risk
  - Obesity
  - Hypertension
  - High cholesterol
  - Diabetes

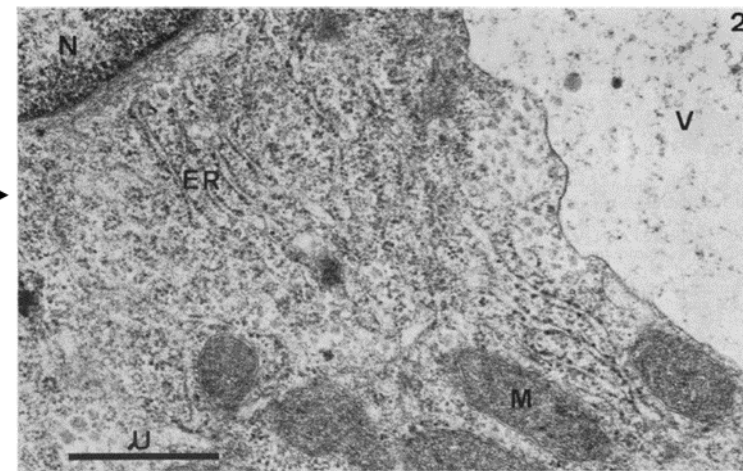
# RNAi Therapeutic Rationale

- RNAi trigger designed to stop Z-AAT production by silencing AAT gene to:
  - Prevent accumulation of Z-AAT in liver
  - Allow clearance of accumulated Z-AAT protein
  - Prevent repeated cycles of cellular damage
  - Prevent/Reverse progression of liver fibrosis

