

**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): August 10, 2020**

**WAVE LIFE SCIENCES LTD.**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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

**001-37627**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**00-0000000**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**7 Straits View #12-00, Marina One  
East Tower  
Singapore**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**018936**  
(Zip Code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: +65 6236 3388**

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))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading symbol	Name of each exchange on which registered
<b>\$0 Par Value Ordinary Shares</b>	<b>WVE</b>	<b>The Nasdaq Global Market</b>

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

**Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.**

On August 10, 2020, Wave Life Sciences Ltd. (the “Company”) announced its financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2020. The full text of the press release issued in connection with the announcement is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated by reference herein.

**Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.**

From time to time, the Company presents and/or distributes slides and presentations to the investment community to provide updates and summaries of its business. On August 10, 2020, the Company updated its corporate presentation, which is available on the “For Investors & Media” section of the Company’s website at <http://ir.wavelifesciences.com/>. This presentation is also furnished as Exhibit 99.2 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

*The information in these Items 2.02 and 7.01 shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.*

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits

The following exhibits relating to Items 2.02 and 7.01 are furnished and not filed:

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	<a href="#">Press Release issued by Wave Life Sciences Ltd. dated August 10, 2020</a>
99.2	<a href="#">Corporate Presentation of Wave Life Sciences Ltd. dated August 10, 2020</a>
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

## 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.

### WAVE LIFE SCIENCES LTD.

By: /s/ Paul B. Bolno, M.D.

Paul B. Bolno, M.D.

President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: August 10, 2020



## Wave Life Sciences Reports Second Quarter 2020 Financial Results and Provides Business Update

*Data from 32 mg cohorts of both PRECISION-HD trials and PRECISION-HD OLE trials expected in 1Q 2021*

*C9orf72 and SNP3 clinical trial applications on track to be submitted in 4Q 2020*

*ADAR editing advancing with additional in vivo data expected at upcoming Analyst & Investor Research Webcast*

*Wave to host investor conference call and webcast at 8:30 a.m. ET today*

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass., August 10, 2020** – Wave Life Sciences Ltd. (Nasdaq: WVE), a clinical-stage genetic medicines company committed to delivering life-changing treatments for people battling devastating diseases, today announced financial results for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020 and provided a business update.

“In the second quarter, despite persistent global challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to execute on our clinical and preclinical neurology programs. Our clinical, laboratory and manufacturing teams have proven to be adaptable and resilient as they work amidst new operating environments,” said Paul Bolno, MD, MBA, President and Chief Executive Officer of Wave Life Sciences. “We are on track to submit clinical trial applications for our C9orf72 program for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and frontotemporal dementia and our SNP3 program for HD in the fourth quarter of this year, both of which are designed with a novel chemistry application from our PRISM platform. During our upcoming Analyst & Investor Research Webcast on August 25, we plan to share exciting updates on our platform, including advances in oligonucleotide chemistry and our promising ADAR editing modality, and new preclinical data for our C9orf72 program.”

### Recent business highlights

**PRECISION-HD programs for Huntington’s disease (HD):** Wave is developing a unique portfolio of investigational stereopure oligonucleotides designed to selectively target the mutant allele of the huntingtin (mHTT) gene, while leaving the wild-type (wtHTT) protein relatively intact.

#### PRECISION-HD trials:

- The PRECISION-HD1 and PRECISION-HD2 Phase 1b/2a clinical trials evaluating investigational WVE-120101 and WVE-120102, stereopure oligonucleotides designed to selectively target the mHTT mRNA transcript that contains SNP rs362307 (SNP1) and rs362331 (SNP2), respectively, in patients with HD are ongoing.
- Wave expects to report data from the PRECISION-HD1 and PRECISION-HD2 trials, including the 32 mg dose cohorts for each trial, in the first quarter of 2021.
- Open-label extension (OLE) clinical trials for patients outside of the U.S. who participated in the Phase 1b/2a PRECISION-HD trials are ongoing, and data is expected to be reported in the first quarter of 2021.
- Wave continues to work closely with the PRECISION-HD clinical trial sites, which continue to face restrictions due to COVID-19.
- Wave is assessing the potential for a higher dose cohort to be added to both PRECISION-HD trials.



