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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): March 13, 2017

**CORBUS PHARMACEUTICALS HOLDINGS, INC.**

*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Delaware**  
*(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)*

**000-55327**  
*(Commission  
File Number)*

**46-4348039**  
*(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)*

**100 River Ridge Drive, Norwood, MA**  
*(Address of principal executive offices)*

**02062**  
*(Zip Code)*

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(617) 963-0100**

**Not Applicable**

*(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)*

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.**

On March 13, 2017, Corbus Pharmaceuticals Holdings, Inc. (the “Company”) used the slides attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 in connection with management presentations to describe its business.

The information in this Current Report on Form 8-K under Item 7.01, including the information contained in Exhibit 99.1, is being furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission, and shall not be deemed to be “filed” for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, and shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except as shall be expressly set forth by a specific reference in such filing.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) The following exhibit is furnished with this report:

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Investor Presentation.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**CORBUS PHARMACEUTICALS HOLDINGS, INC.**

Dated: March 13, 2017

By: /s/ Yuval Cohen

Name: Yuval Cohen

Title: Chief Executive Officer

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Investor Presentation.

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**CORBUS**  
PHARMACEUTICALS



**Developing Breakthrough Therapies for  
Rare Inflammatory and Fibrotic Diseases**

*Research & Development Day*

*March 13, 2017*



NASDAQ:CRBP | CORBUSPHARMA.COM

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This presentation contains certain forward-looking statements, including those relating to the Company's product development, clinical trials, clinical and regulatory timelines, market opportunity, competitive position, possible or assumed future results of operations, business strategies, potential growth opportunities and other statements that are predictive in nature. Additional written and oral forward-looking statements may be made by the Company from time to time in filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or otherwise. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a safe-harbor for forward-looking statements. These statements may be identified by the use of forward-looking expressions, including, but not limited to, "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "plan," "believe," "estimate," "potential," "predict," "project," "should," "would" and similar expressions and the negatives of those terms. These statements relate to future events or our financial performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors which may cause actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Such factors include those set forth in the Company's filings with the SEC. Prospective investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this presentation. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.



Resunab / JBT-101

is now

**ANABASUM**

# AGENDA

- **Introduction**
  - [Yuval Cohen, Ph.D.](#) – Chief Executive Officer
- **Anabasum: Background, MOA and Updates**
  - [Barbara White, M.D.](#) – Chief Medical Officer
- **Systemic Sclerosis Phase 2 Study: Gene Expression Patterns**
  - [Michael L. Whitfield, Ph.D.](#) – Professor, Department of Molecular and Systems Biology, Director of Quantitative Biomedical Sciences, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and Scientific Founder, Celdara Medical, LLC.
- **Human Blister Model: MOA in a Clinical Model of Inflammation/Resolution**
  - [Derek Gilroy, Ph.D.](#) – Head, Centre for Clinical Pharmacology and Professor of Immunology at Queen Mary College, University College London
- **Cystic Fibrosis: Biochemistry of Inflammation and *Ex-Vivo* Lung Macrophage Data**
  - [Michael Knowles, M.D.](#) – Professor of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and member of the Company's Scientific Advisory Board, and expert in inflammation in CF
- **Cystic Fibrosis Phase 2 Study: Role of Inflammation, Protocol, Study Design and Outlook**
  - [James Chmiel, M.D., M.P.H.](#) – Professor of Pediatrics, Case Western Reserve University, Associate Director of the LeRoy W. Matthews Cystic Fibrosis Center at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, and Principle Investigator of the Company's Phase 2 cystic fibrosis clinical study
- **Closing Remarks**
  - [Yuval Cohen, Ph.D.](#) – Chief Executive Officer



# Anabasum: Background, MOA and Updates

**Barbara White M.D.**  
*Chief Medical Officer*

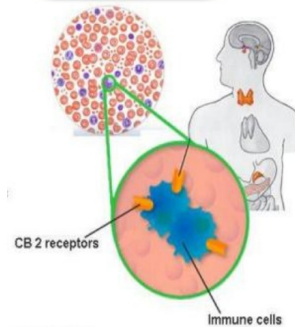


## ANABASUM

- First selective cannabinoid receptor type 2 (CB2) agonist to target inflammatory and fibrotic diseases
- Synthetic small molecule with oral dosing



CB2:  
resolution receptors in  
immune system

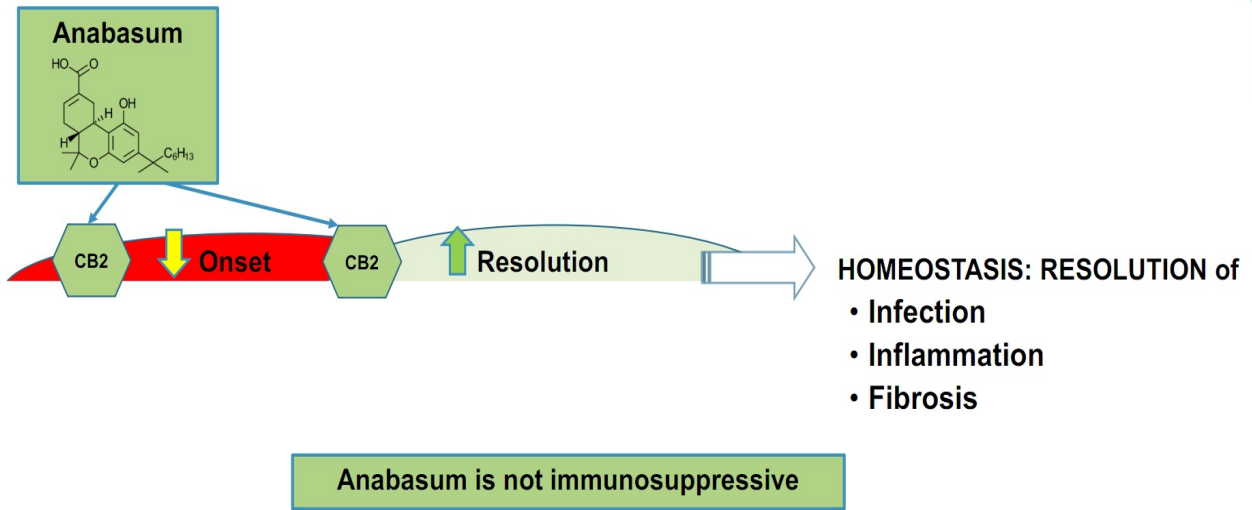


### CB2

- Receptor in immune and endocannabinoid systems
- Preferentially expressed on immune cells
- Expressed following cellular activation
- Triggers **resolution** of innate immune responses
- Surface expression returns to low basal levels when resolution is complete

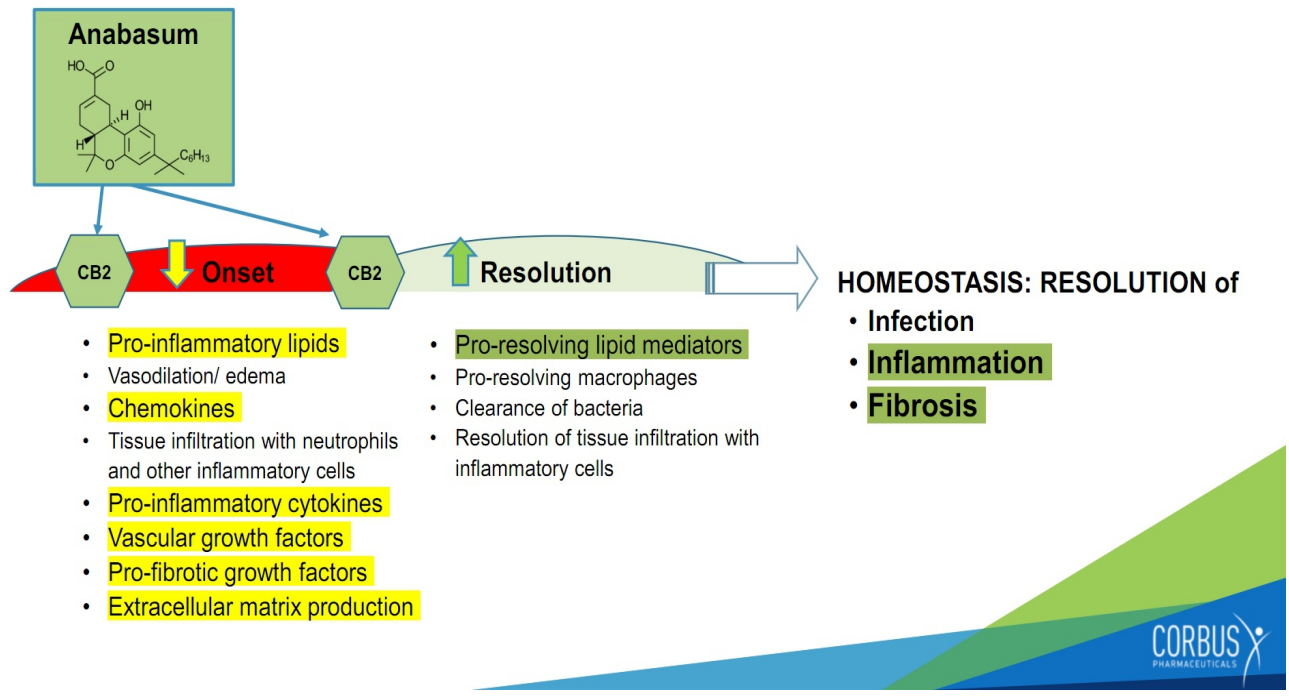


# ANABASUM SHIFTS THE BALANCE FROM ONSET PHASE TO RESOLUTION PHASE OF INNATE IMMUNE RESPONSES

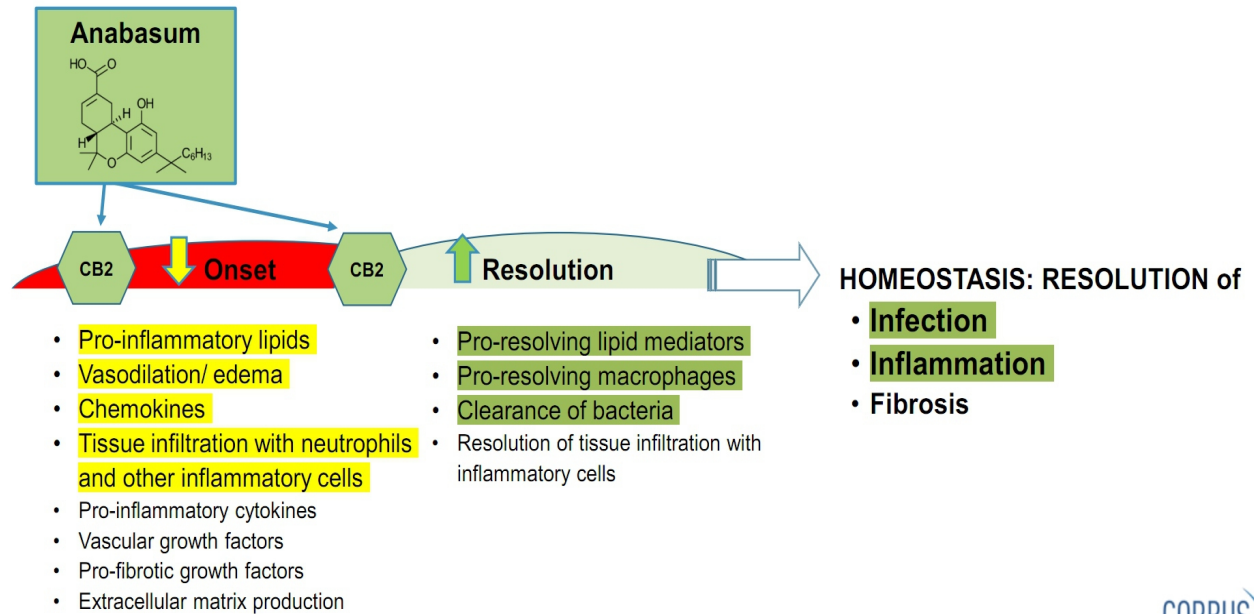




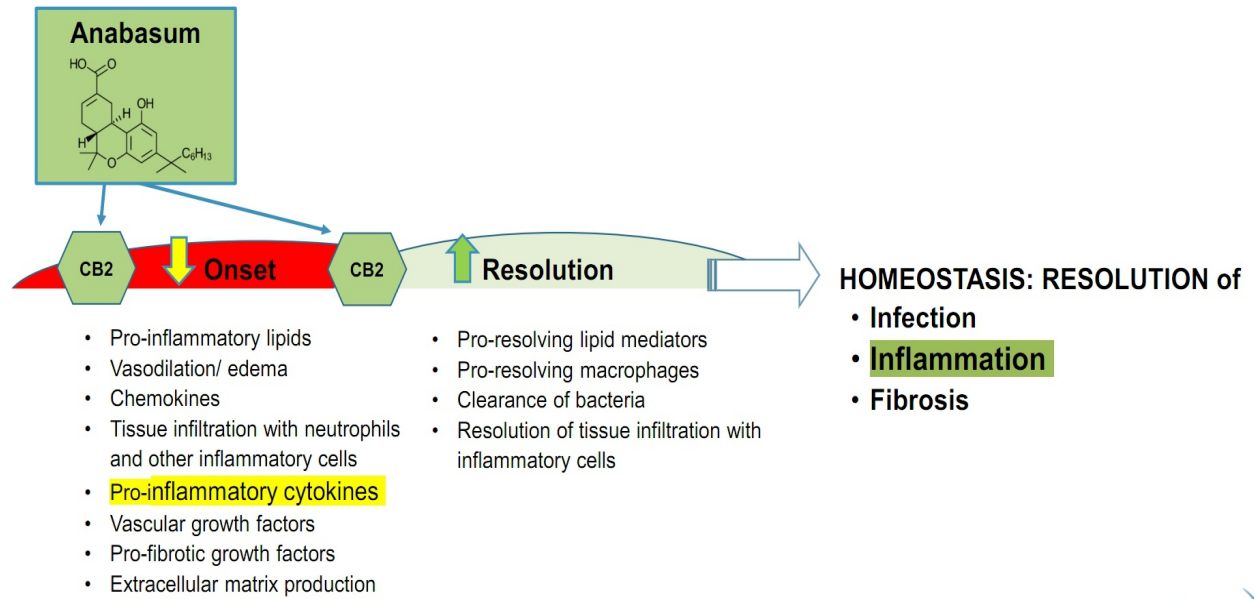
# MICHAEL WHITFIELD: GENE EXPRESSION CHANGES IN SKIN BIOPSIES FROM ANABASUM PHASE 2 SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS TRIAL



