



# SHASTA-2

## Final Study Results and a Glimpse into the OLE

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Plozasiran (ARO-APOC3), an Investigational RNAi Therapeutic, Demonstrates Profound and Durable Reductions in APOC3 and Triglycerides (TG) in Patients With Severe Hypertriglyceridemia (SHTG)

**Christie M Ballantyne, MD**

Baylor College of Medicine and the Texas Heart Institute; Houston  
on behalf of the SHASTA-2 Study Team

# Financial Disclosures

## Presenter

- **CM Ballantyne** reports grants and/or honoraria from Abbott Diagnostic, Akcea, Althera, Amarin, Amgen, Arrowhead, AstraZeneca, Denka Seiken, Esperion, Genentech, Gilead, Illumina, Ionis, Matinas BioPharma Inc, Merck, New Amsterdam, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Regeneron, Roche Diagnostic, and Sanofi-Synthelabo.

## Co-Authors

- **D Gaudet** reports grants and/or honoraria from Alnylam, Amgen, Arrowhead, AstraZeneca, Boehringer-Ingelheim, CRISPR Therapeutics, Dalcour Pharma, Eli Lilly, Esperion, Ionis, Kowa, Novartis, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi, Ultragenyx and Verve Therapeutics.
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- **K Modesto** and **J Hellawell**, are current employees of Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals
- **J San Martin** was a past employee of Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals

# Goal of SHTG Therapy Is to Reduce TGs Below Pancreatitis Risk

- Severe hypertriglyceridemia (SHTG) is characterized by TG levels  $> 500$  mg/dL<sup>1-3</sup>
- Very severe forms (TG  $> 880$  mg/dL = chylomicronemia) include **FCS** and **MCS**<sup>4-6</sup>
  - **FCS** (2-9 cases per million) is a rare recessive condition caused by bi-allelic or digenic pathogenic variants in the lipoprotein lipase (LPL) pathway
  - **MCS** is far more frequent (1/600) and is usually multifactorial
- Individuals with SHTG have an increased acute pancreatitis (AP) risk<sup>1-3,6</sup>
- Current treatments fail to lower TGs below a threshold that exposes patients to the risk of AP<sup>1-3</sup>
- In Phase 2 studies, plozasiran has shown to be a highly specific RNAi molecule with deep and durable gene silencing that requires infrequent dosing

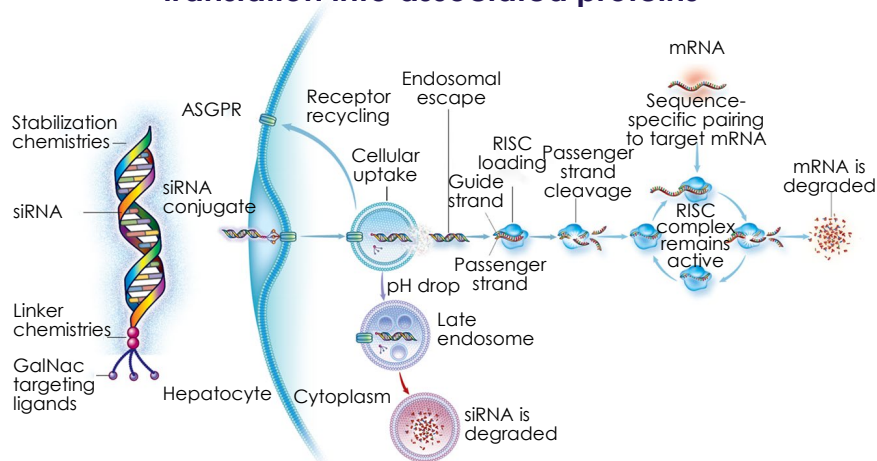
**FCS**, familial chylomicronemia syndrome; **MCS**, multifactorial chylomicronemia syndrome; TG, triglycerides.

1. Pejic RN, et al. *J Am Board Fam Med*. 2006; 19:310-6. 2. Grundy SM, et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2019; 73(24):e285-350; 3. NCEP, ATP III final report. NIH publication no.: 02-5215, 2002. 4. Christian JB, et al. *Am J Cardiol*. 2011;107(6):891-897. 5. Fan W, et al. *Cardiol Ther*. 2020;9(1):207-213. 6. Okazaki H. *J Atheroscler Thromb*. 2021; 28(9): 883-904; 7. Yang, A.L. et al., *Pancreatology*, 2020. 20(5): p. 795-800.