**PiZZ phenotype (diseased)**



**Pi null phenotype (normal)**

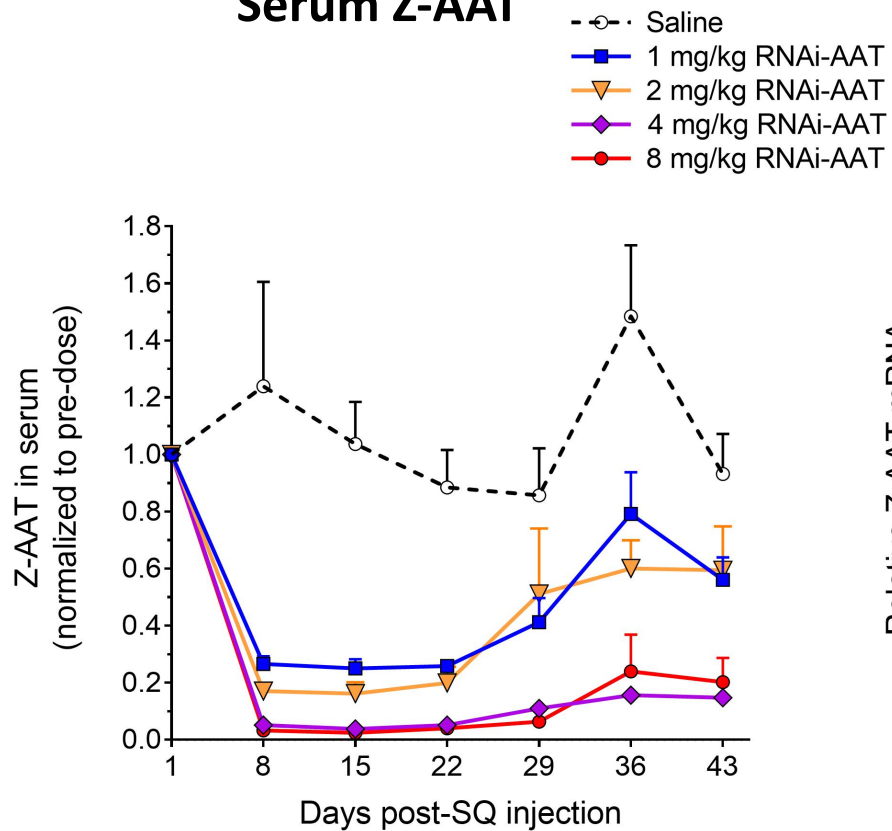




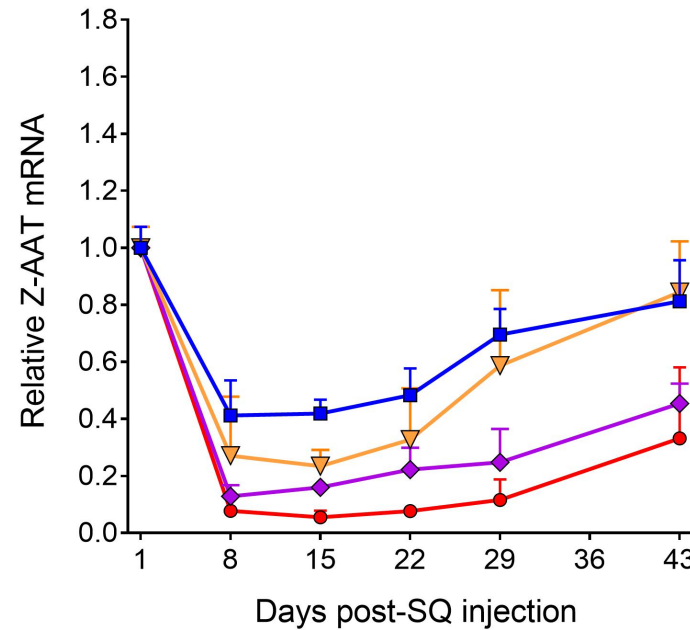
# RNAi Produces Deep AAT Knockdown

PiZ transgenic mouse model

## Serum Z-AAT



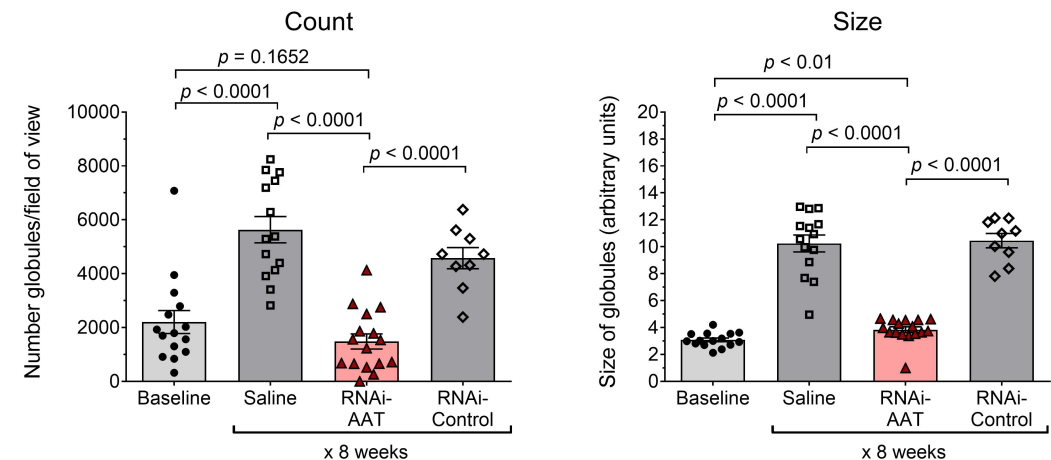
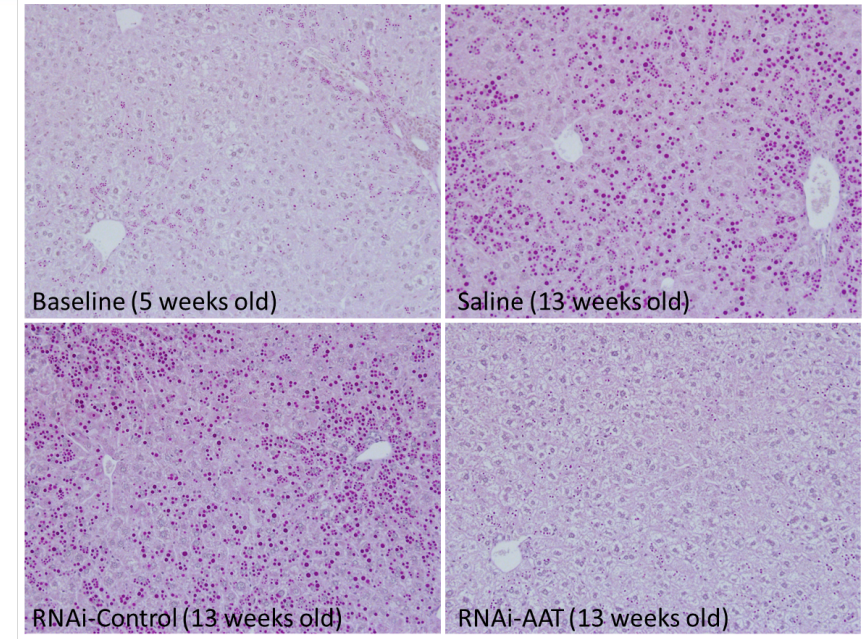
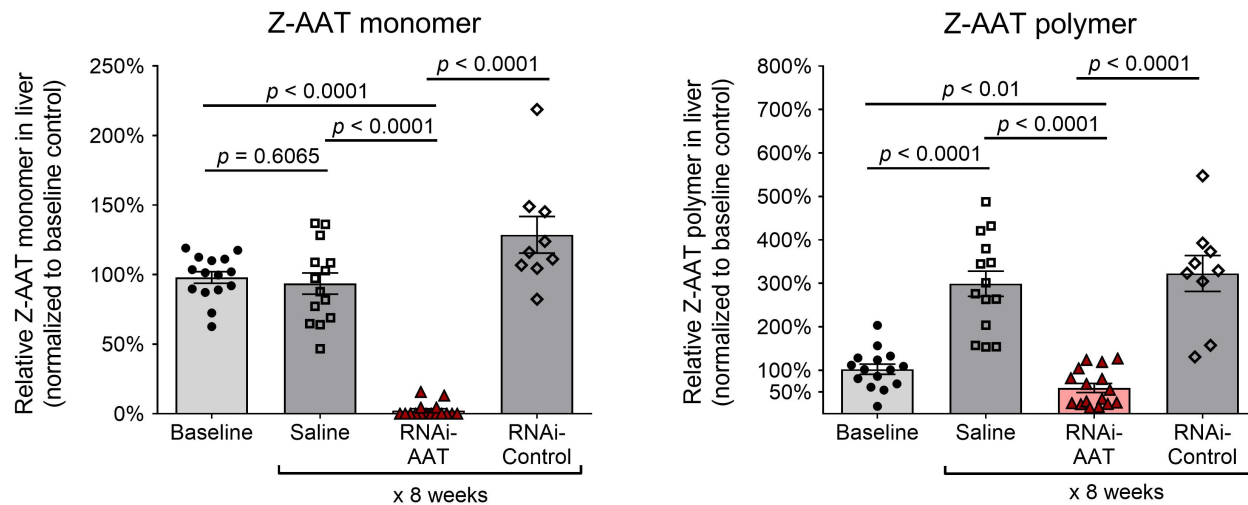
## Liver Z-AAT mRNA