# DEREK GILROY: ANABASUM REDUCES ONSET AND SPEEDS RESOLUTION IN A HUMAN MODEL OF INFECTION-INDUCED INNATE IMMUNE RESPONSE



# MICHAEL KNOWLES: ANABASUM REDUCES “INFECTION”-INDUCED INNATE IMMUNE RESPONSES BY HUMAN CYSTIC FIBROSIS ALVEOLAR MACROPHAGES



## JAMES CHMIEL: IMPORTANCE OF INFLAMMATION IN CYSTIC FIBROSIS

### Pathologic processes of unresolved

- Infection
- Inflammation
- Fibrosis

*One or more are essential to tissue damage and organ dysfunction in*

- **Systemic sclerosis:** next steps in development program following end-of-Phase 2 meeting with FDA – March 2017
- **Cystic fibrosis:** data from Phase 2 study – March 2017
- **Dermatomyositis:** data from Phase 2 study – summer 2017
- **Systemic lupus erythematosus:** Phase 2 study start – 2Q17

# Systemic Sclerosis Phase 2 Study: Gene Expression Patterns

EFFECT OF ANABASUM ON GENE EXPRESSION IN SKIN BIOPSIES FROM  
SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS PATIENTS IN THE JBT101-SSc-001 STUDY

**Michael L. Whitfield, Ph.D.**

Professor, Department of Molecular and Systems Biology, Director of Quantitative Biomedical Sciences, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and Scientific Founder, Celdara Medical, LLC.



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## SUMMARY

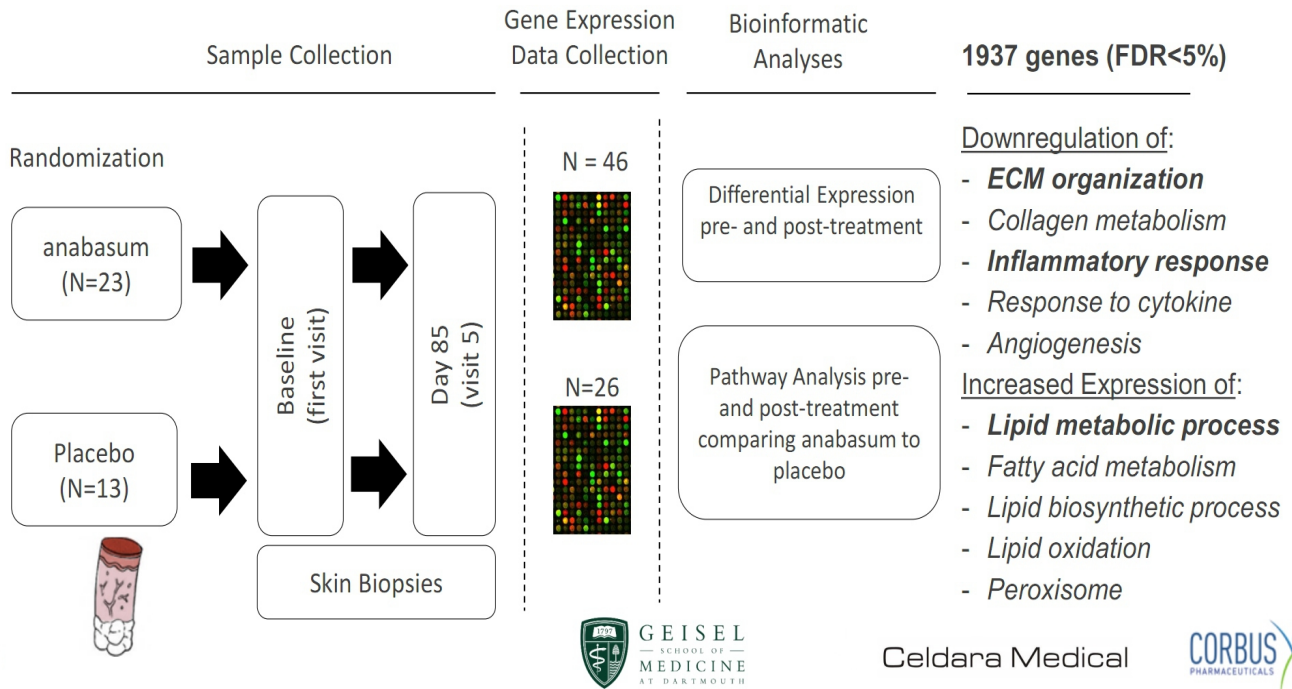
- Anabasum effects are clearly seen in short term gene expression studies, with significant differences between anabasum and placebo arms
- Anabasum is hitting pathways thought to be of high importance to SSc. Three representative pathways, each highly relevant to SSc, are modulated by anabasum
  - Extracellular matrix-related genes decrease expression with treatment
  - Inflammation-related genes decrease expression with treatment
  - Lipid metabolism genes increase expression with treatment
- These quantitative gene expression data corroborate evidence of clinical benefit in the trial, as does results from a quantitative modified Rodnan skin score surrogate test.



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# APPROACH TO AND RESULTS OF ANALYSES OF GENE EXPRESSION IN SKIN BIOPSIES FROM SUBJECTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS TREATED WITH ANABASUM AND PLACEBO

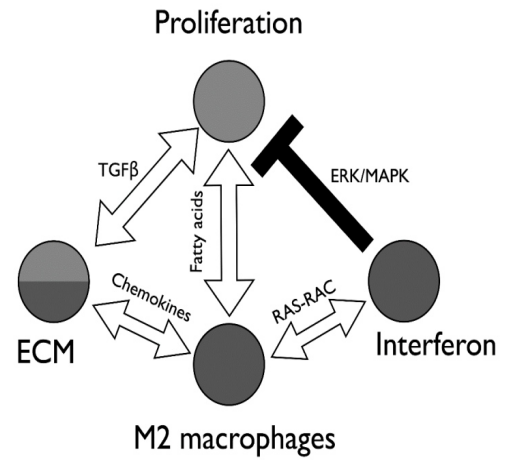


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# INFLAMMATION IS A KEY DRIVER OF TISSUE DAMAGE IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

- Inflammation is associated with active SSc (reviewed in Johnson et al. 2015 Seminars Immunopathology)
- Most therapies that have impacted SSc clinically target the immune system (Taroni et al. 2016 J. Invest Derm.)
  - None are FDA-approved for treatment of SSc
- SSc risk polymorphisms fall into immune genes (Mahoney et al. 2015 PLoS Comp Biol)
- An immune – fibrosis link is a common feature of all affected organs analyzed (Taroni et al. Genome Medicine 2017, *In Press*)

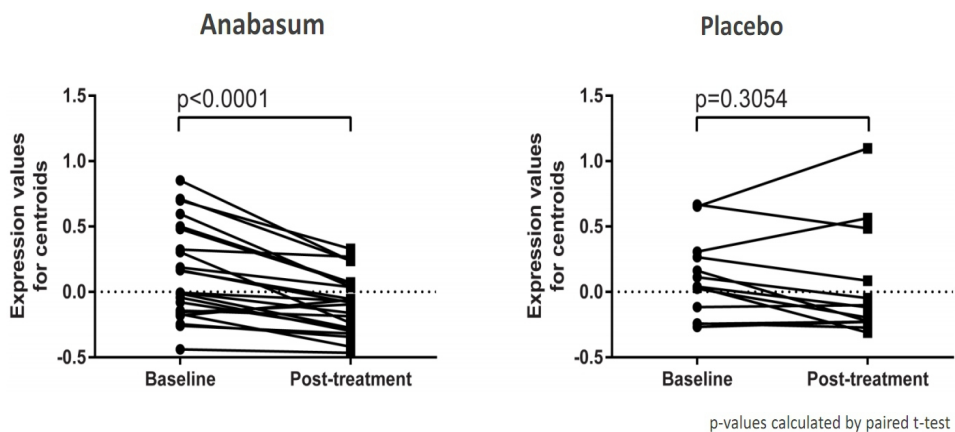


Adapted from Mahoney et al. 2015 PLoS Comp Biol



# ANABASUM TREATMENT SIGNIFICANTLY INHIBITS EXPRESSION OF INFLAMMATORY RESPONSE GENES

Average expression per patient of 47 genes that map to the *Inflammatory Response* pathway (example genes include CCL1, CCL2, CCL5, CXCL10, IL4R, ICAM1, multiple interferon-induced genes, and TLR9)



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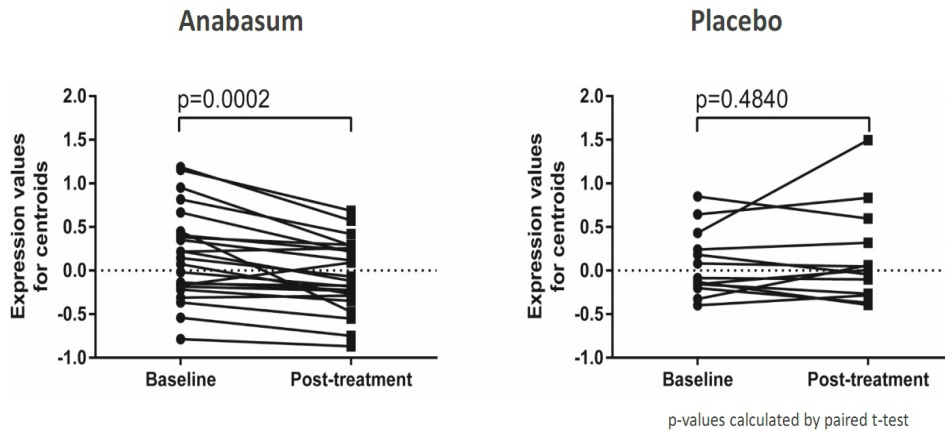
# EXCESSIVE EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX DEPOSITION (FIBROSIS) IS A HALLMARK OF TISSUE DAMAGE IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

- Increased expression of extracellular matrix (ECM) genes causes skin and internal organ fibrosis in SSc (Bhattacharyya et al. Nat. Rev Rheumatol. 2011)
- Progressive organ fibrosis and vascular damage results in chronic morbidity and high mortality in SSc (Allanore et al. Nat. Rev Dis Primers 2015)
- No FDA-approved therapies to stop the process of fibrosis in SSc (Denton, Clin. Exp. Rheumatol 2015)



# ANABASUM TREATMENT SIGNIFICANTLY INHIBITS EXPRESSION OF *EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX* PATHWAY GENES

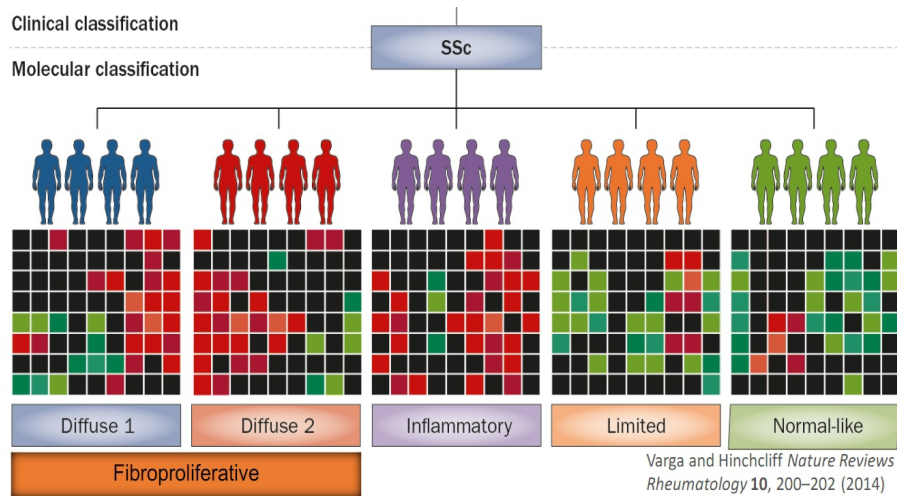
Average expression of 35 genes that map to the ECM pathway on a per patient basis (example genes include TGF $\beta$ , CTGF, collagens, fibronectin, tenascin, decorins, thrombospondin 1, SERPINE1)