# Plozasiran, an RNAi Targeting APOC3, is a Key Mediator of TG and Atherogenic Lipoproteins

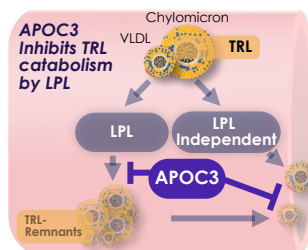
RNAi is a natural process that uses short fragments of RNA molecules to interfere with mRNA translation into associated proteins

Plozasiran is an investigational RNAi therapeutic that substantially reduces TG and triglyceride rich lipoproteins (TRL) in patients with SHTG



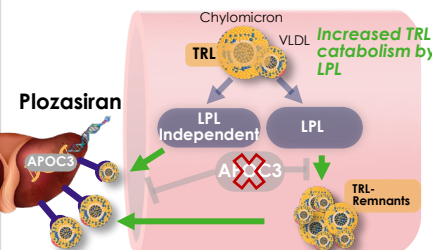
## APOC3

### APOC3 Inhibits TRL Catabolism and Hepatic Clearance Leading to Increased TGs



## Plozasiran

### Silencing of APOC3 Enables TRL Catabolism and Hepatic Clearance Leading to Reduced TGs



- High Specificity**  
Allowing to suppress the expression of a specific gene
- Potent Activity**  
Deep and consistent silencing of target genes
- Safety**  
Minimal off target adverse effects due to targeted delivery (GalNAc) and sequence specificity
- Infrequent Dosing**  
Long tissue PK/PD, on target effect

# SHASTA-2: A Double-blind, Phase 2b Placebo-Controlled, Dose Ranging Study of Plozasiran in Patients With SHTG

**Study Objectives:** To evaluate safety and efficacy for lowering TG and atherogenic lipoproteins and severity/occurrences of AP in patients with SHTG, and to explore optimal dosing

**Study Population:** SHTG history of TG  $\geq$  500 mg/dL and fasting TG of 500–4,000 mg/dL during screening period

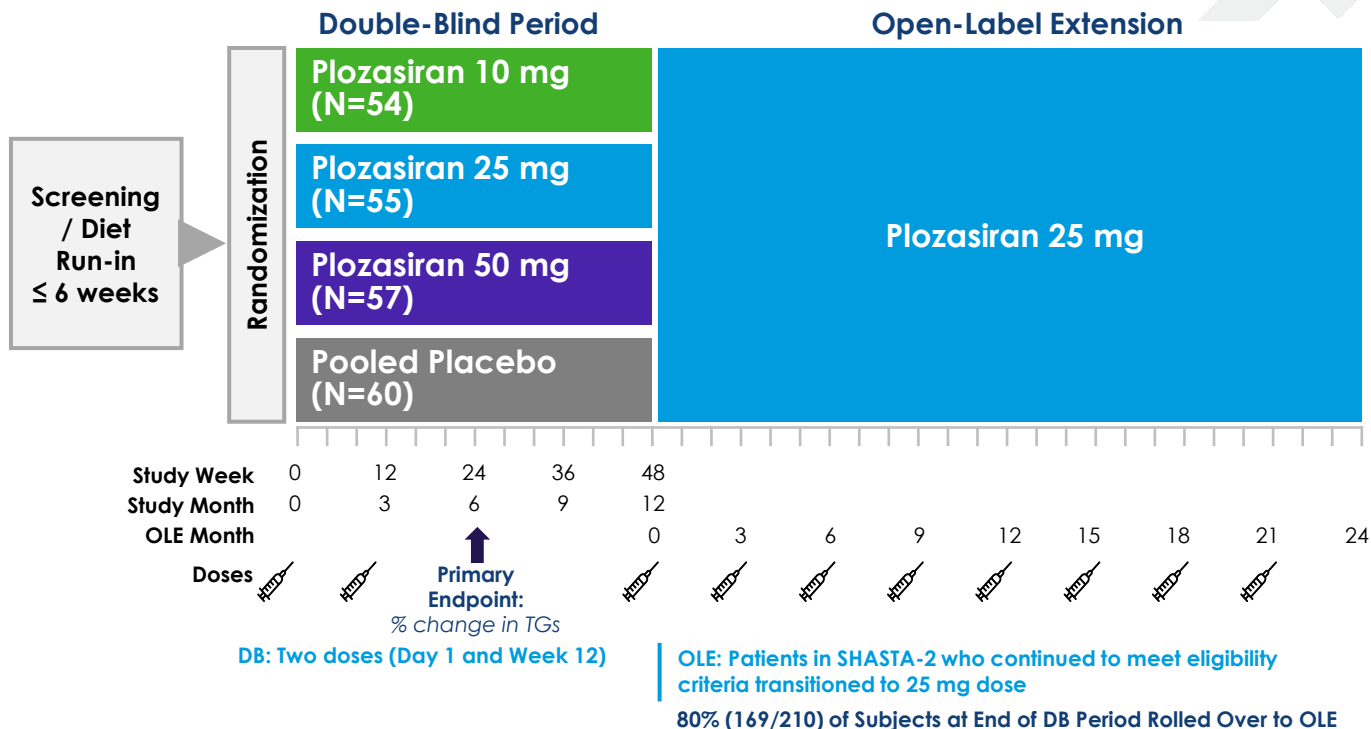
**Key Endpoints\*:** % change from baseline and over time in:

- **Primary endpoint:** TG
- **Key LP parameters:** APOC3, non-HDL-C, LDL-C, HDL-C, APOB, Remnant Cholesterol

**Safety**

**Data Analysis:** Phase 2 study data evaluated at Week 24 and Week 48

All patients were eligible to enroll in an Open Label Extension (OLE) at end of the study.



\*All samples taken after  $\geq$  10 hour fast.

**ApoB**, apolipoprotein B; **APOC3**, apolipoprotein C3; **DB**: double blind; **EOS**, end of study; **HDL-C**, high density lipoprotein cholesterol; **LDL-C**, low density lipoprotein cholesterol; **LP**, lipoprotein; **OLE**, open label extension; **TG**, triglycerides; **TRL**, triglyceride-rich lipoprotein; **VLDL-C**, very low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; **W**, week.

## Baseline Characteristics

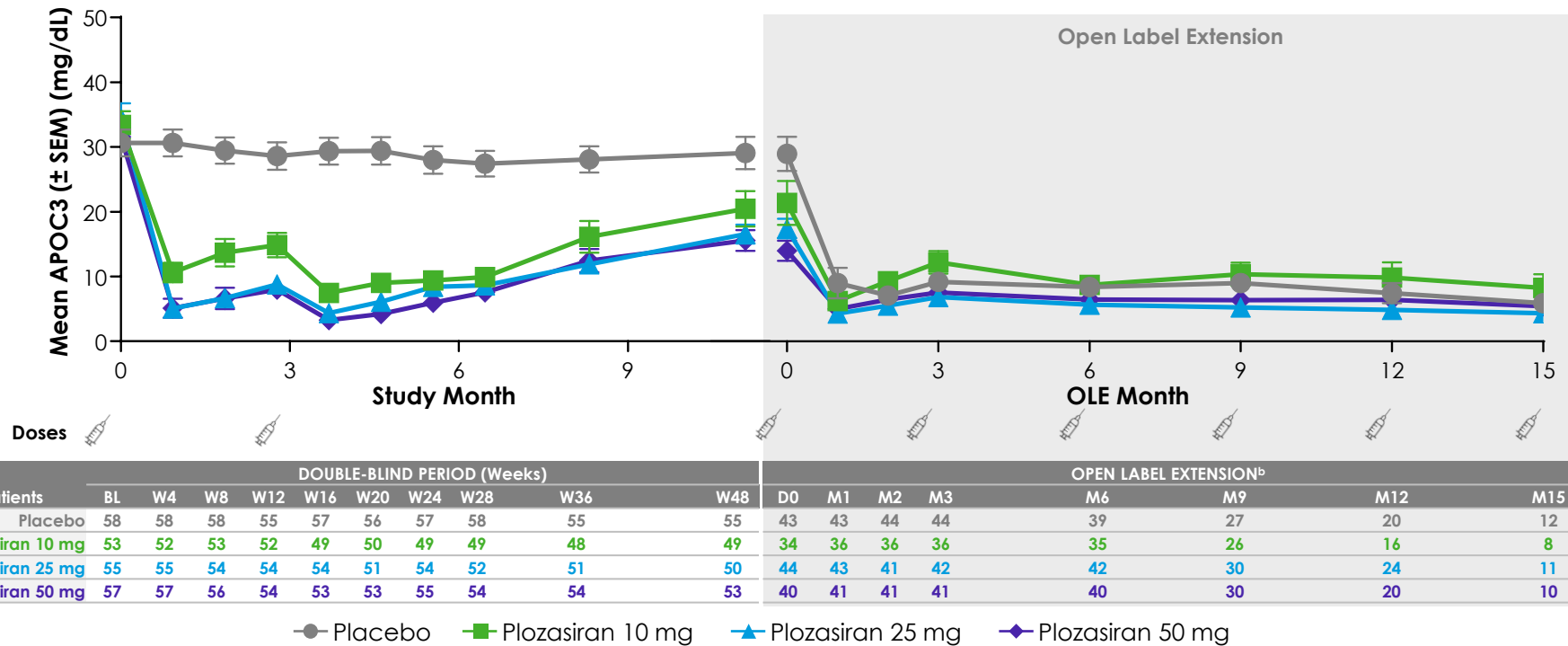
	Pooled Placebo (N=60)	Plozasiran 10 mg (N=54)	Plozasiran 25 mg (N=55)	Plozasiran 50 mg (N=57)
Mean (SD) age, years	56 (11)	53 (10)	56 (11)	54 (11)
Female, n (%)	14 (23)	8 (15)	12 (22)	16 (28)