RNAi Dose (mg/kg)	Maximum Serum AAT Reduction	Maximum Liver mRNA Reduction
1	75%	59%
2	84%	77%
4	96%	87%
8	98%	95%

# RNAi Prevents Progression of Liver Disease in Young PiZ Mice: liver Z-AAT

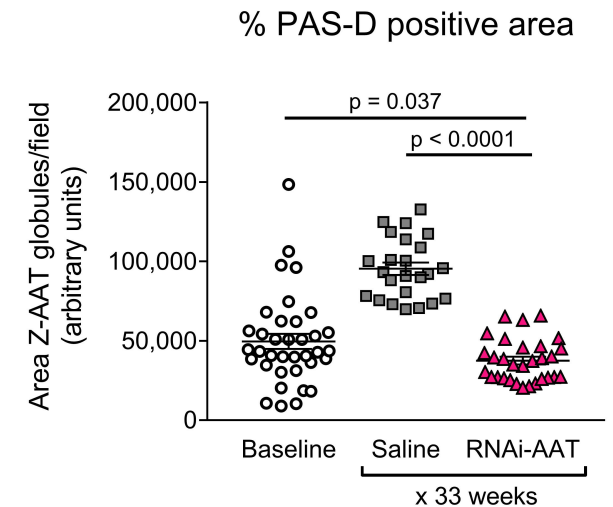
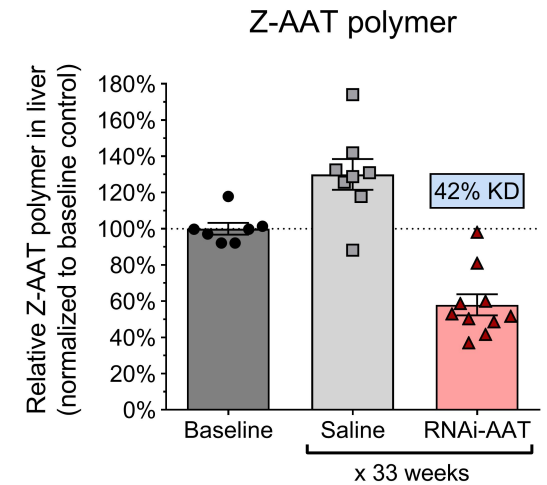
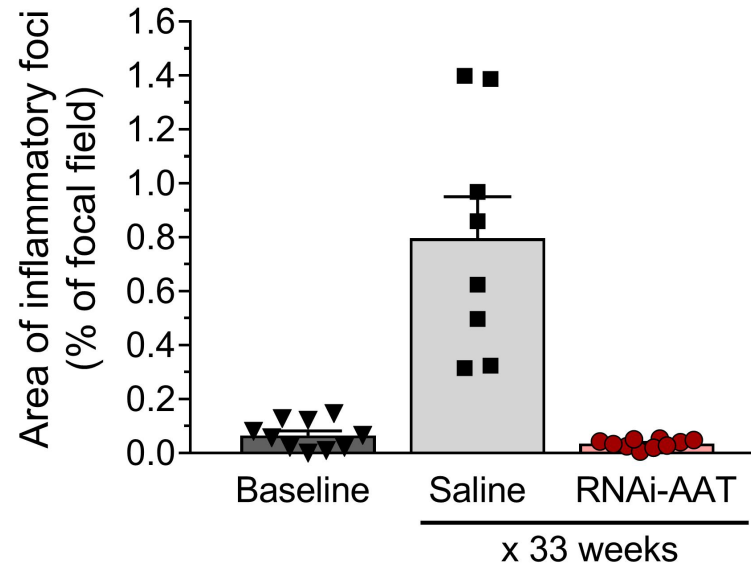
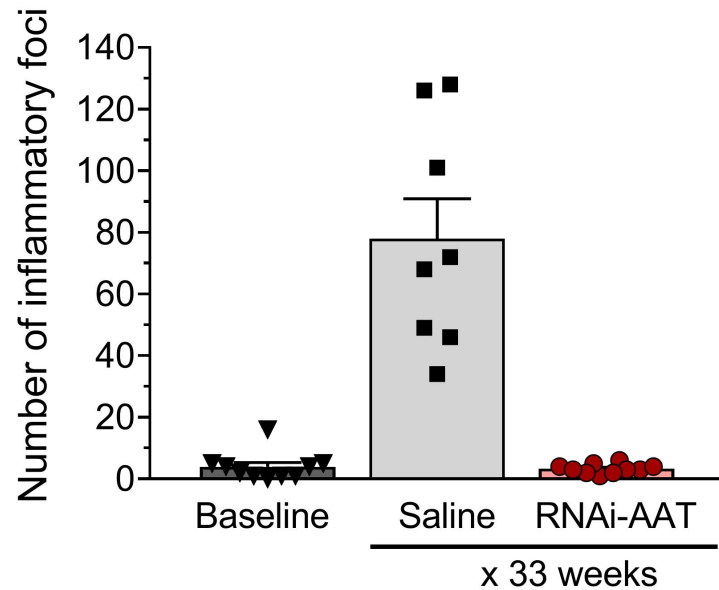
5 weeks old; Q2W x 4