Publications:

- In May 2020, Wave's prospective observational study of the frequency of SNP1 and SNP2 in patients with HD was published in *Neurology Genetics*. As described in the manuscript titled "Genotyping single nucleotide polymorphisms for allele-selective therapy in Huntington's disease," the study confirms the feasibility of rapidly and prospectively identifying SNP1 and / or SNP2 in association with the mHTT allele in patients with HD, to enable allele-selective, personalized treatment approaches in eligible patients.

**SNP3 program for HD:** Wave is advancing a third allele-selective HD program, which is designed to selectively target an undisclosed SNP on the mHTT mRNA transcript (SNP3), while leaving the wild-type (wtHTT) protein relatively intact.

- Wave expects to initiate clinical development with the submission of a clinical trial application (CTA) for its SNP3 program in the fourth quarter of 2020.

**C9orf72 program for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and frontotemporal dementia (FTD):** Wave's C9orf72 program is designed to selectively target the transcripts containing the hexanucleotide repeat expansion (G4C2) in the *C9orf72* gene.

- Wave is advancing its C9orf72 preclinical program to potentially treat ALS and FTD and expects to initiate clinical development with the submission of a CTA in the fourth quarter of 2020.

**Central nervous system (CNS) programs in collaboration with Takeda:** Wave is leveraging its learnings from PRISM™, its proprietary discovery and drug development platform, to design additional stereopure oligonucleotides with optimized profiles for CNS indications, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and others, as part of its ongoing collaboration with Takeda.

- To date, Wave has achieved target validation *in vivo* with a lead compound for two programs and expects to achieve target validation for a third program in 2020.

**ADAR editing:** Wave is advancing a novel RNA editing platform capability using endogenous ADAR (adenosine deaminases acting on RNA) enzymes via free uptake (non-viral, no nanoparticles) of A-to-I base editing oligonucleotides, which has the potential to be a best-in-class RNA editing modality.

- In May 2020, Wave presented at the American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy (ASGCT) Annual Meeting. The poster presentation highlighted data that demonstrated Wave's RNA editing oligonucleotides achieved editing across multiple distinct transcripts in primary human hepatocytes *in vitro*, which suggests Wave's platform is applicable to a wide range of disease targets.
- Wave continues to advance its ADAR editing technology *in vitro* across multiple cell types and *in vivo* in multiple tissues. In the second quarter of 2020, Wave achieved successful editing of ACTB (Beta-actin) mRNA in non-human primates (NHPs) via endogenous ADARs using stereopure GalNAc-conjugated oligonucleotides. Wave expects to share additional *in vivo* ADAR editing data at its upcoming Analyst and Investor Research Webcast on August 25, 2020 and at scientific meetings in the second half of 2020.
- Wave also expects to announce its first ADAR editing program in 2020.

**Strengthening leadership team:** In May 2020, Wave appointed Kenneth Rhodes, PhD, as Senior Vice President, Therapeutics Discovery. Dr. Rhodes is responsible for defining the strategy and guiding discovery research to design new therapeutic candidates and advance them to the clinic, with an initial focus on neurological diseases.

**Analyst and Investor Research Webcast:** Wave is scheduled to hold an Analyst and Investor Research Webcast to discuss its latest PRISM platform advancements and neurology-focused oligonucleotide pipeline on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

- The webcast event will feature presentations from several members of Wave's management team, including President and CEO Paul Bolno, MD, MBA, who will present an update on Wave's strategy to become a leading genetic medicines company focused on neurology. Chandra Vargeese, PhD, Chief Technology Officer, will present an update on Wave's PRISM platform, novel chemistry advancements, and new data on Wave's ADAR editing platform capability. Kenneth Rhodes, PhD, Senior Vice President, Therapeutics Discovery, will present on Wave's current neurology pipeline, including its C9orf72 program for ALS and FTD, and opportunities to apply PRISM to address additional neurological diseases.

## Second Quarter 2020 Financial Results and Financial Guidance

Wave reported a net loss of \$40.5 million in the second quarter of 2020 as compared to \$41.9 million in the same period in 2019.

Research and development expenses were \$31.5 million in the second quarter of 2020 as compared to \$41.6 million in the same period in 2019. The decrease in research and development expenses in the second quarter was primarily due to decreased external expenses related to suvodirsen due to our December 2019 decision to discontinue the program, partially offset by increased external expenses related to our clinical and preclinical activities, including our HD and C9orf72 programs for ALS and FTD.

General and administrative expenses were \$10.2 million in the second quarter of 2020 as compared to \$11.6 million in the same period in 2019. The decrease in general and administrative expenses in the second quarter of 2020 was mainly driven by decreased headcount resulting from the workforce reduction implemented in February 2020.