White, n (%)	55 (92)	47 (87)	48 (87)	53 (93)
Mean (SD) BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	31 (4)	33 (5)	32 (5)	32 (5)
Mean (SD) APOC3, <sup>a</sup> mg/dL	31 (16)	33 (15)	34 (17)	32 (16)
Median (Q1, Q3) triglyceride, mg/dL	679 (540, 929)	696 (559, 1088)	598 (517, 982)	663 (531, 1028)
Mean (SD) triglyceride, mg/dL	851 (507)	890 (577)	942 (756)	908 (653)
Mean (SD) non-HDL-C, mg/dL	185 (79)	209 (74)	206 (91)	196 (88)
Mean (SD) ApoB, mg/dL	95 (29)	103 (44)	103 (32)	110 (55)
Mean (SD) remnant cholesterol, <sup>b</sup> mg/dL	115 (82)	134 (88)	132 (98)	124 (92)
Mean (SD) LDL-C, UC, mg/dL	69 (39)	75 (44)	74 (40)	72 (42)
Mean (SD) HDL-C, mg/dL	30 (12)	28 (9)	30 (11)	31 (13)

<sup>a</sup>Analysis that removed n=2 participants with baseline values below limits of quantitation (BLOQ) (ad hoc); <sup>b</sup>Based on calculation: Total cholesterol – HDL-C – LDL-C (UC).

Data are shown for the full analysis set of 226, ie, all randomized patients who received at least 1 dose of investigational product.