98% less soluble (monomer) Z-AAT  
41% less insoluble (polymer) Z-AAT

# RNAi Improves Liver Disease Phenotype in Older PiZ Mice: liver histology

11-17 weeks old; Q2W x 16

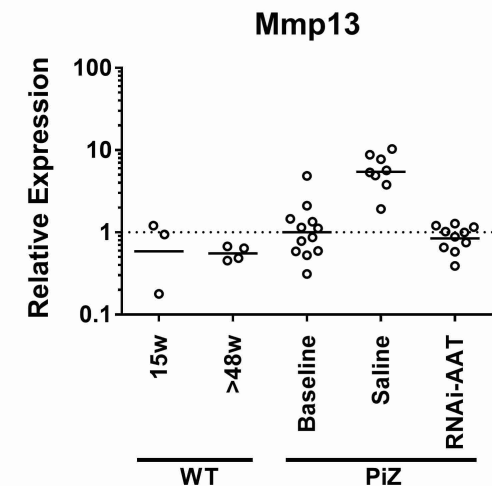
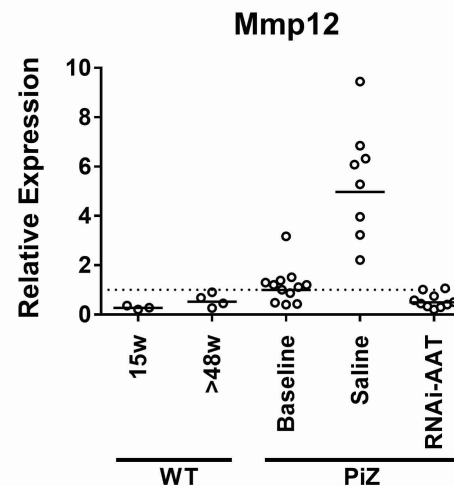
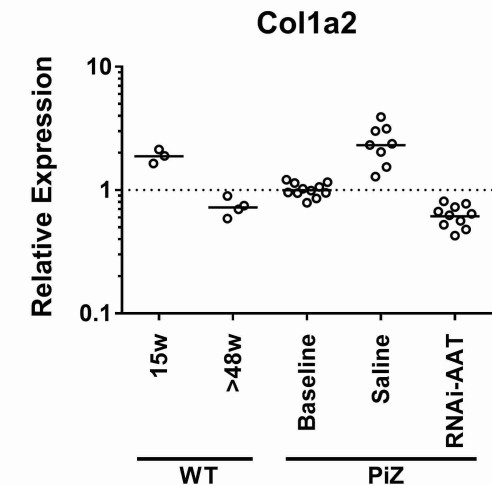
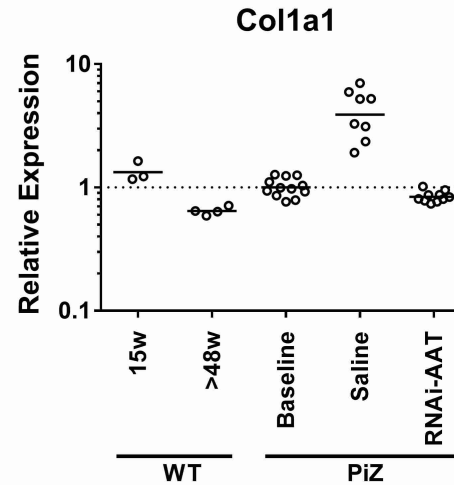


RNAi treatment improves liver physiology and prevents further damage;  
Fewer inflammatory foci and reduced total area of inflammation

# RNAi Reduces Fibrosis Gene Expression

Reduced gene expression associated with fibrosis in the liver  
PiZ transgenic mouse model

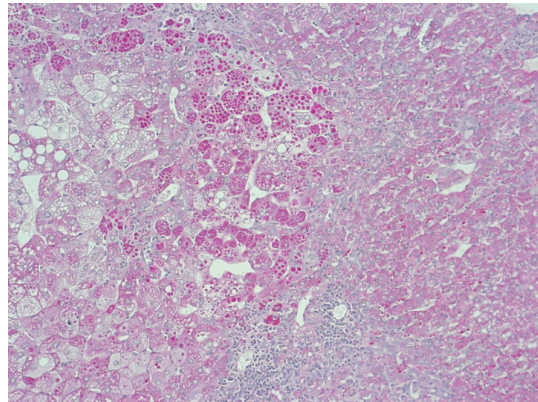
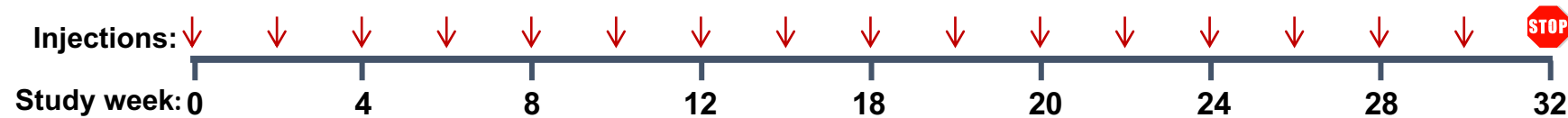
- Fibrosis gene expression increases with age in untreated (saline group) PiZ mice
- RNAi prevents the increase in fibrosis gene expression





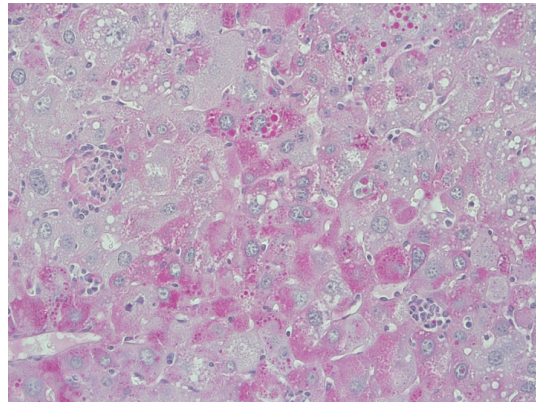
# RNAi Prevents Liver Tumors in Old PiZ Mice