As of June 30, 2020, Wave had \$94.1 million in cash and cash equivalents as compared to \$147.2 million as of December 31, 2019. The decrease in cash and cash equivalents was mainly due to Wave's year-to-date net loss of \$88 million, partially offset by the receipt of \$20 million in research support funding from Takeda under our collaboration and \$12 million in net proceeds under our at-the-market equity program.

Wave expects that its existing cash and cash equivalents, together with expected and committed cash from its existing collaboration will enable the company to fund its operating and capital expenditure requirements into the fourth quarter of 2021.

## Investor Conference Call and Webcast

Wave management will host an investor conference call today at 8:30 a.m. ET to discuss the company's second quarter 2020 operating results and provide a business update. The conference call may be accessed by dialing (866) 220-8068 (domestic) or +1 (470) 495-9153 (international) and entering conference ID 4791316. The live webcast may be accessed from the investor relations section of the Wave Life Sciences corporate website at [ir.wavelifesciences.com](http://ir.wavelifesciences.com). Following the webcast, a replay will be available on the website.

## About PRISM™

PRISM is Wave Life Sciences' proprietary discovery and drug development platform that enables genetically defined diseases to be targeted with stereopure oligonucleotides across multiple therapeutic modalities. PRISM combines the company's unique ability to construct stereopure oligonucleotides with a deep understanding of how the interplay among oligonucleotide sequence, chemistry and backbone stereochemistry impacts key pharmacological properties. By exploring these interactions through iterative analysis of *in vitro* and *in vivo* outcomes and artificial intelligence-driven predictive modeling, the company continues to define design principles that are deployed across programs to rapidly develop and manufacture clinical candidates that meet pre-defined product profiles.

## About Wave Life Sciences

Wave Life Sciences (Nasdaq: WVE) is a clinical-stage genetic medicines company committed to delivering life-changing treatments for people battling devastating diseases. Wave aspires to develop best-in-class medicines across multiple therapeutic modalities using PRISM™, the company's proprietary discovery and drug development platform that enables the precise design, optimization and production of stereopure oligonucleotides. Driven by a resolute sense of urgency, the Wave team is targeting a broad range of genetically defined diseases so that patients and families may realize a brighter future. To find out more, please visit [wavelifesciences.com](http://wavelifesciences.com) and follow Wave on Twitter [@WaveLifeSci](https://twitter.com/WaveLifeSci).

## Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements concerning our goals, beliefs, expectations, strategies, objectives and plans, and other statements that are not necessarily based on historical facts, including statements regarding the following, among others: the anticipated commencement, patient enrollment, data readouts and completion of our clinical trials, and the announcement of such events; the protocol, design and endpoints of our ongoing and planned clinical trials; the future performance and results of our programs in clinical trials; future preclinical activities and programs; regulatory submissions; the progress and potential benefits of our collaborations with partners; the potential of our in vitro and in vivo preclinical data to predict the behavior of our compounds in humans; our identification of future candidates and their therapeutic potential; the anticipated therapeutic benefits of our potential therapies compared to others; our ability to design compounds using multiple modalities and the anticipated benefits of that model; the anticipated benefits of our proprietary manufacturing processes and our internal manufacturing capabilities; the potential benefits of PRISM and our stereopure oligonucleotides compared with stereorandom oligonucleotides; the benefit of nucleic acid therapeutics generally; the strength of our intellectual property; the anticipated duration of our cash runway; and our expectations regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business. Actual results may differ materially from those indicated by these forward-looking statements as a result of various important factors, including the following: our ability to finance our drug discovery and development efforts and to raise additional capital when needed; the severity and duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and its potentially negative impact on the conduct of, and the timing of enrollment, completion and reporting with respect to, our clinical trials; any other impacts on our business as a result of or related to the COVID-19 pandemic; the ability of our preclinical programs to produce data sufficient to support our clinical trial applications and the timing thereof; our ability to maintain the company infrastructure and personnel needed to achieve our goals; the clinical results of our programs, which may not support further development of product candidates; actions of regulatory agencies, which may affect the initiation, timing and progress of clinical trials; our effectiveness in managing future clinical trials and regulatory interactions; the effectiveness of PRISM; the continued development and acceptance of oligonucleotides as a class of medicines; our ability to demonstrate the therapeutic benefits of our candidates in clinical trials, including our ability to develop candidates across multiple therapeutic modalities; our dependence on third parties, including contract research organizations, contract manufacturing organizations, collaborators and partners; our ability to manufacture or contract with third parties to manufacture drug material to support our programs and growth; our ability to obtain, maintain and protect our intellectual property; our ability to enforce our patents against infringers and defend our patent portfolio against challenges from third parties; and competition from others developing therapies for similar indications, as well as the information under the caption “Risk Factors” contained in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and in other filings we make with the SEC from time to time. We undertake no obligation to update the information contained in this press release to reflect subsequently occurring events or circumstances.