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# GENE EXPRESSION IN SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS SKIN IS DOMINATED BY SUBSETS OF “INTRINSIC” GENE EXPRESSION

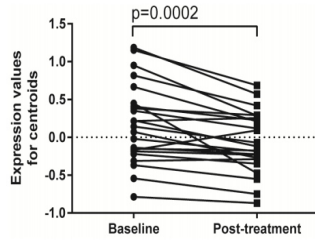


- Subsets based on gene expression profiling in skin
- Reproducible in four independent cohorts and across tissues (Milano et al. *PLoS ONE* (2008); Pendergrass et al. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* (2012); Hinchcliff et al. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* (2013); Johnson et al. *PLoS ONE* (2015); Mahoney et al. *PLoS Comp Biol* (2015); Taroni et al. *Arthritis Res. Therapy* (2015); Taroni et al. *Genome Medicine* (2017), in press)

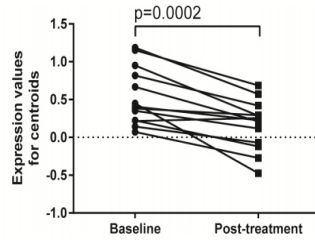
# HIGH EXPRESSION OF THE ECM PATHWAY OCCURS IN SUBJECTS WHOSE GENE EXPRESSION IN SKIN FALLS WITHIN THE INTRINSIC INFLAMMATORY SUBSET

## Extracellular matrix expression

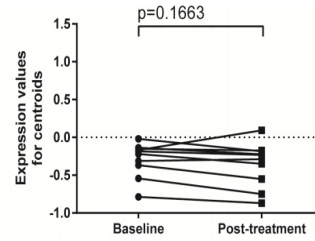
All anabasum-treated subjects  
N = 23



ECM gene expression high  
N = 13



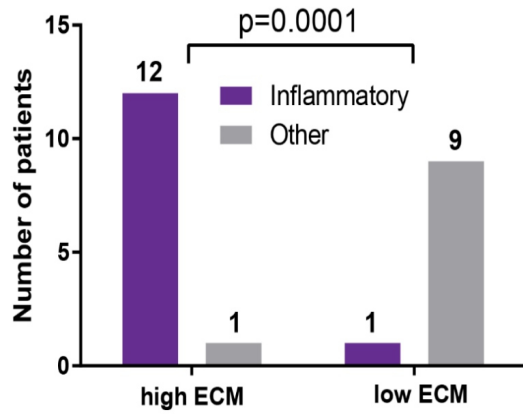
ECM gene expression low  
N = 10



p-values calculated by paired t-test

- Decrease in ECM gene expression in anabasum-treated subjects is preferentially driven by patients with high baseline ECM gene expression

# HIGH EXPRESSION OF THE ECM PATHWAY OCCURS IN PATIENTS WHOSE GENE EXPRESSION IN SKIN FALLS WITHIN THE INTRINSIC INFLAMMATORY SUBSET

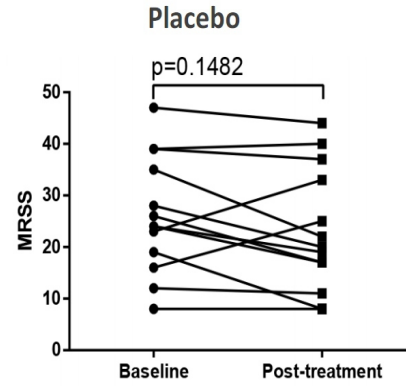
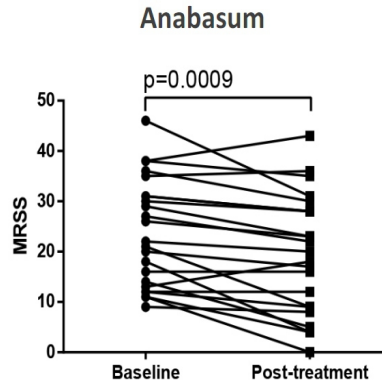
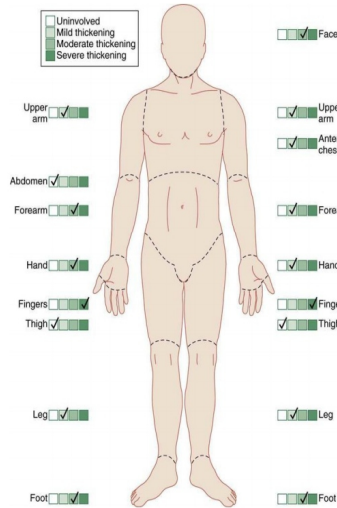


- Findings are consistent with inflammation driving fibrosis in SSc

Fisher's exact test

# ANABASUM-INDUCED CHANGES IN THE MODIFIED RODNAN SKIN SCORE, A CLINICAL MEASURE OF SKIN FIBROSIS, PARALLEL THE MOLECULAR CHANGES

- Pinch test at 17 sites across the body
- Standard outcome measure



p-values calculated by paired t-test



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## **SCLERODERMA DISEASE SEVERITY SCORE (SDSS) IS A QUANTITATIVE MODIFIED RODNAN SKIN SCORE SURROGATE CALCULATED FROM GENE EXPRESSION IN SKIN BIOPSIES**

This mathematical model was developed and tested on hundreds of SSc skin biopsy samples with corresponding mRSS score measured concurrently by the same physician

- Calculated from the expression level of a subset of specific genes from the genomic DNA microarray data
- Validated on five independent SSc patient cohorts
- Highly correlated with mRSS ( $R = 0.8$ ); not subject to inter- or intra-observer variability

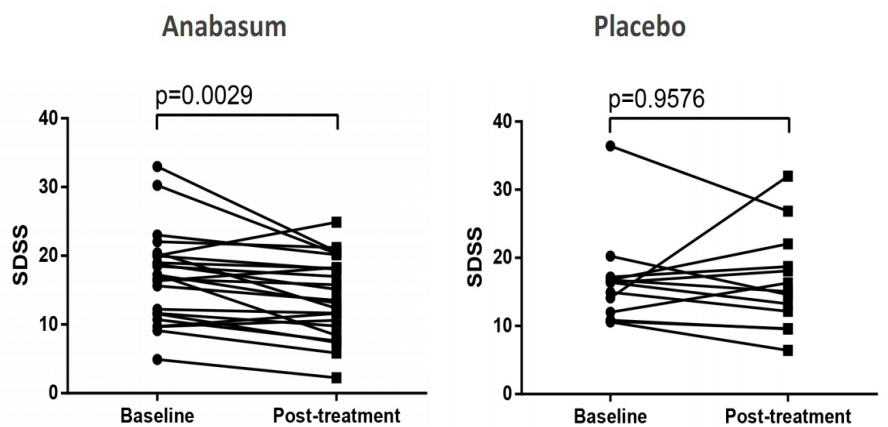


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# ANABASUM TREATMENT SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASES SCLERODERMA DISEASE SEVERITY SCORE



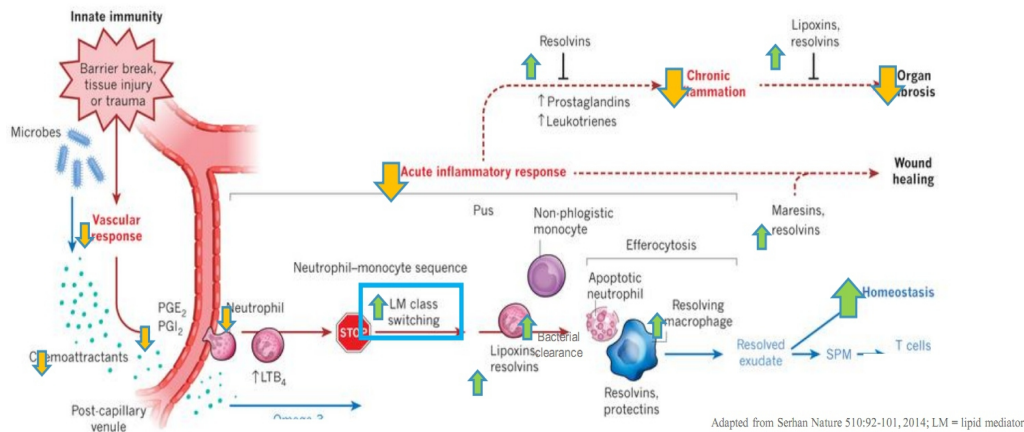
p-values calculated by paired t-test



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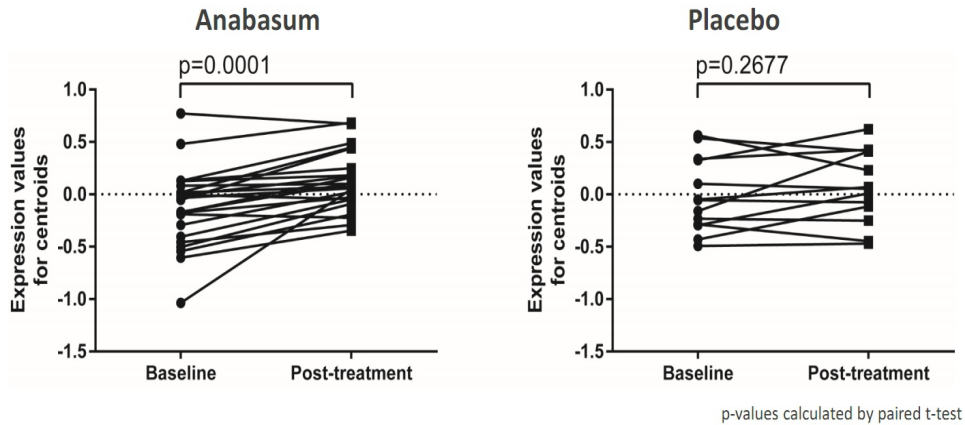
# ANABASUM'S MECHANISM OF ACTION INCLUDES CLASS SWITCH FROM PRO-INFLAMMATORY TO PRO-RESOLVING LIPID MEDIATORS



- Class switch of lipid mediators from pro-inflammatory to pro-resolving is the upstream event in initiation of resolution phase of innate immune responses and has been observed with anabasum exposure
  - Animal models – increase lipoxin A4 and PDJ2
  - Healthy human volunteers - shift from pro-inflammatory to pro-resolving lipid mediators
  - SSc patients in JBT101-SSc-001 Phase 2 study – increase in 17HDHA and D series resolvins versus decrease in 5-HETE, 15-HETE, and 15-HEPE

# ANABASUM TREATMENT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES LIPID METABOLISM PATHWAY GENES IN SKIN BIOPSIES FROM SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS PATIENTS

Average expression per patient of 142 genes in the *Lipid Metabolism* pathway (example genes include acetoacetyl-Coa synthetase, fatty acid synthase, multiple fatty acid binding proteins, desaturases, and hydrolases, insulin induced gene 1, and SIRT1)



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## CONCLUSIONS

- Anabasum induces significant and biologically sensible molecular responses in skin biopsies from systemic sclerosis patients, consistent with resolution of innate immune responses
- Anabasum, but not placebo, significantly increases lipid metabolic process pathways and decreases expression of ECM and Inflammatory Response pathways
  - This includes directionally correct changes in expression of multiple genes known to be important in SSc
- Longer exposure to anabasum may increase gene expression effects

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Celdara Medical, LLC
  - Yolanda Nesbeth, PhD
  - Jake Reder, PhD (CEO)
  
- Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
  - Michael L. Whitfield, PhD
  - Viktor Martyanov, PhD
  - Guoshuai Cai, PhD
  - Tammara Wood, MS



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# Q&A



# Human Blister Model: MOA in a Clinical Model of Inflammation/Resolution

**Derek Gilroy, Ph.D.**

Head, Centre for Clinical Pharmacology and Professor of Immunology at Queen Mary College, University College London, and expert in resolution of inflammation



# INFLAMMATION





# TREATMENTS FOR CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

NSAIDs

Steroids

DMARDs

Biologics

## **Problem**

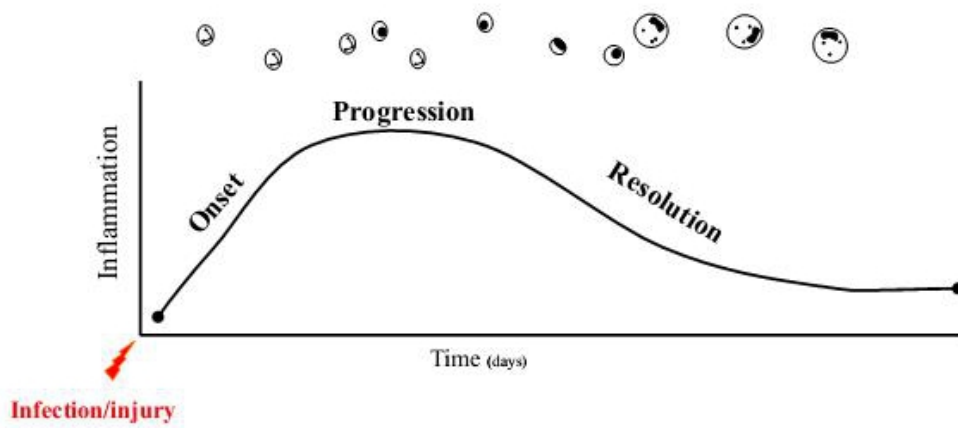
While they alleviate symptoms....