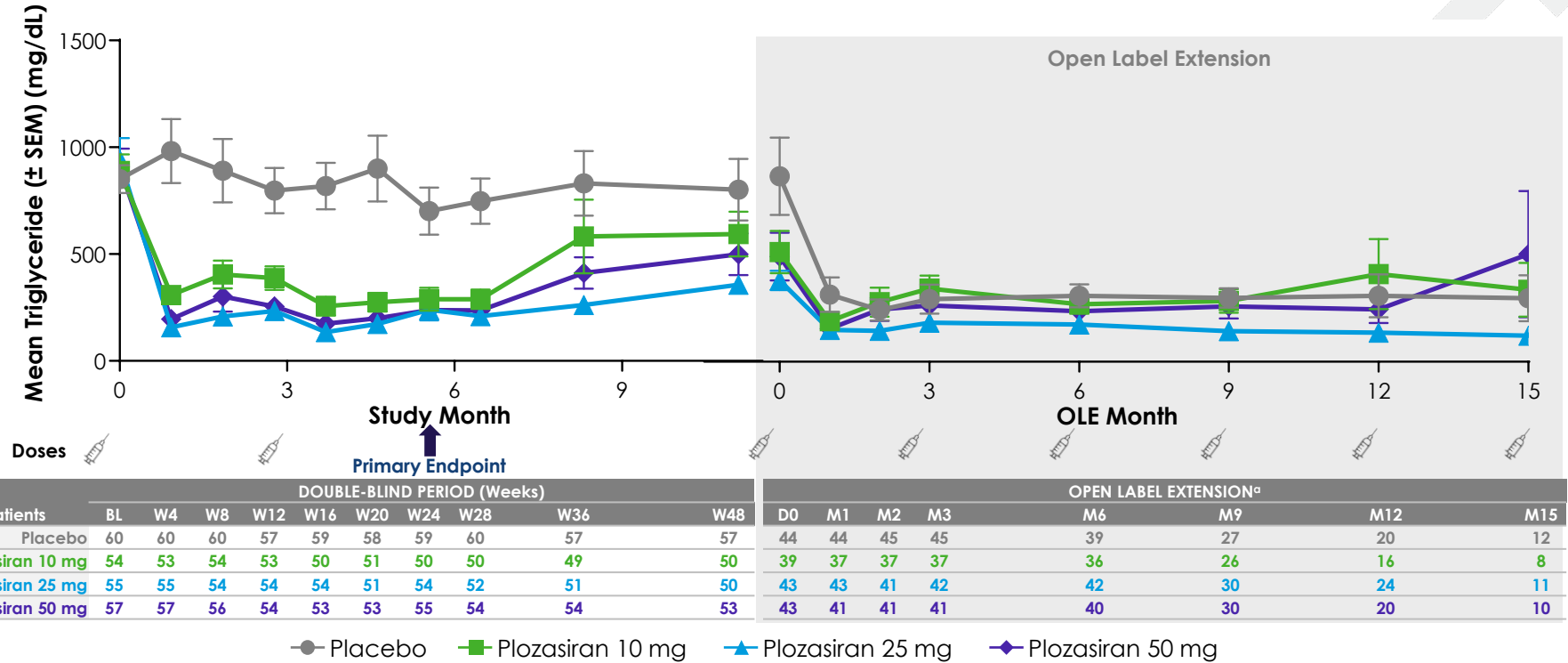
**ApoB**, apolipoprotein B; **APOC3**, apolipoprotein C3; **BMI**, body mass index; **HDL-C**, high density lipoprotein cholesterol; **LDL-C**, low density lipoprotein cholesterol; **UC**, ultracentrifugation.

# Plozasiran Had a Persistent Effect on APOC3<sup>a</sup> in All Study Periods



<sup>a</sup>Analysis removed 2 participants with baseline values below limits of quantitation, BLOQ (ad hoc). <sup>b</sup>Data cut as of 29MAR2024. APOC3, apolipoprotein C3; D, Day; M, Month; OLE, open-label extension; SEM, standard error of the mean; W, Week.

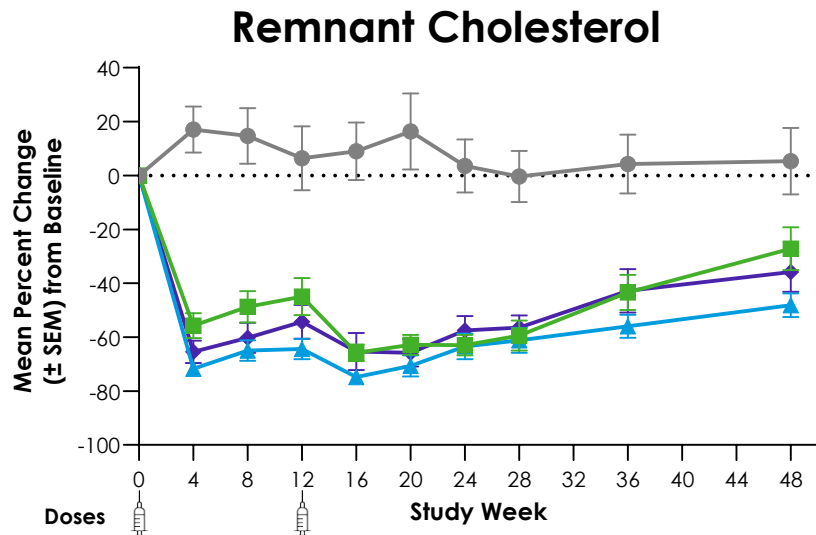
# Plozasiran Had a Durable Effect on Triglycerides in All Study Periods