15-16 months old; Q2W x 16



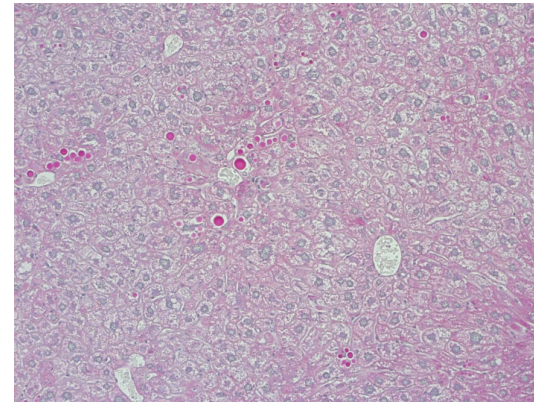
**Baseline (15-16 months old)**

globules, inflammation, neoplastic hepatocytes in some mice



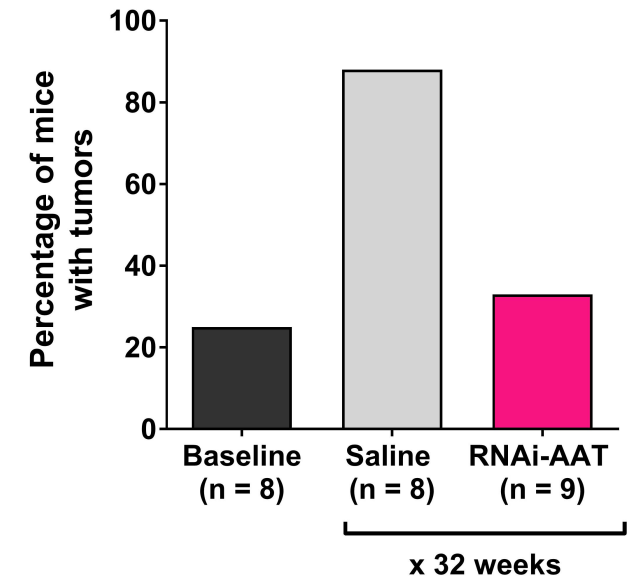
**Saline x 32 weeks**

globules, inflammation, neoplastic hepatocytes, tumors



**RNAi x 32 weeks**

Rare globules, normal morphology



RNAi reduced tumor incidence over the treatment period

# ARO-AAT Phase 1 Study in Healthy Volunteers

## OPEN LABEL

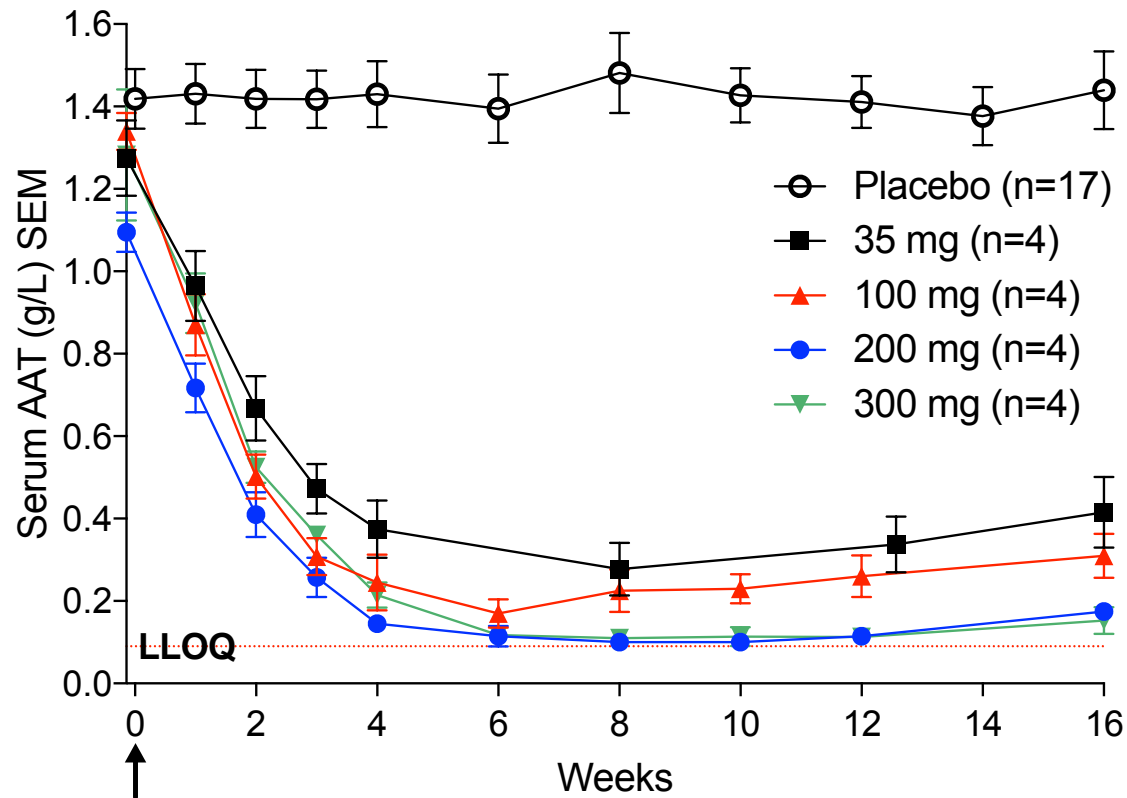
- 3 groups
  - **Single dose** of 100, 200 and 300 mg of ARO-AAT
  - 4 per cohort
- Assessments of safety, tolerability, depth and duration of AAT reductions after a single dose