**WAVE LIFE SCIENCES LTD.**  
**UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(In thousands, except share amounts)

	<u>June 30, 2020</u>	<u>December 31, 2019</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 94,054	\$ 147,161
Current portion of accounts receivable	30,000	20,000
Prepaid expenses	6,452	9,626
Other current assets	16,328	8,689
Total current assets	<u>146,834</u>	<u>185,476</u>
Long-term assets:		
Accounts receivable, net of current portion	—	30,000
Property and equipment, net	33,096	36,368
Operating lease right-of-use assets	17,201	18,101
Restricted cash	3,650	3,647
Other assets	3,170	10,658
Total long-term assets	<u>57,117</u>	<u>98,774</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 203,951</u>	<u>\$ 284,250</u>
<b>Liabilities, Series A preferred shares and shareholders' equity</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 13,910	\$ 9,073
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	8,220	16,185
Current portion of deferred revenue	84,849	89,652
Current portion of operating lease liability	3,473	3,243
Total current liabilities	<u>110,452</u>	<u>118,153</u>
Long-term liabilities:		
Deferred revenue, net of current portion	61,081	63,466
Operating lease liability, net of current portion	27,513	29,304
Other liabilities	1,520	1,721
Total long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 90,114</u>	<u>\$ 94,491</u>
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 200,566</u>	<u>\$ 212,644</u>
Series A preferred shares, no par value; 3,901,348 shares issued and outstanding at June 30, 2020 and December 31, 2019	<u>\$ 7,874</u>	<u>\$ 7,874</u>
Shareholders' equity:		
Ordinary shares, no par value; 35,732,154 and 34,340,690 shares issued and outstanding at June 30, 2020 and December 31, 2019, respectively	\$ 551,543	\$ 539,547
Additional paid-in capital	65,070	57,277
Accumulated other comprehensive income	278	267
Accumulated deficit	(621,380)	(533,359)
Total shareholders' equity	<u>\$ (4,489)</u>	<u>\$ 63,732</u>
Total liabilities, Series A preferred shares and shareholders' equity	<u>\$ 203,951</u>	<u>\$ 284,250</u>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of the unaudited consolidated financial statements.*

**WAVE LIFE SCIENCES LTD.**  
**UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS**

*(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)*

	<b>Three Months Ended June 30,</b>		<b>Six Months Ended June 30,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Revenue	\$ 3,027	\$ 7,628	\$ 7,188	\$ 10,654
Operating expenses:				
Research and development	31,478	41,605	72,636	81,718
General and administrative	10,205	11,640	23,201	22,541
Total operating expenses	41,683	53,245	95,837	104,259
Loss from operations	(38,656)	(45,617)	(88,649)	(93,605)
Other income (expense), net:				
Dividend income	135	1,544	520	2,968
Interest income (expense), net	(2)	8	1	19
Other income (expense), net	(2,005)	2,123	107	4,476
Total other income (expense), net	(1,872)	3,675	628	7,463
Loss before income taxes	(40,528)	(41,942)	(88,021)	(86,142)
Income tax provision	—	—	—	—
Net loss	\$ (40,528)	\$ (41,942)	\$ (88,021)	\$ (86,142)
Net loss per share attributable to ordinary shareholders—basic and diluted	\$ (1.15)	\$ (1.22)	\$ (2.53)	\$ (2.58)
Weighted-average ordinary shares used in computing net loss per share attributable to ordinary shareholders—basic and diluted	35,212,291	34,260,298	34,836,898	33,433,322
Other comprehensive income (loss):				
Net loss	\$ (40,528)	\$ (41,942)	\$ (88,021)	\$ (86,142)
Foreign currency translation	5	30	11	127
Comprehensive loss	\$ (40,523)	\$ (41,912)	\$ (88,010)	\$ (86,015)