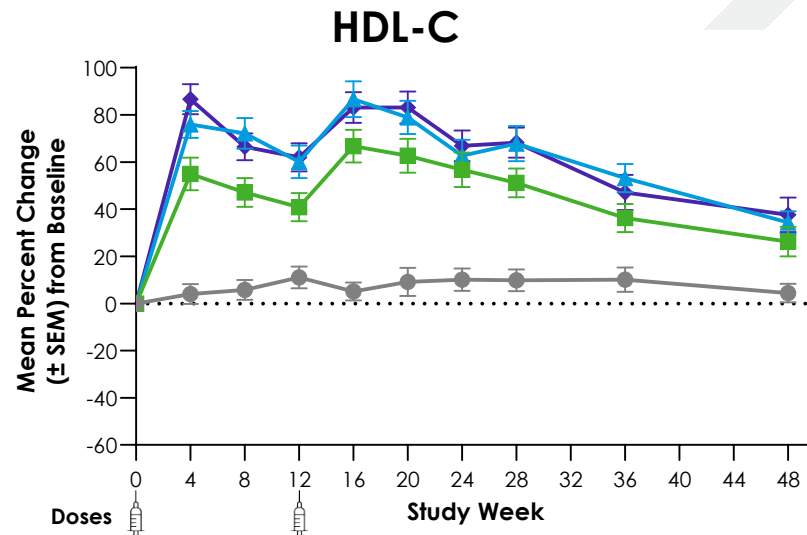
<sup>a</sup>Data cut as of 29MAR2024. D, Day; M, Month; OLE, open-label extension; SEM, standard error of the mean; W, Week,



# Plozasiran Decreased Remnant Cholesterol and Increased HDL-C



LS Mean* % Change from Baseline at Week 24 & 48				
<b>Week 24</b>	2%	-60% p<0.0001	-62% p<0.0001	-57% p<0.0001
<b>Week 48</b>	2%	-24% p<0.05	-45% p<0.0001	-34% p=0.002

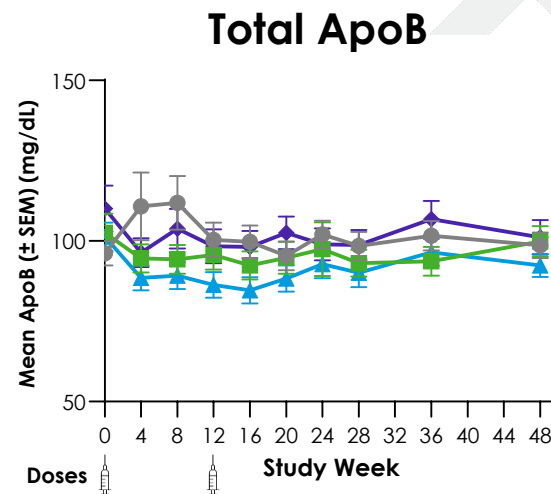
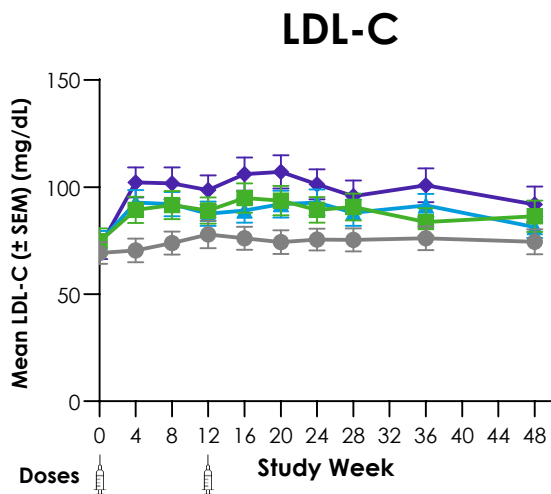
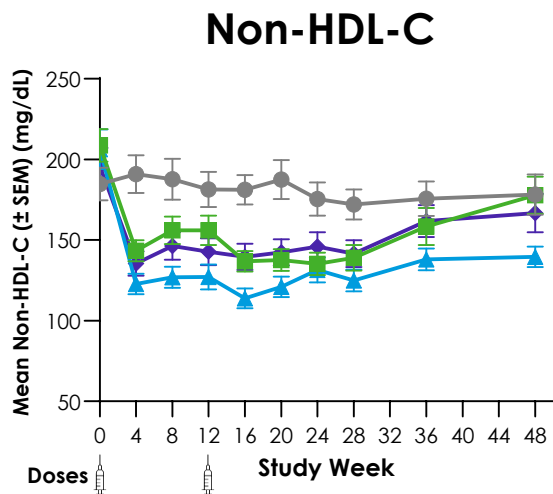


