# The promise of RNA interference as a therapeutic approach for treatment of cardiovascular diseases

May 10, 2018 Bruce D. Given, MD



#### Disclosures

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



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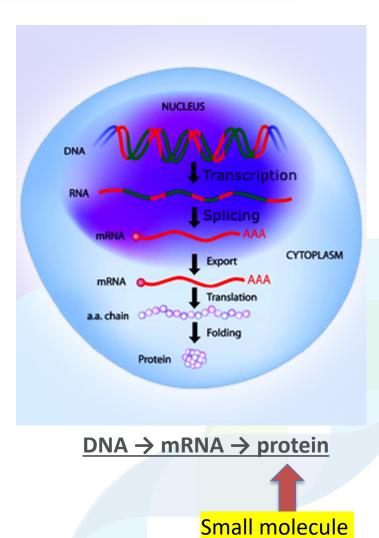
#### Outline

- Some Background on RNA Interference (RNAi)
- The CV Pipeline in RNAi
- Some Examples
- Conclusion



#### 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



therapeutics 5



### 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
  - "for their discovery of RNA interferencegene silencing by double-stranded RNA"



Andrew Z. Fire

Craig C. Mello

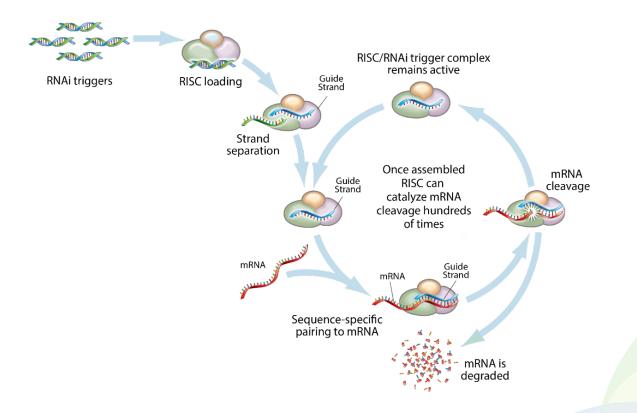


### Basics of RNA interference (RNAi)

- Uses an endogenous host mechanism that modulates host gene
  expression post-transcription
- Designed for high specificity generally one RNAi molecule will knockdown 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

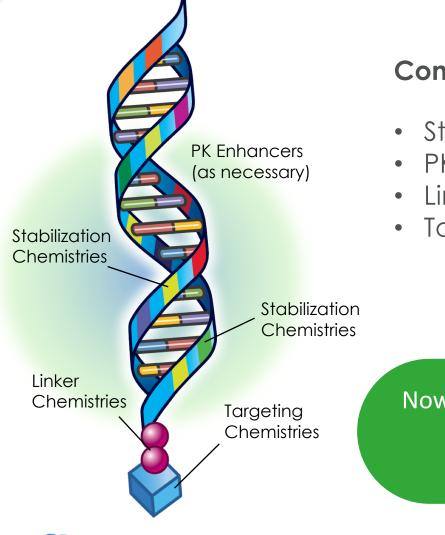


## When is RNAi the Right Choice?

- 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 in PCSK9



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



arrowhead

#### 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 Undisclosed Arrowhead Arrowhead Alnylam Arrowhead Amgen \* Medicines Company ^ Amgen \*

\* Licensed from Arrowhead^ Licensed from Alnylam



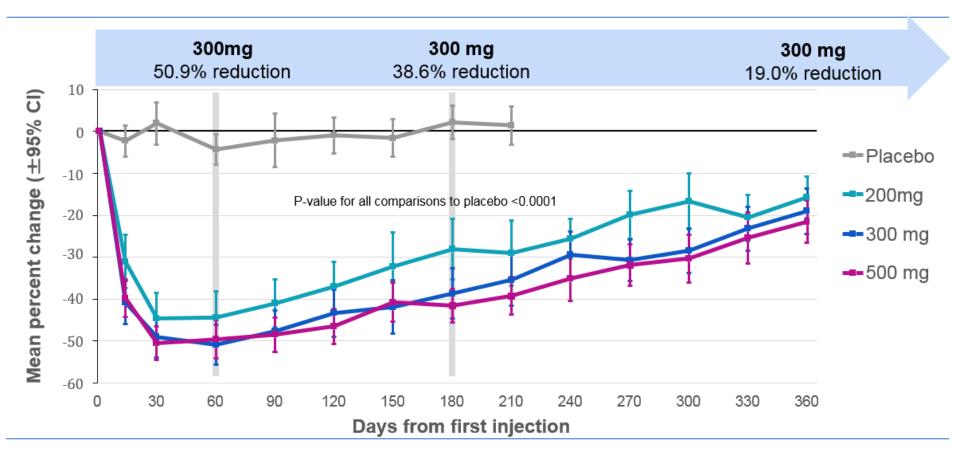
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#### **Robust and Sustained LDL-C Reductions with Inclisiran\***