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of the unaudited consolidated financial statements.*

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Wave Life Sciences  
Corporate Presentation  
August 10, 2020



# Forward-looking statements

This document contains forward-looking statements. All statements other than statements of historical facts contained in this document, including statements regarding possible or assumed future results of operations, preclinical and clinical studies, business strategies, research and development plans, collaborations and partnerships, regulatory activities and timing thereof, competitive position, potential growth opportunities, use of proceeds and the effects of competition are forward-looking statements. These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors that may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of Wave Life Sciences Ltd. (the "Company") to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as "may," "will," "should," "expect," "plan," "aim," "anticipate," "could," "intend," "target," "project," "contemplate," "believe," "estimate," "predict," "potential" or "continue" or the negative of these terms or other similar expressions. The forward-looking statements in this presentation are only predictions. The Company has based these forward-looking statements largely on its current expectations and projections about future events and financial trends that it believes may affect the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this presentation and are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including those listed under Risk Factors in the Company's Form 10-K and other filings with the SEC, some of which cannot be predicted or quantified and some of which are beyond the Company's control. The events and circumstances reflected in the Company's forward-looking statements may not be achieved or occur, and actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. Moreover, the Company operates in a dynamic industry and economy. New risk factors and uncertainties may emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for management to predict all risk factors and uncertainties that the Company may face. Except as required by applicable law, the Company does not plan to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements contained herein, whether as a result of any new information, future events, changed circumstances or otherwise.

# Building a leading genetic medicines company



## INNOVATIVE PLATFORM

- Stereopure oligonucleotides
- Backbone modifications
- Allele-selectivity
- Novel modalities (ADAR)
- Foundational stereochemistry IP



## FOUNDATION OF NEUROLOGY PROGRAMS

- Huntington's disease
- ALS / FTD
- Ataxias
- Parkinson's disease
- Alzheimer's disease



## CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERTISE

- Multiple global clinical trials ongoing across eight countries
- Innovative trial designs



## MANUFACTURING

- Established internal manufacturing capabilities to produce oligonucleotides at scale

ALS: Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; FTD: Frontotemporal dementia



# Innovative pipeline led by neurology programs

THERAPEUTIC AREA	TARGET	DISCOVERY	PRECLINICAL	CLINICAL	ESTIMATED U.S. PREVALENCE*	PARTNER
NEUROLOGY						
Huntington's disease	WVE-120101 mHTT SNP1	Phase 1b/2a and OLE			~10,000 / ~35,000	Takeda 50:50 option
	WVE-120102 mHTT SNP2	Phase 1b/2a and OLE			~10,000 / ~35,000	Takeda 50:50 option
	mHTT SNP3				~8,000 / ~30,000	Takeda 50:50 option
ALS and FTD	C9orf72				~1,800 (ALS) ~7,000 (FTD)	Takeda 50:50 option
SCA3	ATXN3				~4,500	Takeda 50:50 option
CNS diseases	Multiple†					Takeda milestones & royalties
ADAR editing	Multiple					100% global
HEPATIC						
ADAR editing	Undisclosed					100% global
OPHTHALMOLOGY						
Retinal diseases	USH2A and RhoP23H					100% global



\*Estimates of U.S. prevalence and addressable population by target based on publicly available data and are approximate; for Huntington's disease, numbers approximate manifest and pre-manifest populations, respectively.

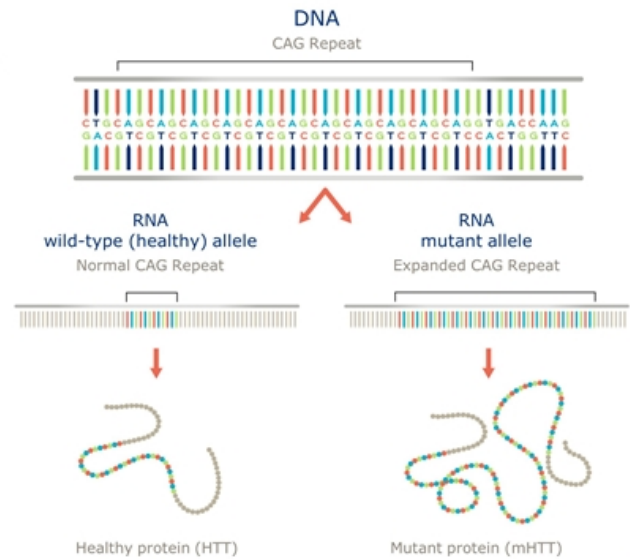
†During a four-year term, Wave and Takeda may collaborate on up to six preclinical targets at any one time.