LS Mean* % Change from Baseline at Week 24 & 48				
<b>Week 24</b>	11%	54% p<0.0001	63% p<0.0001	68% p<0.0001
<b>Week 48</b>	6%	24% p<0.05	32% p=0.0007	38% p<0.0001

● Placebo    ■ Plozasiran 10 mg    ▲ Plozasiran 25 mg    ◆ Plozasiran 50 mg

For all panels: \*Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) with repeated measures was used for statistical modeling. Nadir at 16 weeks where Placebo corrected LSM of 77% difference was achieved, i.e. 135 mg/dL from 942 mg/dL mean baseline. **HDL-C**, high density lipoprotein cholesterol; **LS**, least squares; **SEM**, standard error of the mean.

# Plozasiran Impact on Additional Lipid Parameters



LS Mean* % Change from Baseline at Week 24 & 48				
<b>Week 24</b>	-2%	<b>-29%</b> p<0.0001	<b>-28%</b> p<0.0001	<b>-22%</b> P=0.0001
<b>Week 48</b>	1%	<b>-10%</b> NS	<b>-24%</b> P=0.0003	<b>-14%</b> p<0.05

LS Mean* % Change from Baseline at Week 24 & 48				
<b>Week 24</b>	18%	<b>49%</b> p<0.05	<b>44%</b> NS	<b>78%</b> p<0.0001
<b>Week 48</b>	21%	<b>34%</b> p<0.05	<b>34%</b> NS	<b>45%</b> p<0.05

LS Mean* % Change from Baseline at Week 24 & 48				
<b>Week 24</b>	8%	<b>6%</b> NS	<b>-5%</b> NS	<b>1%</b> NS
<b>Week 48</b>	6%	<b>6%</b> NS	<b>0%</b> NS	<b>2%</b> NS

● Placebo    ■ Plozasiran 10 mg    ▲ Plozasiran 25 mg    ◆ Plozasiran 50 mg

\*Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) with repeated measures modeling was used for statistical modeling.

ApoB, apolipoprotein B; HDL-C, high density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL-C, low density lipoprotein cholesterol; LS, least squares; SEM, standard error of the mean.

## Summary of Adverse Events at 48 Weeks

No. (%)	Pooled Placebo (N=61)	Plozasiran 10 mg (N=54)	Plozasiran 25 mg (N=55)	Plozasiran 50 mg (N=56)
<b>TEAEs</b>	43 (71)	43 (80)	36 (66)	49 (88)
<b>TEAEs occurring in ≥5 subjects</b>				
COVID-19	10 (16.7)	10 (18.5)	8 (14.5)	8 (14.0)
Worsening glycemic control <sup>a</sup>	7 (11.7)	12 (22.2)	9 (16.4)	11 (19.6)
Diarrhea	5 (8.3)	3 (5.6)	1 (1.8)	1 (1.8)
Urinary tract infection	5 (8.3)	3 (5.6)	1 (1.8)	2 (3.5)
Headache	3 (5.0)	8 (14.8)	5 (9.1)	2 (3.5)
<b>Serious TEAEs</b>	10 (16.4)	4 (7.4)	2 (3.6)	7 (12.5)
<b>TEAEs leading to drug discontinuation, dose interruptions, or study withdrawal</b>	0	1 (1.9)	0	0
<b>Local injection site reactions</b>	0	0	0	1 (2) <sup>b</sup>
<b>Acute pancreatitis,<sup>c</sup> adjudicated cases</b>	2 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (2)
<b>Death</b>	0	0	0	0

- TEAEs reflect the comorbidities and underlying conditions of the study population
- There were no deaths
- Serious TEAEs were deemed not related to plozasiran and resolved without sequelae (except 2 subjects with malignancies)
- Data included exposure out to 48 weeks in the double-blind period

<sup>a</sup>Worsening glycemic control defined by multiple glycemic control parameters including but not limited to hemoglobin A1c, new onset diabetes mellitus, type 2 diabetes mellitus, diabetes mellitus, hyperglycemia, insulin resistance. n (%); worsening glycemic control was observed in subjects with uncontrolled diabetes.