Results to Day 360 Following One Dose



The

icines

Company

Alnylam

\*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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#### Triglycerides Targets: APOC3, ANGPTL3

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

- 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\*

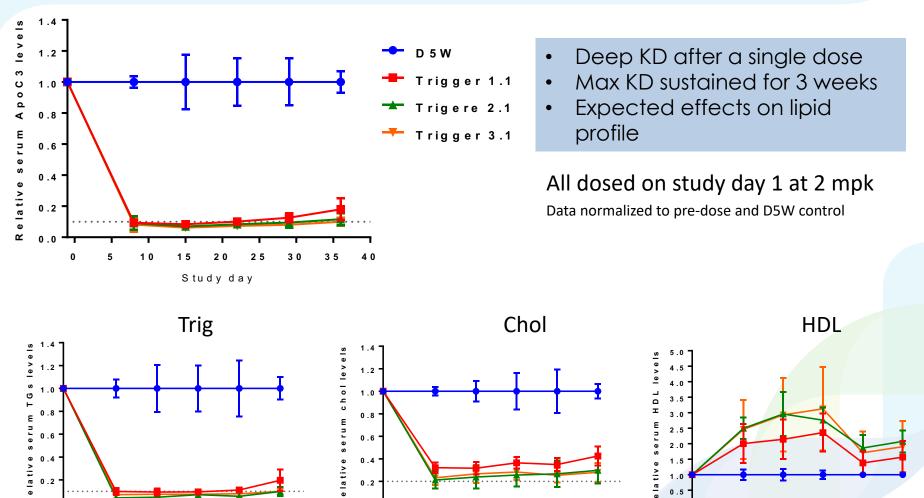
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Genetic and Pharmacologic Inactivation of ANGPTL3 and Cardiovascular Disease



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



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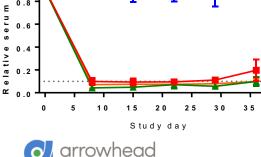
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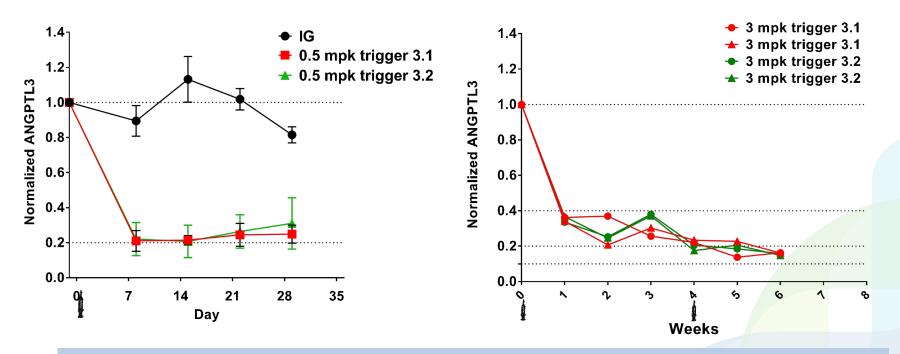
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### ANGPTL3 Triggers – WT Mice and Cynos

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

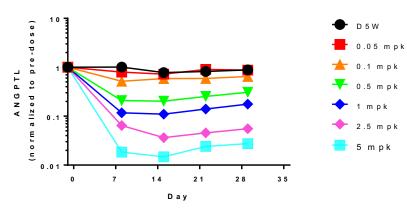


- 80% KD with good duration at 0.5 mpk dose in mouse study
- Single dose at 3mpk provided 80% KD in NHP