Side effects

Do not cure underlying disease



# ACUTE INFLAMMATION



- Resolution is an **active** process
- Failure of resolution may predispose to chronic inflammation & tissue injury



# THE MODEL: UV-KILLED E. COLI INDUCED LOCAL INFLAMMATION

I.D. Bacteria Injection



Laser Doppler Imager



Blister Induction



Blister Fluid Aspiration



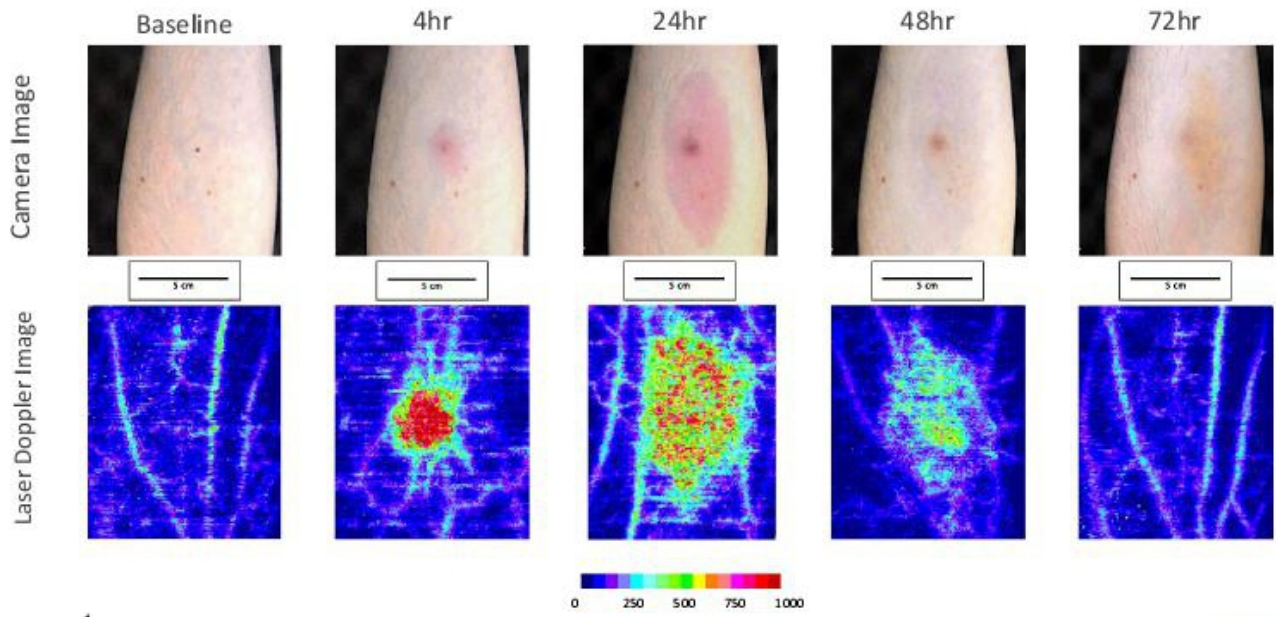
The Journal of Pathology: Clinical Research  
/ Path Clin Res 2016; 2: 34-40  
Published online 16 March 2016 in Wiley Online Library  
(wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI: 10.1002/path.2422

**Original Article**

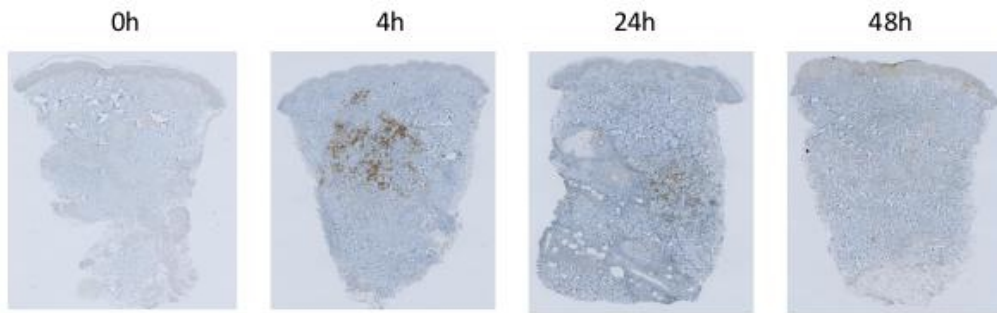
**Novel translational model of resolving inflammation triggered by UV-killed *E. coli***

Madhur P Mishra<sup>1</sup>, Julia D Flint<sup>1</sup>, Raed F H De Meyer<sup>1</sup>, James N Fullerton<sup>1</sup>, Andrew M Smith<sup>2</sup>, Daniel B Martin<sup>1</sup> and Derek W Gilroy<sup>1\*</sup>



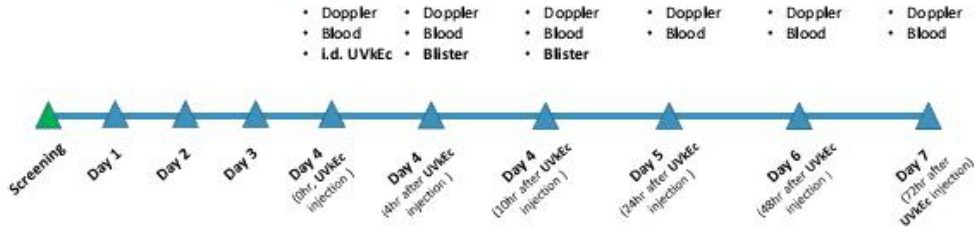


# ENDOTOXIN CLEARANCE

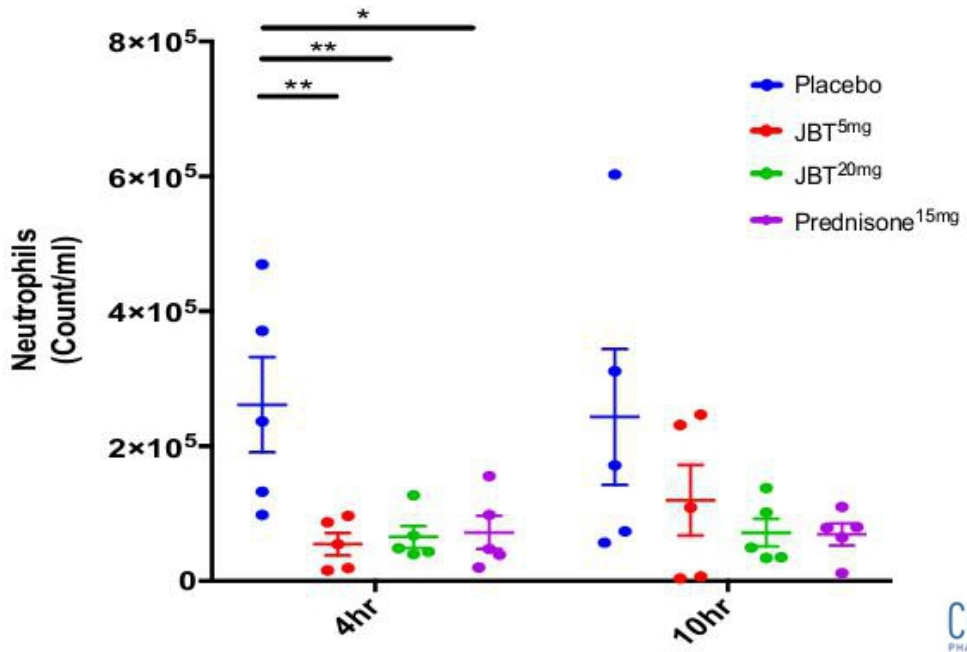


**Study groups**

A : Placebo, BD  
 B : anabasum 5mg, BD day 1-4am  
 C : anabasum 20mg, BD Day 1-4am  
 D : Prednisone 15mg, OD Day 1-4am



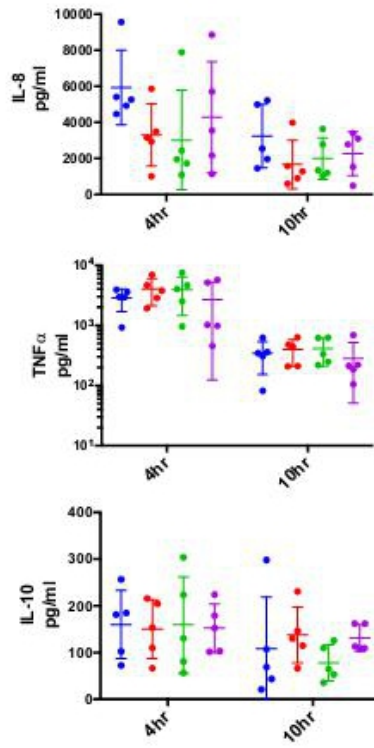
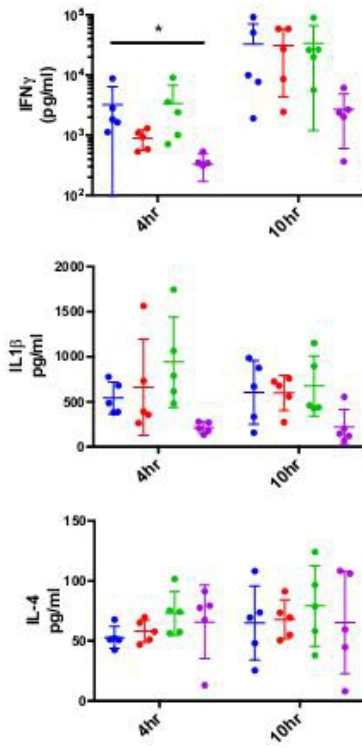
# BLISTER PMNs