<sup>b</sup>Local injection site reactions only include events that start on the day of injection and persist for at least 48 hours post injection. <sup>c</sup>The event in the patient assigned to the 50-mg plozasiran cohort occurred during the safety observation period, at which time the patient's triglyceride levels had returned to baseline level of >2000 mg/dL from an on-treatment nadir of 106 mg/dL. **TEAE**, treatment-emergent adverse event.

## SHASTA-2 Study Conclusion

- In patients with SHTG, plozasiran decreased LS mean % change from baseline of APOC3, TGs, and remnant cholesterol while increasing HDL-C at 24 weeks (persisting at 48 weeks) for all dose levels:
  - APOC3 ↓ to -78%, (-48%)
  - TG ↓ to -74%, (-58%)
  - Remnant cholesterol ↓ to -62%, (-45%)
  - HDL-C ↑ up to +68%, (+38%)
- The majority, >90% of patients treated with plozasiran achieved TGs < 500 mg/dL at Week 24, below the risk threshold for acute pancreatitis
- Half of patients reached TG values below 150 mg/dL at 24 weeks, thereby normalizing their triglycerides
- Consistency of PD with minimal interpatient variability and sustained effect seen with the OLE
- Plozasiran demonstrated a favorable safety profile in this study
- Based on these results, RNAi-mediated silencing of hepatic APOC3 expression via plozasiran is a promising potential treatment for patients with SHTG and a Phase 3 program in SHTG is currently underway, (ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT06347003, NCT06347016, NCT06347133)

# Plozasiran (ARO-APOC3) for Severe Hypertriglyceridemia

The SHASTA-2 Randomized Clinical Trial

**Gaudet D, Pall D, Watts GF, Nicholls SJ, Rosenson RS, Modesto K, San Martin J, Hellowell J, Ballantyne CM. Plozasiran (ARO-APOC3) for Severe Hypertriglyceridemia: The SHASTA-2 Randomized Clinical Trial. JAMA Cardiol. 2024 Apr 7:e240959. doi: 10.1001/jamacardio.2024.0959. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38583092; PMCID: PMC11000138.**

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# THANK YOU

We would like to thank the  
patients and Caregivers  
who participated in this  
study

# Acronyms

**ALT**, alanine transaminase; **AP**, acute pancreatitis; **ApoA**, apolipoprotein A; **ApoB**, apolipoprotein B; **ApoC**, apolipoprotein C; **APOC3**, apolipoprotein C3; **ASCVD**, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; **ASGPR**, asialoglycoprotein receptor; **AST**, aspartate aminotransferase; **BLOQ**, below limits of quantitation; **BMI**, body mass index; **EOS**, end of study; **FCS**, familial chylomicronemia syndrome; **GalNAc**, N-Acetylgalactosamine  
**HbA1C**, hemoglobin A1C; **HDL-C**, high density lipoprotein cholesterol; **HOMA-IR**, homeostasis model assessment-estimated insulin resistance; **hsCRP**, high-sensitivity C-reactive protein; **LDL-C**, low density lipoprotein cholesterol; **LP**, lipoproteins; **Lp(a)**, lipoprotein (a); **LPL**, lipoprotein lipase; **LS**, least squares; **MCS**, multifactorial chylomicronemia syndrome; **MRI-PDFF**, magnetic resonance imaging-proton density fat fraction; **mRNA**, messenger ribonucleic acid; **N**, number; **OLE**, open label extension; **PD**, pharmacodynamic; **pH**, potential of Hydrogen; **PK**, pharmacokinetic; **Q**, quartile; **RISC**, RNA-induced silencing complex; **RNA**, ribonucleic acid; **RNAi**, ribonucleic acid interference; **SD**, standard deviation; **SE**, standard error; **SEM**, standard error of the mean; **SHTG**, severe hypertriglyceridemia; **siRNA**, small interfering ribonucleic acids; **TEAEs**, treatment emergent adverse events; **TG**, triglycerides; **TRL**, triglyceride rich lipoproteins; **UC**, ultracentrifuge; **VLDL**, very low-density lipoprotein.