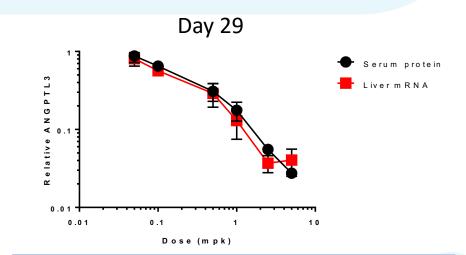


#### ANGPTL3 Dose Response in WT mice

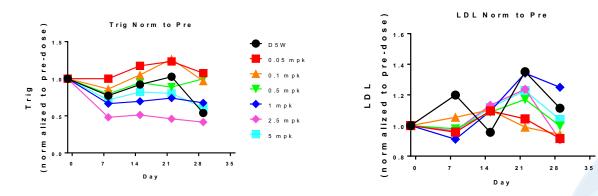
ANGPTL Norm to Pre



- 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



- Minimal effects on LDL
- Baseline LDL levels 10-15
  mg/dL



# 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
- All studies dosed at 3 mg/kg



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

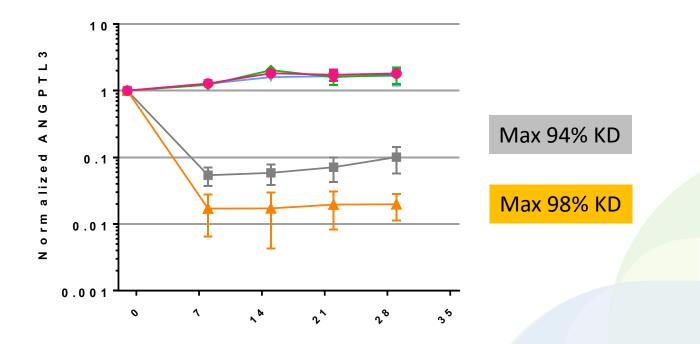
Mouse Model	WT Normal Chow	DIO 10% Fat Diet	DIO 60% Fat Diet	LDLr-/- Normal Chow	LDLr-/- Western Diet	db/db 6% Fat Diet
# of animals	N= 39	N=9	N=29	N= 16	N=39	N=30
Trig (mg/dL)	41 ± 6	52 ± 9	65 ± 14	98 ± 11	980 ± 288	172 ± 58
Chol (mg/dL)	69 ± 6	136 ± 17	195 ± 27	211 ± 30	1467 ± 253	184 ± 48
HDL (mg/dL)	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



#### ANGPTL3 Protein KD in LDLr -/- Mice

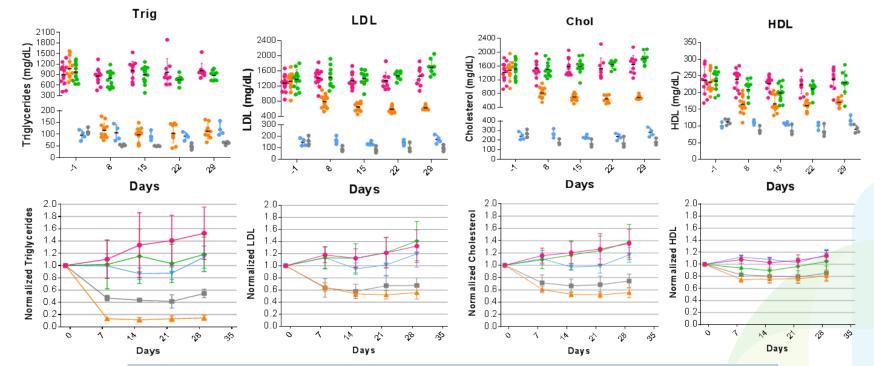






### Effects of ANGPTL3 KD in LDLr -/- Mice

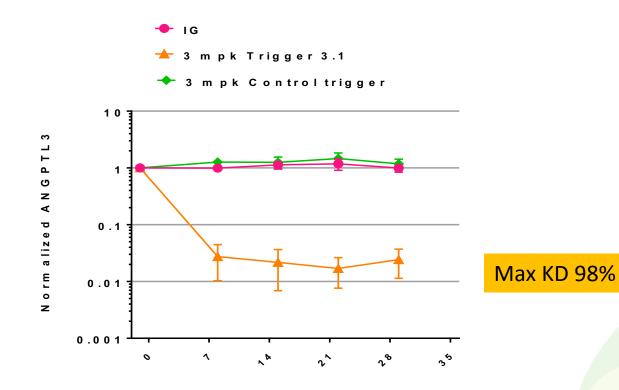
- Western Diet D5W
- Western Diet 3mpk Trigger 3.1
- Western Diet 3 mpk control trigger
- Normal Chow D5W
- Normal Chow 3 mpk trogger 3.1