# CYTOKINES/CHEMOKINES

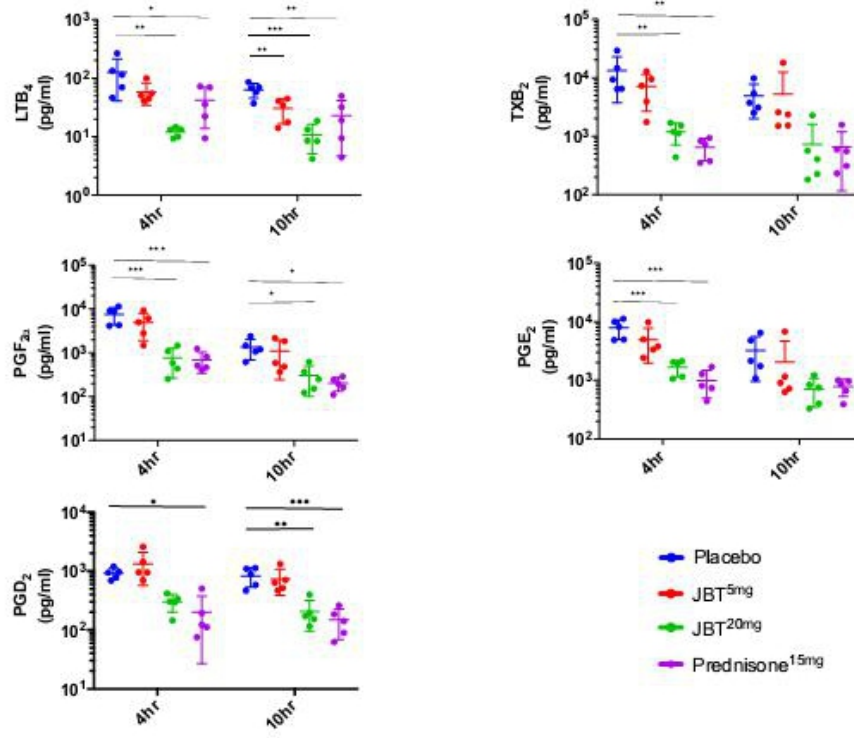


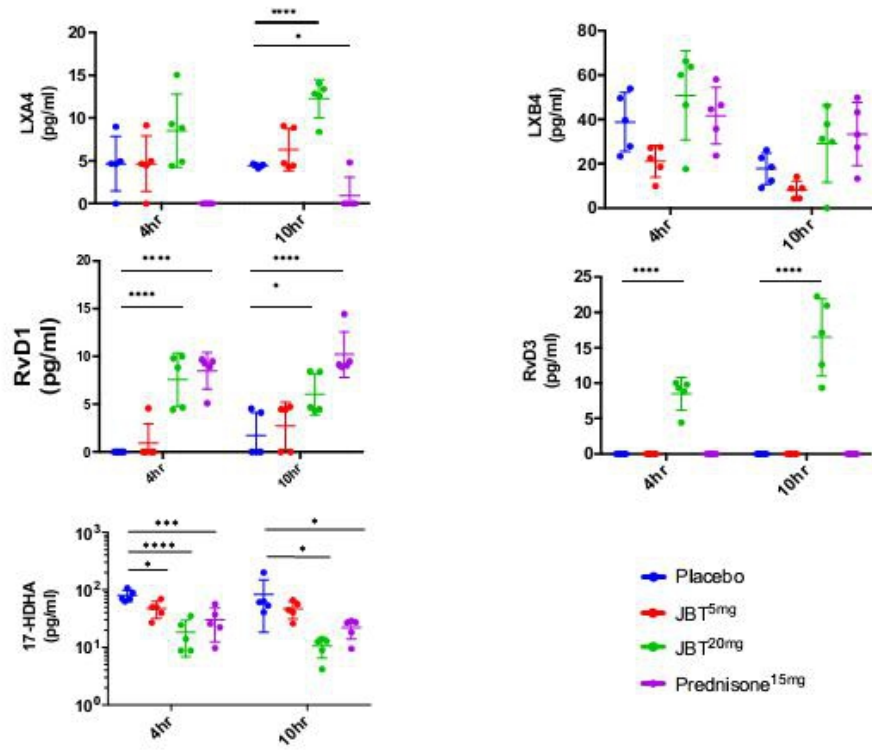


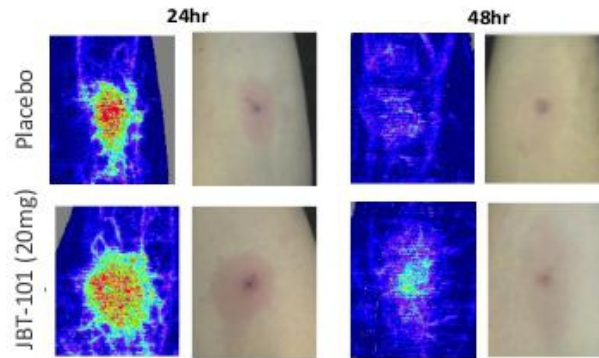
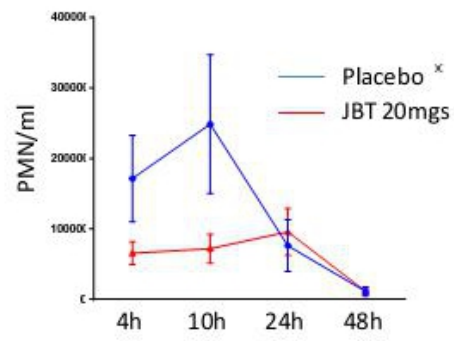
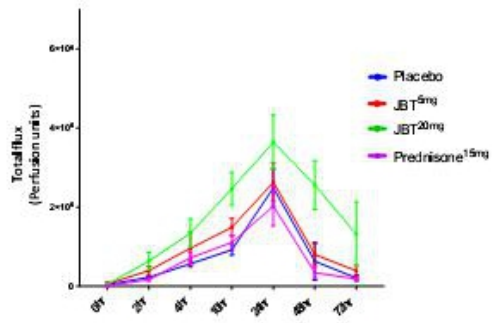


# LIPIDS





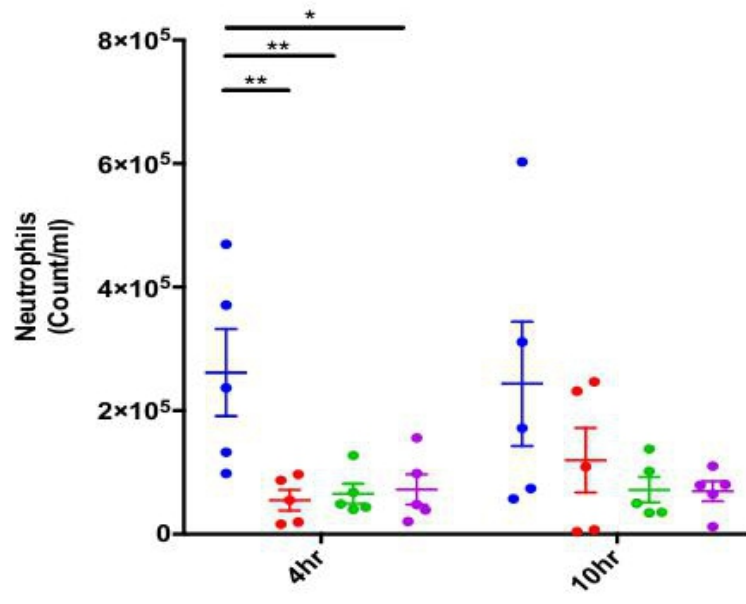


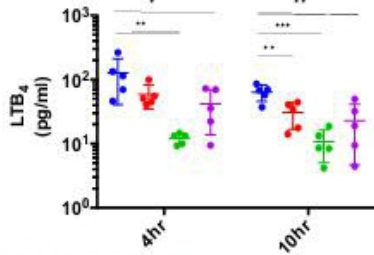


# MECHANISM



# PRIMARY ENDPOINT





From www.bloodjournal.org by guest on March 12, 2017. For personal use only.

**CONCISE REPORT**

**Leukotriene B<sub>4</sub> is a Potent and Stereospecific Stimulator of Neutrophil Chemotaxis and Adherence**

By Jon Palmblad, Curt L. Maloney, Ann-Mari Liljén, Olof Rådmark, Lars Ericson, and Bengt Samuelsson

We studied the effects of leukotrienes on *in vitro* functions of neutrophil polymorphonuclear (PMN) granulocytes. Leukotriene B<sub>4</sub> (LTB<sub>4</sub>) evoked a stimulated and directed migration of neutrophils under agarose with an optimum concentration of 10<sup>-8</sup> M, whereas two nonenzymatically formed isomers (compounds 1 and 2) induced the response at 10<sup>-6</sup> M. Leukotriene C<sub>4</sub> (LTC<sub>4</sub>) and 5-hydroxycholesteric acid (5-HETE) did not affect the PMN migration. At the same optimum concentrations, LTB<sub>4</sub> and compounds 1 and 2 augmented PMN adherence to nylon fibers. The chemotactic and adherence responses were of the same magnitude as with formyl-Met-Leu-Phe (fMLP) at 10<sup>-8</sup> M. None of the leukotrienes influenced the spontaneous or phorbol-12-myristate-13-acetate (PMA)-induced ability to kill *Sophyferomonas* nematode. The cyclooxygenase inhibitor, indomethacin, inhibited only partly the fMLP-induced migration at high concentrations and stimulated migration at 2.0 × 10<sup>-6</sup> M, suggesting that arachidonic acid was then mainly metabolized by the lipoxygenase pathway. The lipoxygenase and cyclooxygenase inhibitor, mefenamic acid, inhibited both spontaneous and stimulated migration at ≥2.0 × 10<sup>-6</sup> M, but not at lower concentrations. Thus, since LTB<sub>4</sub> and to a lesser degree compounds 1 and 2, stimulated migration and adhesion, it is suggested that these mediators could be of importance for the emigration of neutrophils from blood vessels to areas of inflammation.

ANNALS of THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

**ARACHIDONIC ACID, LEUKOTRIENE B<sub>4</sub>, AND NEUTROPHIL ACTIVATION\***

P. H. Naccache and R. I. Sha

Departments of Pathology and Phys  
University of Connecticut Health C  
Farmington, Connecticut 0602

Immunology 1983 50 35

**Enhancement of human neutrophil adherence by synthetic leukotriene constituents of the slow-reacting substance of anaphylaxis**

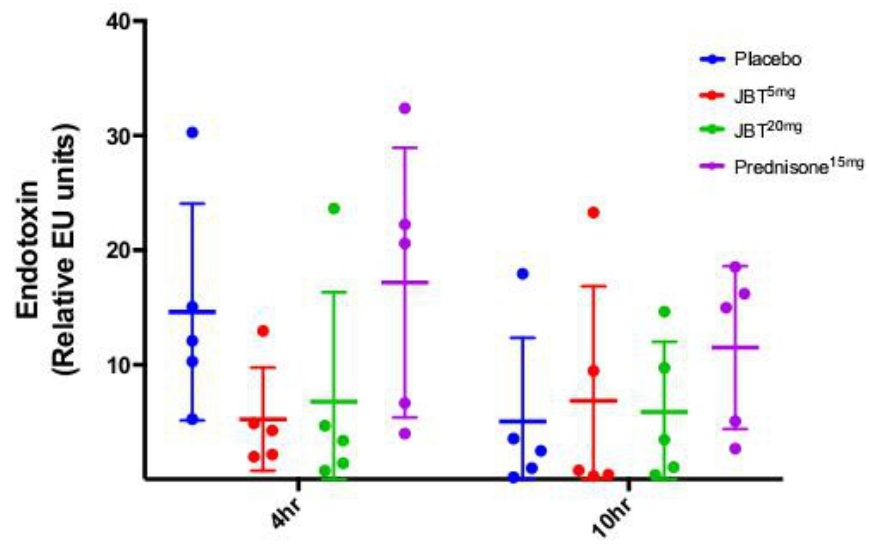
E. J. GOETZL, L. L. BRINDLEY & D. W. GOLDMAN *Howard Hughes Medical Institute Laboratories and Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.*

Accepted for publication 14 March 1983





# ENDOTOXIN CLEARANCE



# Q&A



# CF: Biochemistry of Inflammation and *Ex-Vivo* Lung Macrophage Data

**Michael Knowles, M.D.**

Professor of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and member of the Company's Scientific Advisory Board, and expert in inflammation in CF



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# INFLAMMATION IN CYSTIC FIBROSIS (CF) LUNG DISEASE

- Lung disease in CF is initiated by thick mucus, reflecting mutant CFTR and failure to fully hydrate bronchial mucus, which results in defective mucociliary clearance
- Infection occurs rapidly due to defective mucociliary clearance, and the associated inflammatory response to infection is severe and persistent
- Infection and inflammation includes a massive influx of neutrophils, which contributes to irreversible damage to bronchi (“bronchiectasis”)
- Anti-inflammatory therapy (systemic steroids, 1980s; high-dose ibuprofen, 1990s) slow/reduce bronchial wall damage and loss of lung function, but are not currently used due to adverse effects
- Pulmonary macrophages are critical innate host defense cells in the lung, as ingest & kill microbes and secrete inflammatory mediators in response to infection
- Pulmonary macrophages from CF patients exhibit exaggerated basal and LPS-induced cytokine (TNF- $\alpha$  & IL-6) production\*, which contributes to irreversible lung damage



# EFFECT OF ANABASUM (CB2 RECEPTOR AGONIST) ON CYTOKINE PRODUCTION BY PULMONARY MACROPHAGES FROM CF PATIENTS

**Rationale:** Macrophages play a key role in lung host defense, and secrete inflammatory mediators in response to microbial infection. Pulmonary macrophages from CF patients are hyper-inflammatory\*, and contribute to progressive and irreversible lung damage.