ALS: Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; FTD: Frontotemporal dementia; SCA3: Spinocerebellar ataxia 3 CNS: Central nervous system; OLE: Open-label extension

## HD portfolio Huntington's Disease

# Huntington's disease: a hereditary, fatal disorder

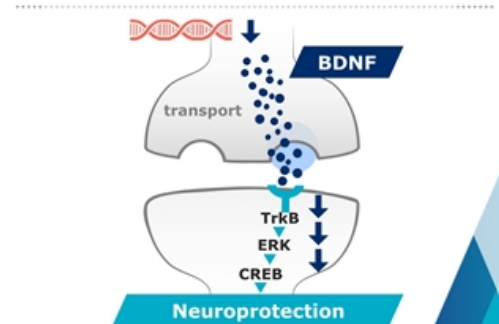
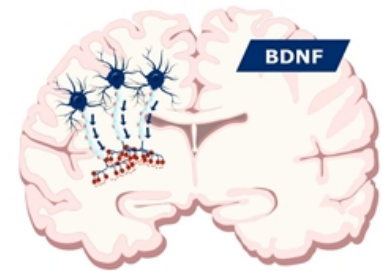
- Autosomal dominant disease, characterized by cognitive decline, psychiatric illness and chorea; fatal
- No approved disease-modifying therapies
- Expanded CAG triplet repeat in HTT gene results in production of mutant huntingtin protein (mHTT); accumulation of mHTT causes progressive loss of neurons in the brain
- Wild-type (healthy) HTT protein critical for neuronal function; evidence suggests wild-type HTT loss of function plays a role in Huntington's disease
- 30,000 people with Huntington's disease in the US; another 200,000 at risk of developing the condition



# Importance of wild-type huntingtin (wtHTT) in HD

Huntington's disease (HD) may be caused by a dominant gain of function in mutant HTT *and* a loss of function of wtHTT protein

- Evidence suggests wild-type or healthy HTT is neuroprotective in an adult brain
  - Transport of key neurotrophic factors such as brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) are regulated by wtHTT levels
- Relative proportion of wild-type to mutant protein is critical
  - Increased amount of wild-type protein relative to mutant HTT may result in slower disease progression (measured by age-at-onset)
  - Patients with lack of wild-type have significantly more severe disease (measured by disease progression after symptom onset)



# Nature publication contributes to weight of evidence on importance of wild-type huntingtin

## nature

Article

### Injured adult neurons regress to an embryonic transcriptional growth state

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2200-5>

Received: 12 April 2019

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Published online: 15 April 2020

Check for updates

Gunnar H. D. Poplawski<sup>1,2</sup>, Riki Kawaguchi<sup>1,2</sup>, Erna Van Nieuwenhove<sup>1</sup>, Paul Li<sup>1,2</sup>, Neil Mehta<sup>1</sup>, Philip Canessa<sup>1</sup>, Richard Liu<sup>1</sup>, Joannis Dragatsis<sup>1</sup>, Jessica M. Meves<sup>1</sup>, Binhai Zhang<sup>1,2</sup>, Giovanni Coppola<sup>1,2</sup> & Mark W. Tuszynski<sup>1,2</sup>

Grafts of spinal cord-derived neural progenitor cells (NPCs) enable the robust regeneration of corticospinal axons and restore forelimb function after spinal cord injury<sup>1</sup>; however, the molecular mechanisms that underlie this regeneration are unknown. Here we perform translational profiling specifically of corticospinal tract (CST) motor neurons in mice, to identify their 'regenerative transcriptome' after spinal cord injury and NPC grafting. Notably, both injury alone and injury combined with NPC grafts elicit virtually identical early transcriptomic responses in host CST neurons. However, in mice with injury alone this regenerative transcriptome is downregulated after two weeks, whereas in NPC-grafted mice this transcriptome is sustained. The regenerative transcriptome represents a reversion to an embryonic transcriptional state of the CST neurons. The huntingtin gene (*Htt*) is a central hub in the regeneration transcriptome; deletion of *Htt* significantly attenuates regeneration, which shows that *Htt* has a key role in neural plasticity after injury.