- Deep ANGPTL3 KD in both Western diet or chow-fed mice
- Significant decreases in lipid parameters
- Western diet-fed mice had similar or better % decrease in lipid parameters but absolute values still higher than chow-fed mice



#### ANGPTL3 Protein KD in db/db mice

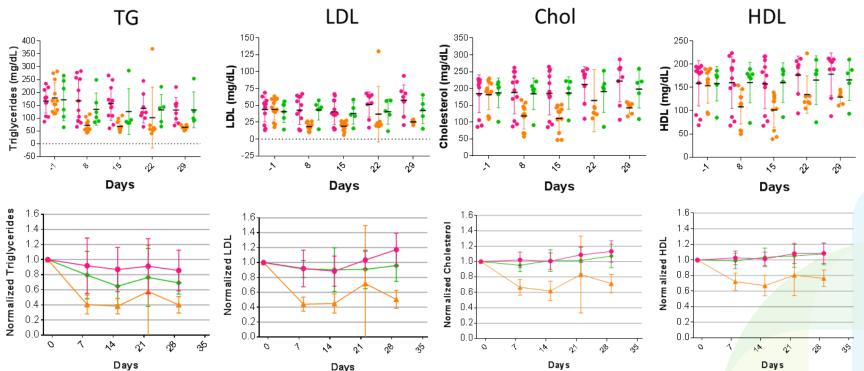


Days



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

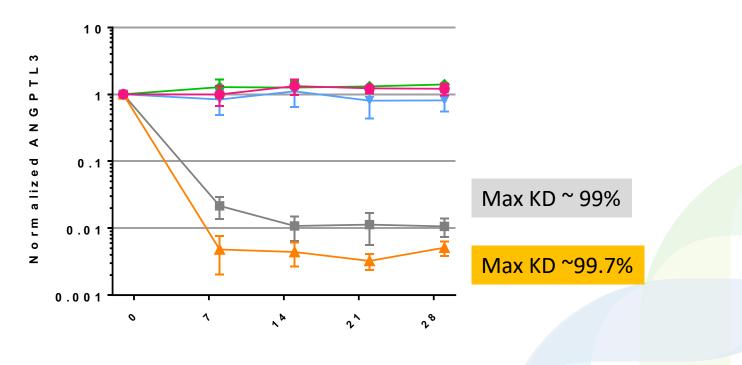
- IG
- 3 mpk Trigger 3.1
- 3 mpk Control trigger



- 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

#### ANGPTL3 Protein KD in Diet-Induced Obese (DIO) Mice

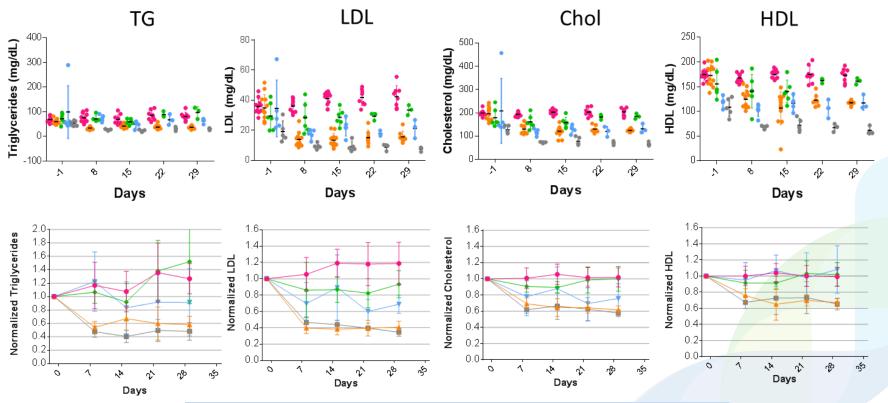






### Effects of ANGPTL3 KD in DIO Mice

- D5W (60% fat diet)
- 3 mpk Trigger 3.1(60% fat diet)
- 3 mpk Control trigger (60 % fat diet)
- D5W (10% fat diet)
- 3 mpk Trigger 3.1(10% fat diet)



- Lipid parameters 2-3 fold higher than WT mice
  - ~ 50-60% reduction in TG and LDL levels



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## Conclusions Regarding RNAi in CV Diseases

- Certain CV targets very well suited to RNAi
- Current advanced programs limited to hepatocyte targets
  - Once the platform is established, simple to address 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 1-6 months will be the norm



#### Arrowhead Team