**Objective:** To determine the effect of anabasum on production and secretion of inflammatory cytokines by CF pulmonary macrophages

**Study Design:** Isolated macrophages from lungs excised from two CF patients undergoing lung transplant.\*

- Cultured and treated macrophages with Pseudomonas LPS (100 ng/ml) to stimulate a cytokine (inflammatory) response
- Treated macrophages with anabasum (1, 3, 10  $\mu$ M) after LPS ("4 hrs"), at same time as LPS ("6 hrs"), and for 24 hrs before LPS ("24 hrs")
- Collected supernatant at 6 hrs post-LPS and tested by Elisa for TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6, and other cytokines

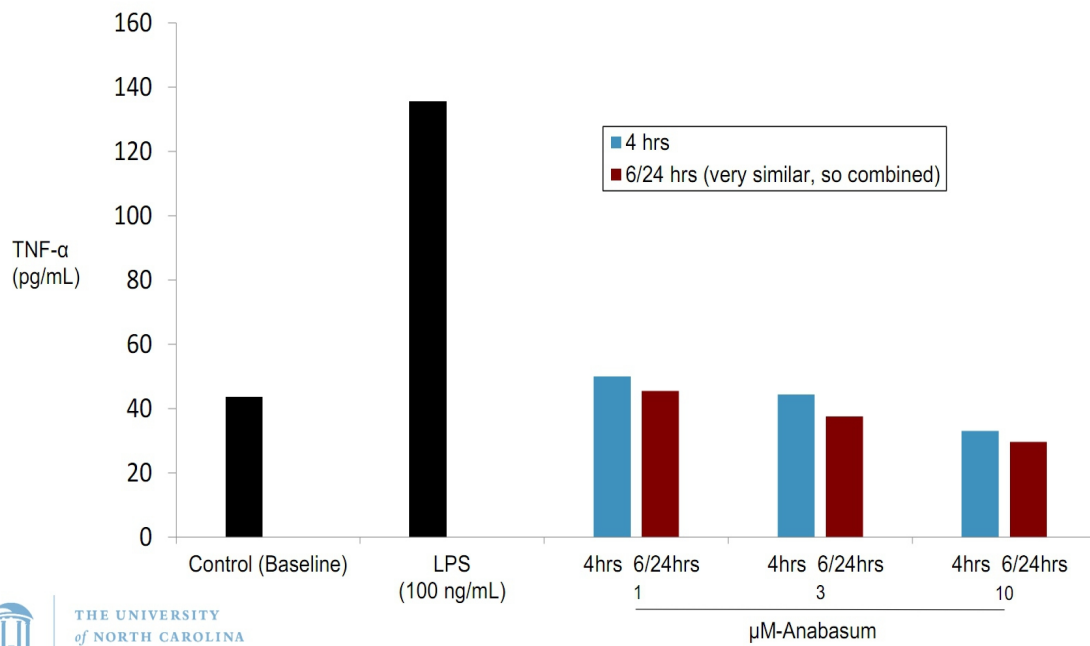


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\*Lubaba, B.....Ribiero, C., 2015, Am J Respir Crit Care Med



# EFFECT OF ANABASUM ON TNF- $\alpha$ PRODUCTION BY LPS-TREATED CF PULMONARY MACROPHAGES\*

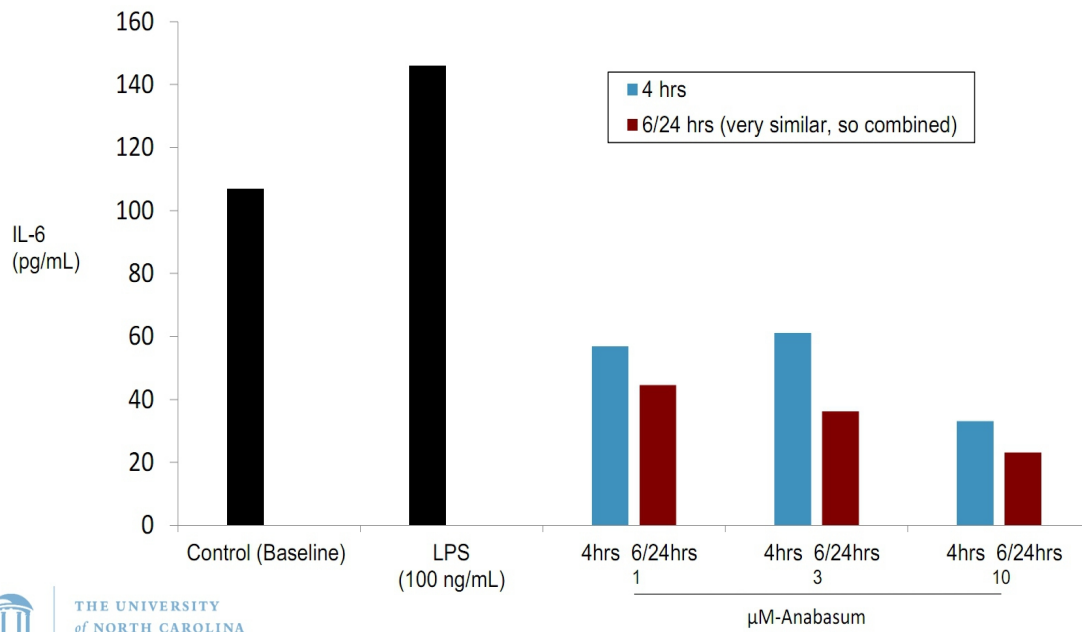


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\*Mean data on macrophages from two CF patients



# EFFECT OF ANABASUM ON IL-6 PRODUCTION BY LPS-TREATED CF PULMONARY MACROPHAGES\*

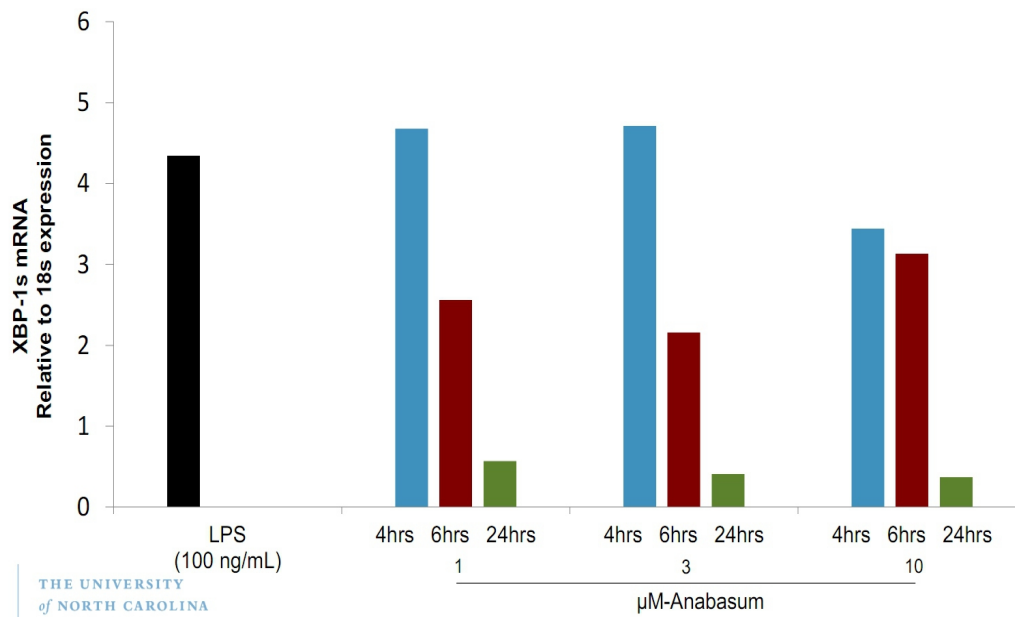


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\*Mean data on macrophages from two CF patients



# EFFECT OF CB2 RECEPTOR AGONIST (ANABASUM) ON EXPRESSION OF XBP-1s IN CF PULMONARY MACROPHAGES\*: A MARKER OF INFLAMMATORY RESPONSE\*\*



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\*Mean data on macrophages from two CF patients; \*\*Lubamba, B.....Ribiero, C., 2015, Am J Respir Crit Care Med





## CONCLUSIONS

- Anabasum inhibited LPS stimulated production of TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-6 by CF pulmonary macrophages in a dose-dependent fashion (up to >75% inhibition)
- Anabasum inhibited LPS stimulated production of TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-6 by CF pulmonary macrophages, whether anabasum was dosed before LPS, at same time, or after LPS.
- Anabasum inhibited expression in CF pulmonary macrophages of XBP-1s, which has a role in LPS-induced ER stress and inflammatory response\*.
- Taken together, these results indicate that anabasum has the potential to modify macrophage-mediated inflammation in the lungs of CF patients, and offers a novel approach to benefit all CF patients, regardless of genotype.



# Q&A



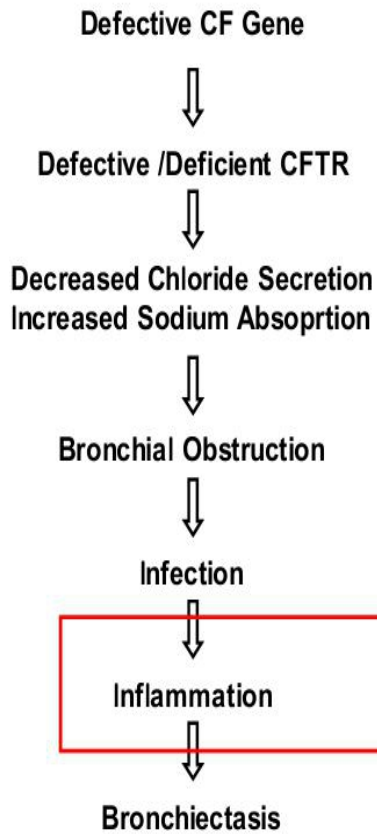
# CF Phase 2 Study: Role of Inflammation, Protocol, Study Design and Outlook

**James Chmiel, M.D., M.P.H.**

Professor of Pediatrics, Case Western Reserve University, Associate Director of the LeRoy W. Matthews Cystic Fibrosis Center at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, and Principle Investigator of the Company's Phase 2 cystic fibrosis clinical study



## Pathogenesis



## Therapeutic Approaches

### Gene Therapy

Activation of mutant CFTR  
Protein Replacement Rx

Cl channel activators  
Na channel blockers

Airway Clearance Rx  
Bronchodilators, Mucolytics

Antibiotics: inhaled, oral, IV  
acute vs. chronic

Anti-inflammatory agents,  
Anti-oxidants, Anti-proteases

Lung Transplant

## Normal



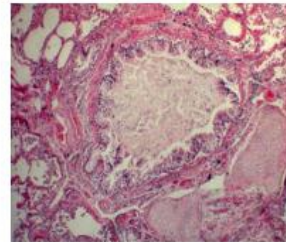
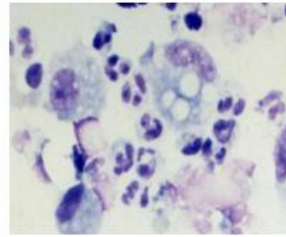
## Cystic Fibrosis



# Inflammation in the CF Lung Disease

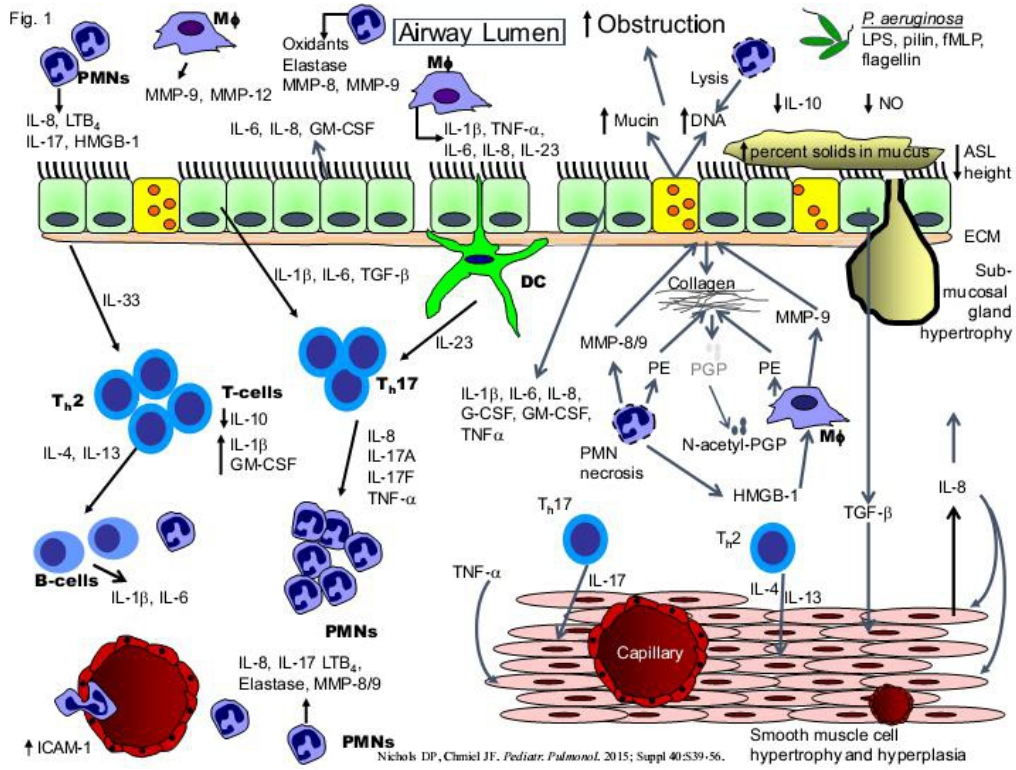
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- **Begins early in life**
- **Directly linked to the basic defect**
  - May be present in the absence of infection
- **Excessive relative to the burden of bacteria**
- **Neutrophils and their products are key offenders**
  - Persistent influx of neutrophils
  - Release proteases, oxidants, DNA, chemoattractants (IL-8, LTB<sub>4</sub>)
- **Plays a key role in lung damage**