## DOUBLE BLIND

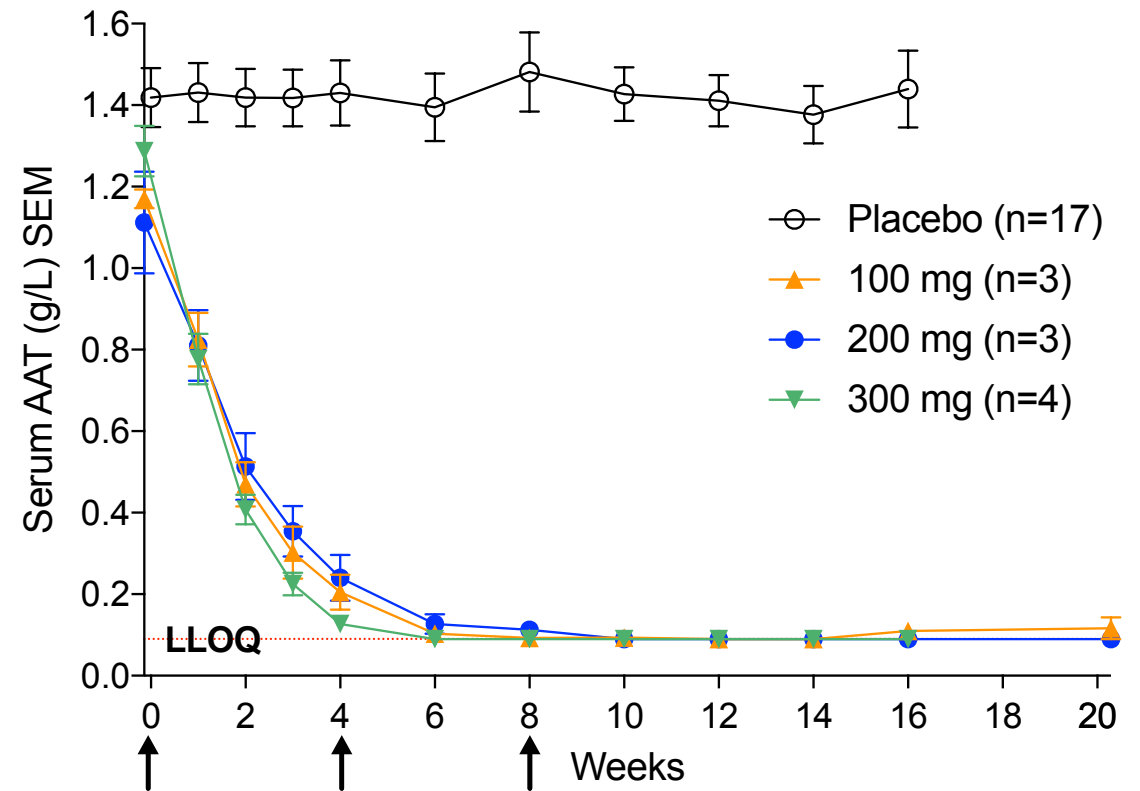
- 4 treatment arms
  - 35, 100, 200 and 300 mg
  - 100, 200, 300 mg receive **3 monthly doses**
  - 4 active, 4 placebo
- Assessments of safety, tolerability, plasma levels of ARO-AAT, plasma AAT changes