Konstan and Saiman  
NACFC 2009; Plenary Session II





# Anti-Inflammatory Trials in CF

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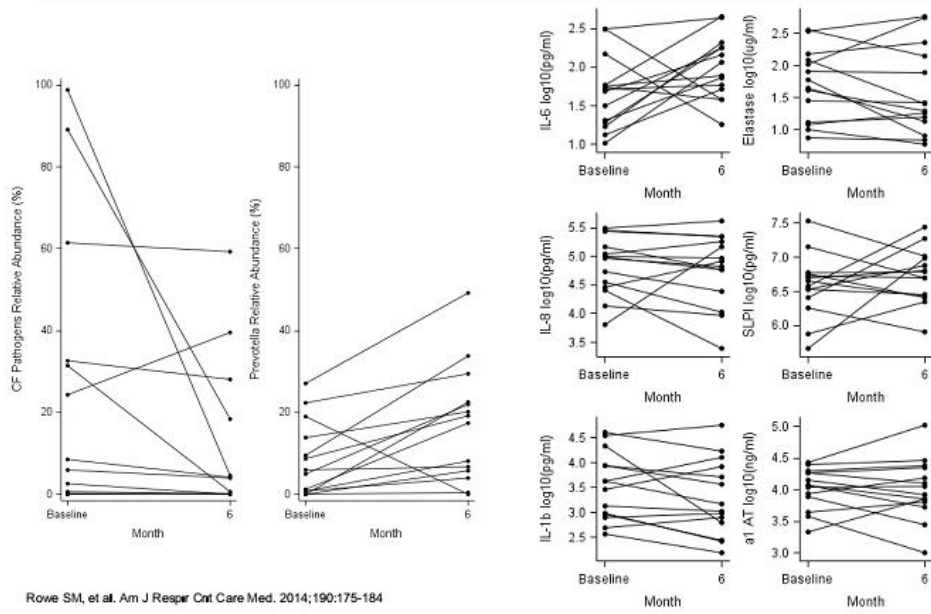


# Anti-inflammatory Approaches

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- Broad-based (multi-specific) agents
  - Azithromycin, Corticosteroids, ibuprofen & other NSAIDs, JBT-101, airway clearance, mucolytics, mucus hydrators
- Specific drugs and biologic agents
  - KB001A (*P. aeruginosa* TTSS), GMI-1051 (*P. aeruginosa* PA-IL, PA-IIL), Cytokine/eicosanoid inhibitors/antagonists, NF- $\kappa$ B and p38 MAPK inhibitors, IL-10, PPAR agonists, statins, PDE<sub>4</sub> inhibitors, LTB<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonists, adhesion molecule inhibitors, Dornase alfa (DNA),  $\alpha$ 1-antitrypsin (elastase), antioxidants, others

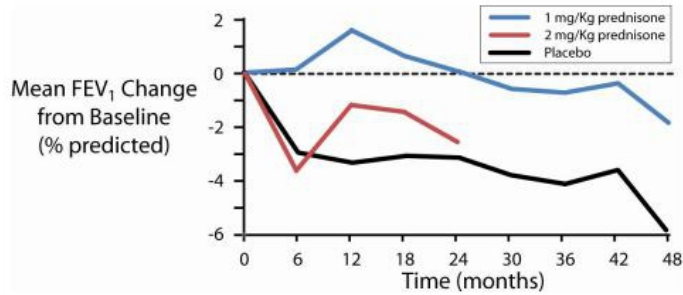
## Are Anti-inflammatory Drugs Still Necessary? Impact of Ivacaftor on Pulmonary Inflammation in G551D



## Proof of Concept: Oral Corticosteroids

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Alternate-day prednisone trials demonstrated the benefits of anti-inflammatory therapy

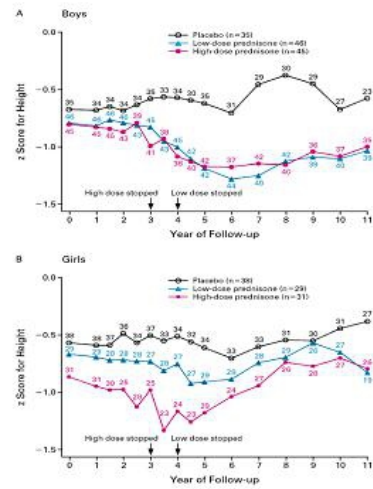


Eigen H et al. J Pediatr 1995

## Long-Term Follow-Up 4-yr Prednisone Trial

Growth and PFT assessed 6-7 years after completion of trial

- Growth impairment persisted, particularly in boys
- Pulmonary function benefit not sustained



Lai et al. NEJM 342:851, 2000

Growth following prednisone therapy

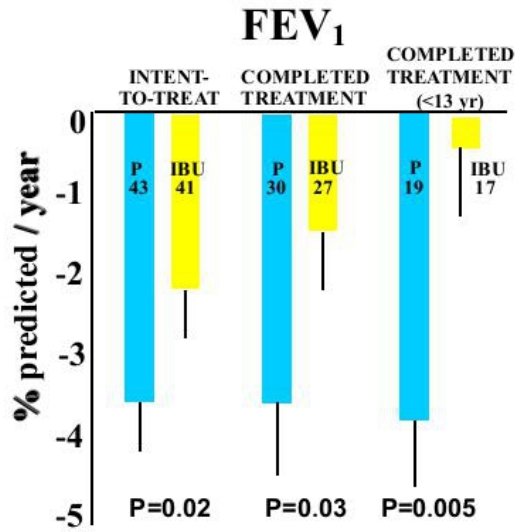
# Clinical Trial of High-Dose Ibuprofen

## STUDY DESIGN:

- 4 year DB/PC
- 85 CF pts, age 5-39 yrs
- Mild lung disease (FEV1 > 60% pred)
- Ibu 20-30 mg/kg BID

## RESULTS:

- Slowed PFT decline
- Slowed CXR deterioration
- Preserved IBW
- Reduced hospitalizations
- Reduced con. meds



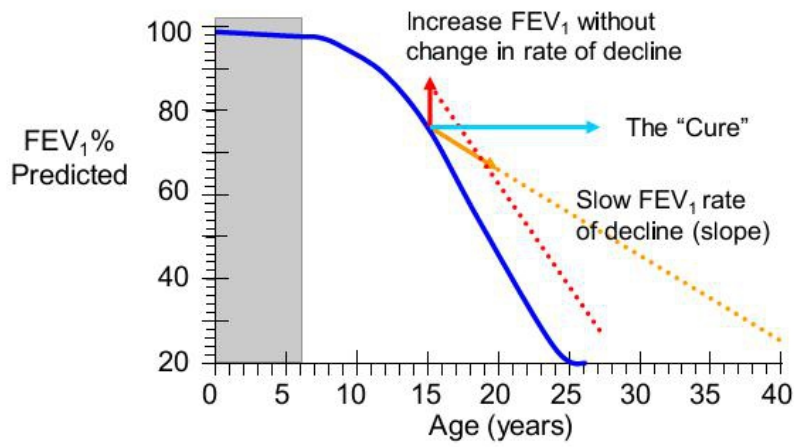
Konstan et al. NEJM 332:848, 1995



# Extrapolating Relative Benefit

Improvement in  $FEV_1$  vs. Slowing the Rate of Decline

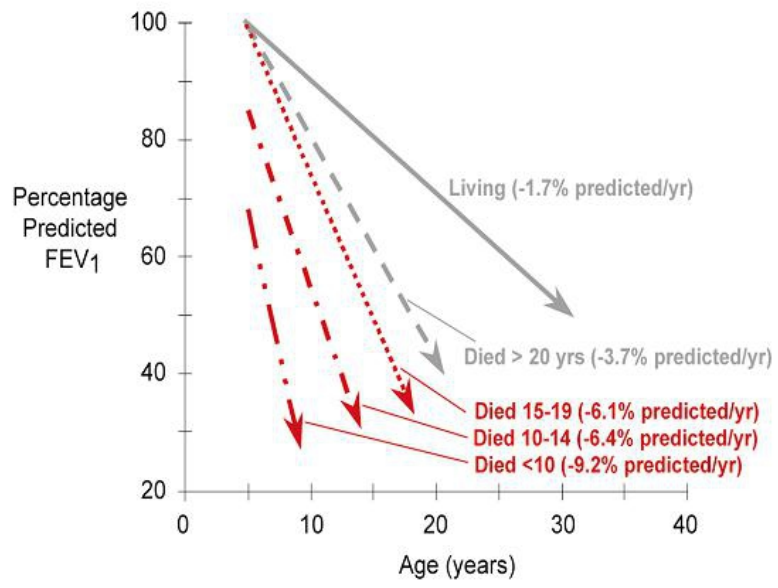
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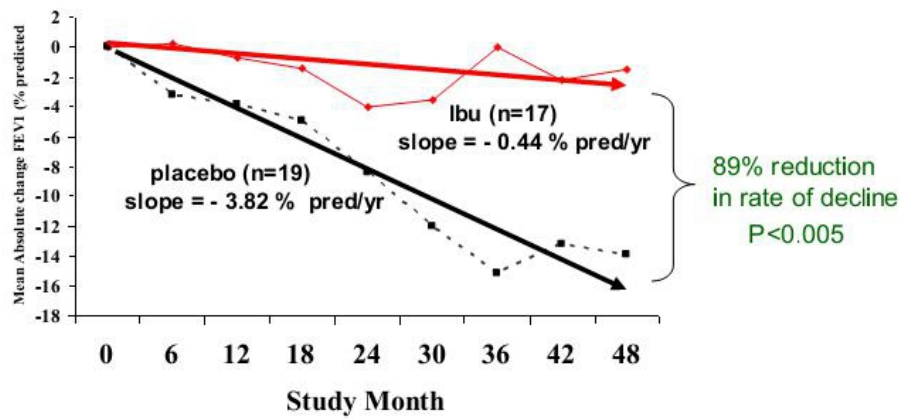
Corey et al., J Pediatr 1997; 131:809-814  
Schluchter et al., Statistics in Medicine 2002; 21:1271-1287



# Linking FEV<sub>1</sub> to Survival



## Annualized Rate of Decline of FEV<sub>1</sub> % pred *Ibuprofen Clinical Trial* 5 to 13 yr (efficacy)

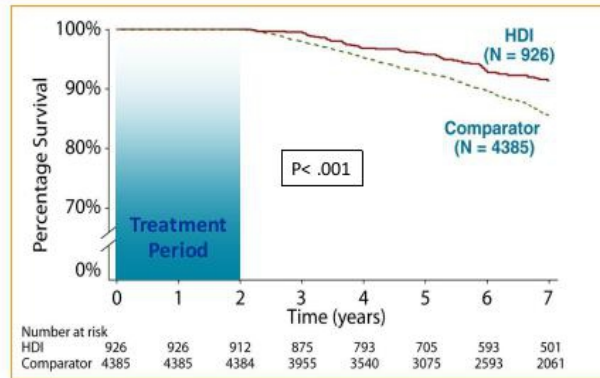


Konstan et al. NEJM 1995



# ESCF Registry: Ibuprofen Therapy Improves Survival

Unadjusted Time  
to All-Causes  
Mortality



### Kaplan-Meier:

- HDI survival = 91.5% [89.5%, 93.5%]

- Comparator = 85.6% [84.4%, 86.8%]

Unadjusted Cox proportional hazard = 0.522 ( $P < .001$ )

Adjusted\* Cox proportional hazard = 0.736 ( $P = .025$ )

\*17 covariates derived from regression  
of propensity variables

VanDevanter et al. NACFC 2012

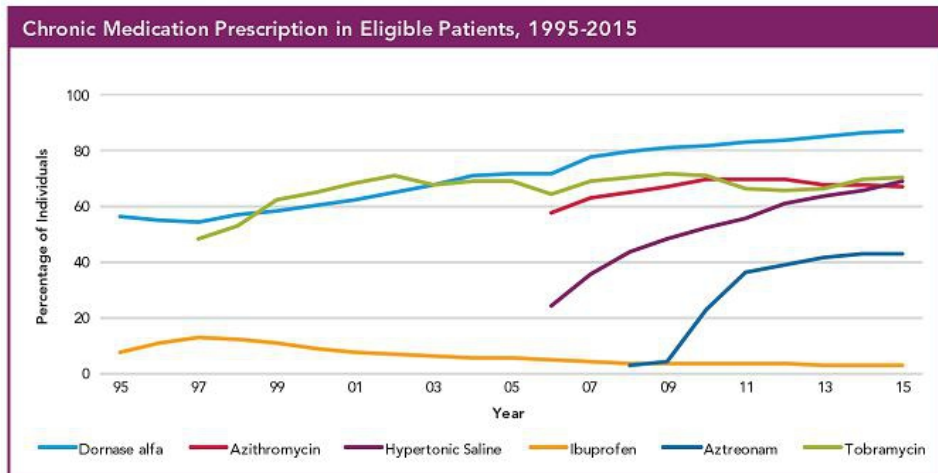


## **Potential Barriers to Ibuprofen Use in CF**

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- Beneficial effect on lung disease not accepted
- Concerns regarding safety
- Establishing individualized dose through pharmacokinetic testing logistically difficult

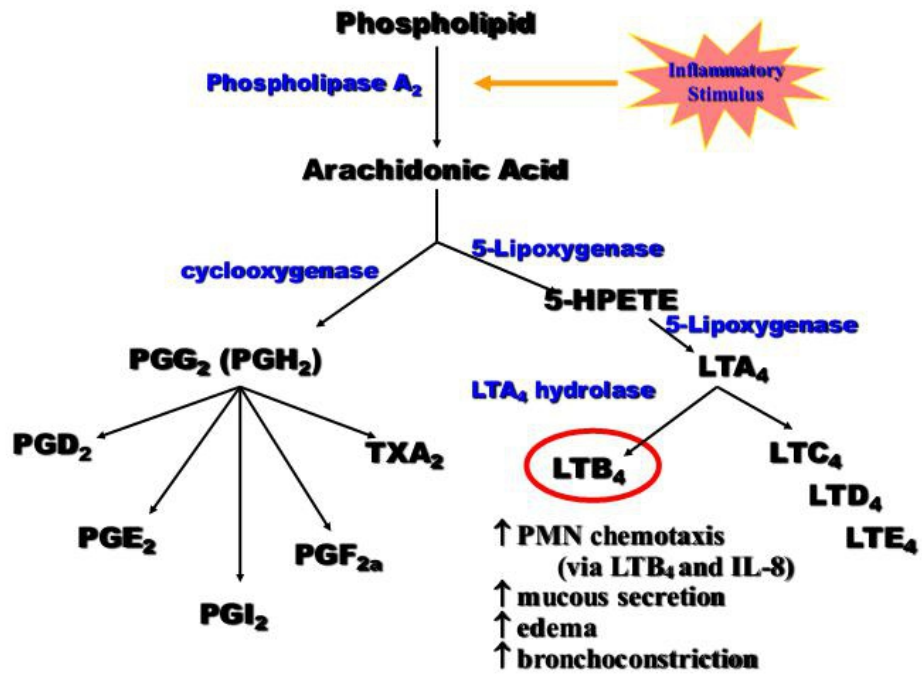
# Ibuprofen therapy not adopted by the CF Community



**2015 Median Use: 0.0 % of 6-12 yo with FEV1 > 60 % pred**

CFF Patient Registry 2015 Annual Data Report, October 2016



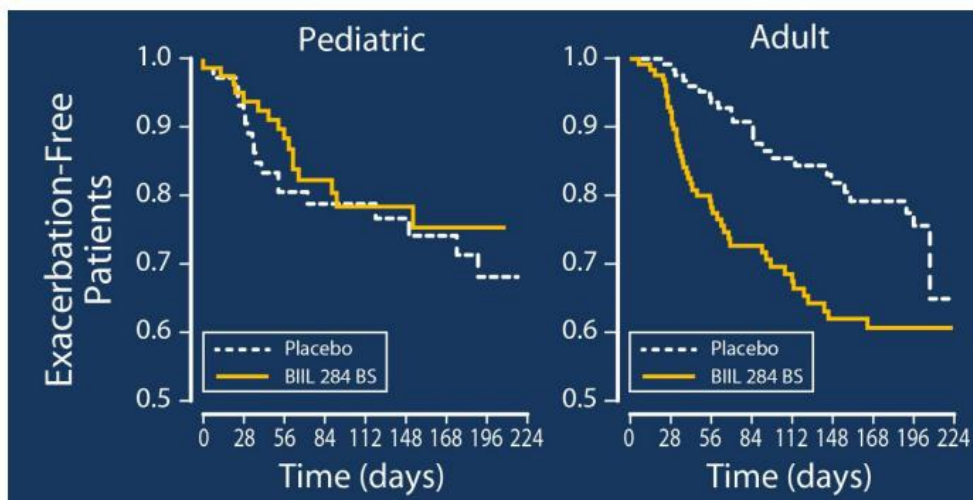


# Immune Over-suppression?

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- BIIL 284 BS
  - LTB<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonist
  - Suppresses neutrophil invasion
- Phase 1 study: single dose (N=30) and 14 day multi-dose (N=24) safety/PK study
- Multinational Phase 2 study
  - 6 months, 600 CF patients
  - Halted early (after 420 pts) due to safety concerns
    - Increased risk of pulmonary exacerbation

# BIIL 284 Phase 2 Time to Exacerbation



Konstan et al. J Cystic Fibros 2014;13:148-155



# Was BIIL 284 too Suppressive?

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- Hypothesis that over-suppression of neutrophil invasion may have led to changes in microbial community
  - Resulting in increased respiratory signs and symptoms in patients
- BIIL 284 mouse study\*
  - Mouse airways infected with *P. aeruginosa*
  - Mice treated with varying doses of BIIL 284
  - Neutrophil counts and *P. aeruginosa* CFU measured in airway lavage fluids

\* Döring et al. J Cystic Fibros 2014;13:156–163



## CF Inflammation: A Nuanced Target

- An exaggerated immune response has long term negative consequences for the CF lung

### HOWEVER...

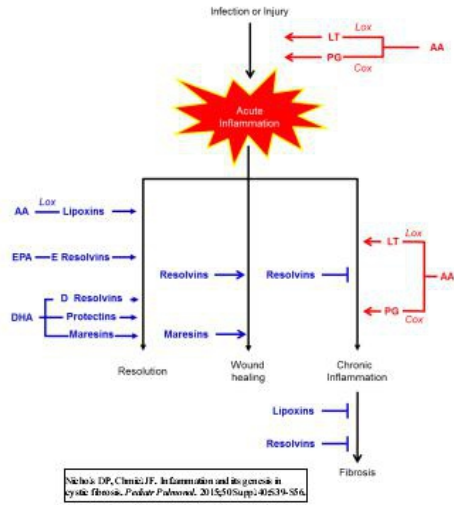
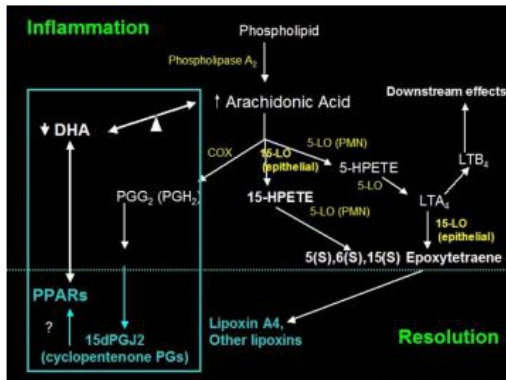
- The immune system also plays a critically *positive* role in the CF lung
  - Despite extremely high bacterial burdens in the lung lumen, CF patients *rarely* develop bacteremia
- Unlike bacteria or sticky mucus or apical surface dehydration, *elimination* of the CF immune system is not a desirable therapeutic goal

## Speculation

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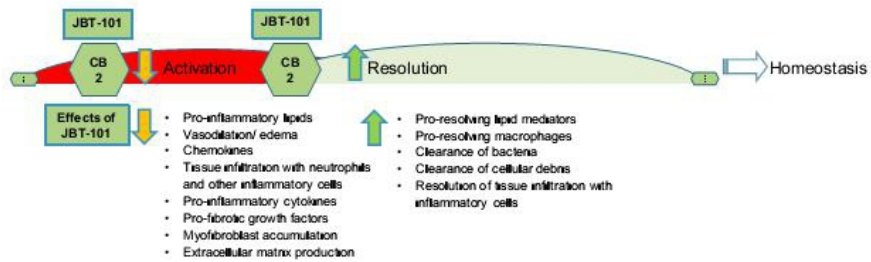
*Rather than trying to turn off pro-inflammatory pathways with therapeutics, perhaps the more prudent approach is to upregulate the body's own counter-regulatory mechanisms*

## Arachidonic Acid Pathway involved in Pathways that both promote and Resolve Inflammation



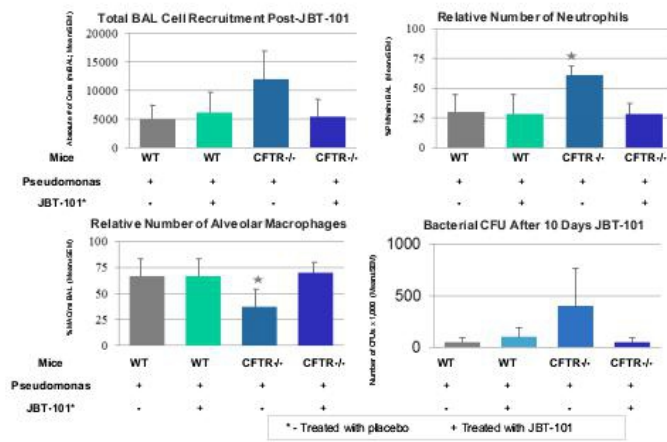
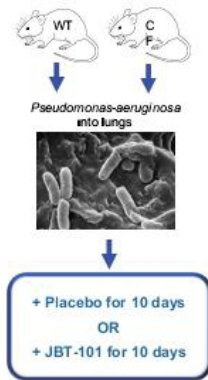
# JBT-101 SHIFTS THE BALANCE FROM ACTIVATION TO RESOLUTION OF INNATE IMMUNE AND FIBROTIC RESPONSES

Impact of JBT-101 on the course of a persistent innate immune response

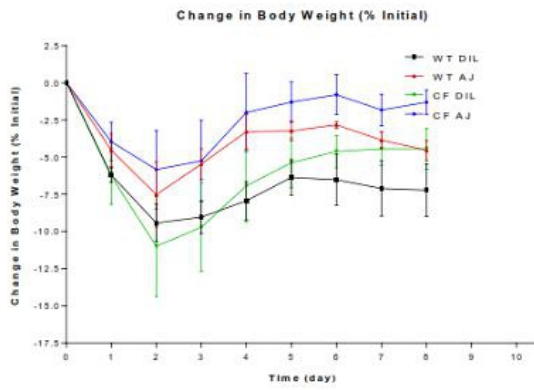


**JBT-101 is not immunosuppressive**

# JBT-101 REDUCES CHRONIC INFLAMMATION AND RESOLVES PERSISTENT INFECTION IN A MOUSE MODEL OF CYSTIC FIBROSIS



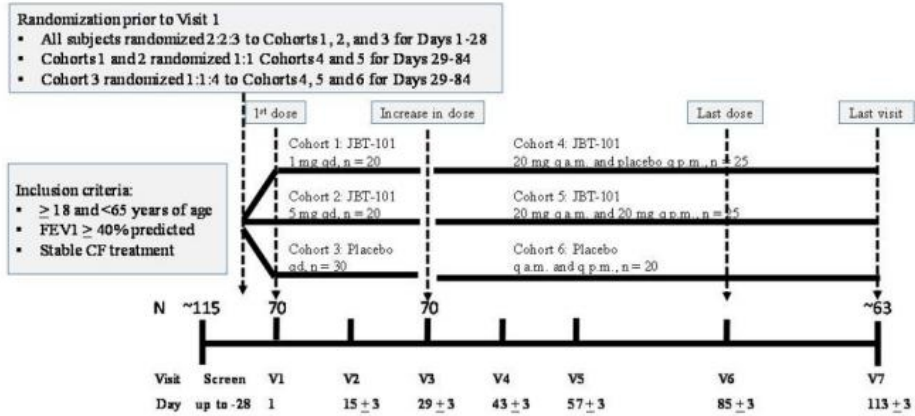
## JBT-101 REDUCES WEIGHT LOSS AND IMPROVES SURVIVAL IN A MOUSE MODEL OF CYSTIC FIBROSIS



GROUP	SURVIVAL RATE DAY 10
WT	5/5 (100%)
WT + JBT-101	5/5 (100%)
CF	3/5 (60%)
CF + JBT-101	5/5 (100%)

Bonfield, Tracey, Tepper, Mink 2015

# Study Design



# JBT-101: CF PHASE 2 CLINICAL STUDY

Top-Line Data Expected 1Q17								
<b>Primary Endpoint:</b> Safety and Tolerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study in the U.S. and EU</li> <li>• <b>Primary endpoints:</b> Safety/ tolerability</li> <li>• <b>Secondary endpoints:</b> Metabolipidomic profile for MOA, trends in efficacy (FEV1, Lung Clearance Index, CFQ-R Respiratory Symptom Score)</li> <li>• <b>Exploratory endpoints:</b> Biomarkers of disease activity and inflammation in blood and sputum, microbiota in the lungs, PK</li> <li>• <b>Patient number:</b> 85 adults with CF at 21 sites US, UK, Germany, Italy, and Poland</li> <li>• <b>Treatment duration:</b> 84 days treatment with 28 days follow-up</li> <li>• <b>Dose response:</b> 1 mg/day, 5 mg/day, 20 mg/day and 20 mg/day twice a day</li> </ul>							
<b>Secondary Endpoints:</b> Metabolipidomic profile Trends in FEV1, CFQ-R								
<b>Study Completed:</b> Last subject last visit 28 Dec 2016								
	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017
IND open with FDA	✓							
Study launch		✓						
First subject dosed			✓					
Enrollment complete						✓		
Last subject last visit							✓	
Anticipated top-line study data								✓





# Q&A



# CLOSING REMARKS

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*Chief Executive Officer, Director*



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