# ARO-AAT Phase 1, NHV Dose Response

## Single dose Cohorts

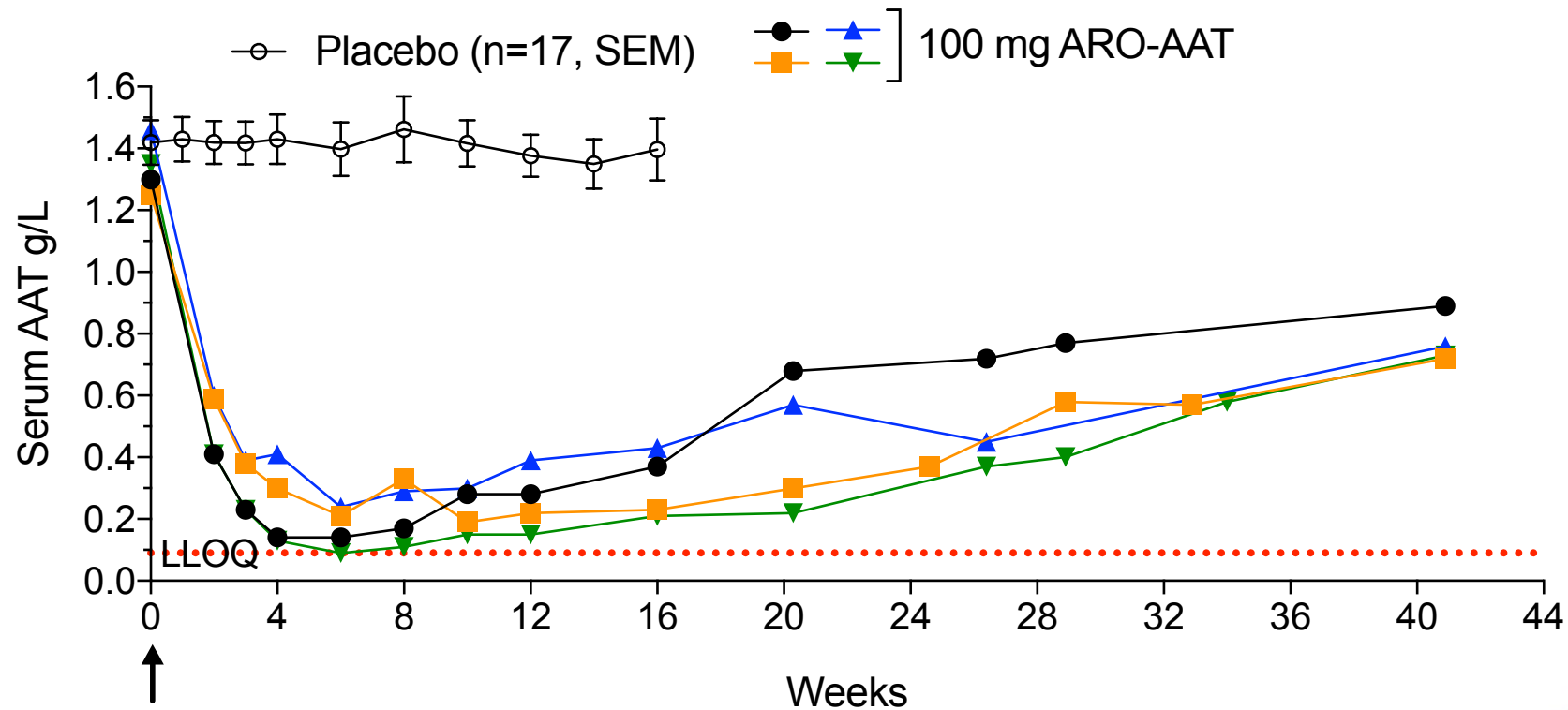


## Multiple dose Cohorts



# ARO-AAT Phase 1: Serum AAT Reduction Duration

## Single dose ARO-AAT





# ARO-AAT Phase 1: Summary Safety

## ARO-AAT Phase 1, NHV SAD/MAD study Safety Summary

- 45 NHVs received at least 1 dose (28 active, 17 placebo)
- No deaths, severe AEs or serious AEs reported
- Mild Local Injection Site Reaction (LISR) in 4% of ARO-AAT injections
  - LISR defined based on MedDRA preferred term for injection site AEs with duration of at least 48 hours
- No AEs secondary to platelet count declines, changes in renal function parameters or changes in markers of liver injury/function
  - 3 treatment emergent grade 1 ALT elevations, all returned to baseline by end of study, with max elevation < 2X ULN

# Safety Considerations with this Approach

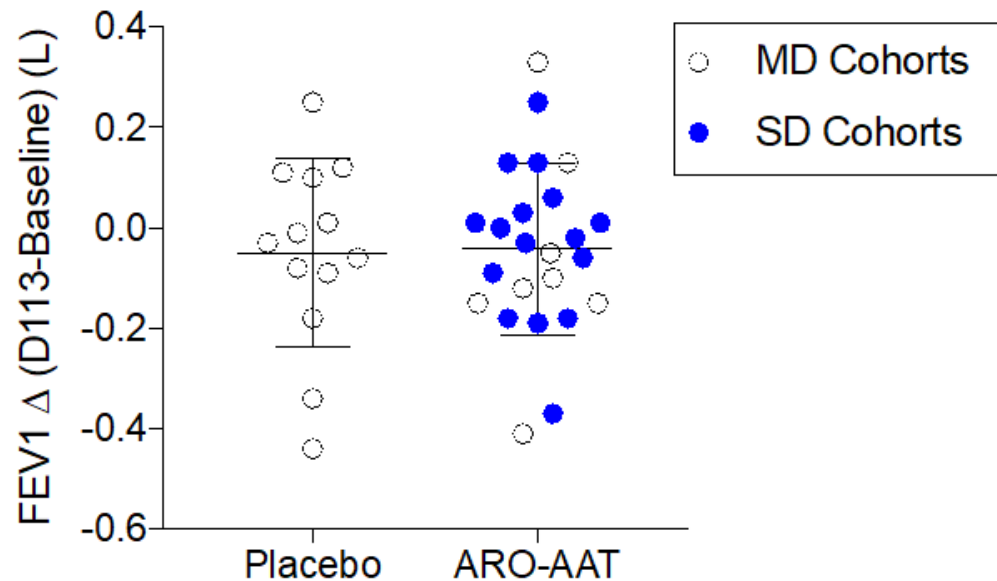
- While AATD is a storage disease in the liver, it is a deficiency disease relative to the lung
- Emphysema takes decades to develop in AATD patients
- Null/null patients are thought to develop emphysema earlier
- While not creating true null/null plasma levels due to extra-hepatic production, RNAi will significantly reduce serum AAT levels and pulmonary risk is the key disease-specific toxicity to be assessed in clinical programs. Thus, finite therapy would be preferred, if feasible

# Pulmonary Safety: Considerations and Inclusion Criteria

## AROAT1001 lung related I/E criteria

- Required non-smoker, normal FEV1 (based on ATS-ERS guidelines) at baseline
- Normal serum AAT at baseline (above lower limit of normal range, 90 mg/dL)
- Conducted spirometry at multiple timepoint throughout study and during post-study follow up
- FEV1 decline of at least 200 mL from baseline was pre-specified minimal important difference
- FEV1 is an effort dependent test, intra-subject variability can be a difficult issue during a short study

# FEV1 Summary Through Day 113/EOS



AASLD 2018

- No AEs of dyspnea or other symptoms consistent with lung parenchymal damage
- 3 AEs of FEV1 decline, 1 active (3.6%) v 2 placebo (11.8%). None with reported symptoms. 1 on active rebounded above baseline FEV1 in extended follow up with near max AAT KD
- Declines in FEV1 of at least 200 mL on D113: 2 (8.6%) active v 2 (15.4%) placebo
- Declines in FEV1 of at least 200 mL at any visit through D113: 6 (21%) active v 2 (11.7%) placebo
- No statistically significant difference (ANCOVA) between active versus placebo FEV1 changes (% predicted or mL) at any study visit.



# Current Clinical Studies

## **AROAT2001 SEQUOIA**

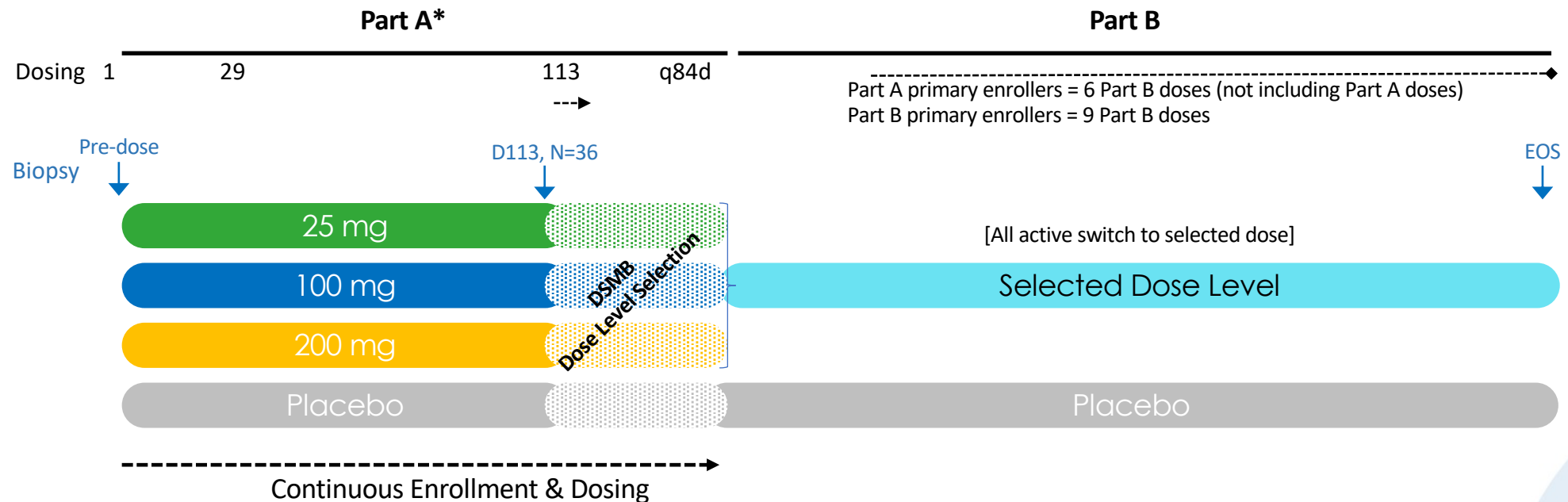
- Phase 2/3 adaptive design study
- # of ZZ Patients planned=120
- Location: Multiple sites in UK, EU, US and Canada
- Duration: 2-year minimum treatment
- Subcutaneous injection every 3 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose
- Biopsy required
- Placebo controlled
- At end of study all placebo will have the option to receive active in an extension study
- Part A Objective: to select a dose level for Part B
- Part B Objective: To evaluate efficacy based on biopsy
- Status: Currently Enrolling

## **AROAT2002**

- Phase 2 study
- # of ZZ patients planned=12
- Location: UK, Germany, Austria
- Duration: 6 to 24 month treatment
- Subcutaneous injection every 3 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose
- Biopsy required
- No Placebo
- Objective: To assess changes in liver disease activity scale based on biopsy
- Status: Expect to be recruiting by end of year (2019)

# ARO AAT2001 Study Design (SEQUOIA)

N=120 total, Randomization = 2:1 (active:placebo)



\* All patients enrolled prior to Part B dose selection will be randomized to Part A cohorts and receive at least 3 doses at the Part A dose level before switching to Part B dose level. Only 1<sup>st</sup> 36 will require D113 biopsy.

**Placebo patients will be rolled over to ARO-AAT at end of study**

# Key Questions to Answer in SEQUOIA Phase 2/3 Adaptive Trial

- Phase 2
  - Dose response for Z-AAT (monomer and polymer) knockdown in PiZZ AATD patients
  - Safety/tolerability of multi-dose treatment in PiZZ AATD patients
  - Best dose for maximizing AAT knockdown in context of safety/tolerability
  - Best dose selection by DSMB in consultation with FDA (sponsor remains blinded)
- Phase 3
  - Improvement in an AATD specific histological scale without worsening of fibrosis
  - Safety with special attention to pulmonary effects

# Summary

- ARO-AAT consistently induces deep and prolonged reductions in serum AAT levels, likely due to hepatocyte gene silencing
- In NHVs, no clear association between AAT decline and adverse FEV1 changes or pulmonary AEs over a several month period
- While FEV1 declines as a measure of pulmonary toxicity were not expected in Phase 1, results from this study are reassuring, particularly if ARO-AAT can be used as a finite duration therapy (e.g. 2-3 years) to ameliorate Z-AAT liver accumulation
- More data is needed in an AATD patient population with longer treatment periods
- The AROAAT2001 study is the result of constructive collaboration with U.S. regulators to develop a novel clinical trial approach to AATD liver disease
- Both studies are open for enrollment and are the first studies to evaluate the impact of gene silencing on AATD liver histology and pulmonary function

Thank you!