- Conditional knock-out of *Htt* in 4-month old mice (post-neuronal development)
- Results suggest that:
  - 1) *Htt* plays a central role in the regenerating transcriptome (potentially influencing genes such as NFκB, STAT3, BDNF)
  - 2) *Htt* is essential for regeneration

“Indeed, conditional gene deletion showed that *Htt* is required for neuronal repair. Throughout life, neuronal maintenance and repair are essential to support adequate cellular functioning”

WAVE<sup>™</sup>  
LIFE SCIENCES

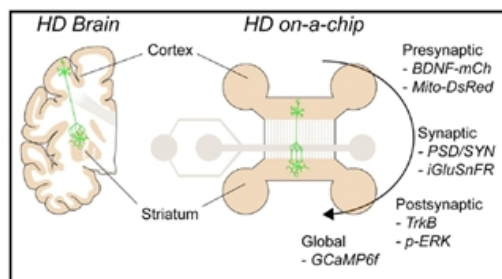
Poplawski et al., *Nature*, April 2019; *Htt*: Huntingtin protein










**wtHTT in HD highlighted at CHDI 15<sup>th</sup> Annual HD Therapeutics Conference:**

- Striatal projection neurons require HTT for motor regulation, synaptic development, cell health, and survival during aging
- Loss of HTT function could play a critical role in HD pathogenesis

- HTT LoF mutations highly constrained in human population, suggesting selection against LoF mutations

# Wild-type HTT in the cortex appears critical for striatal health



Neuron Type	Genetic Status				Compartment
Cortical	WT 	WT 	HD 	HD 	
Striatal					
Network Status	Functional		Dysfunctional		

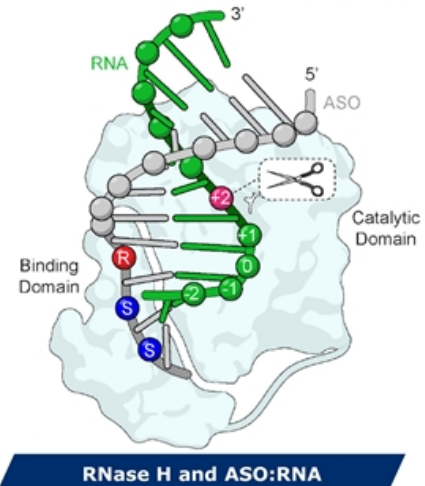
**Status of the presynaptic compartment determines the integrity of the network**



# Wave approach: novel, allele-selective silencing

Aims to lower mHTT transcript while leaving healthy wild-type HTT relatively intact

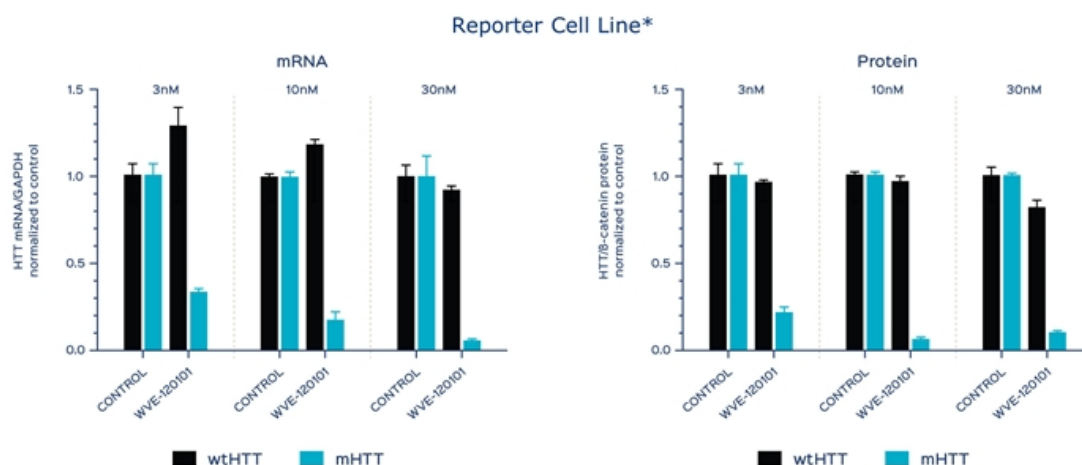
- Utilize association between single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and genetic mutations to specifically target errors in genetic disorders, including Huntington's disease (HD)
- Potential to provide treatment for up to 80% of HD population



**Allele-selectivity possible by targeting SNPs associated with expanded long CAG repeat in HTT gene**



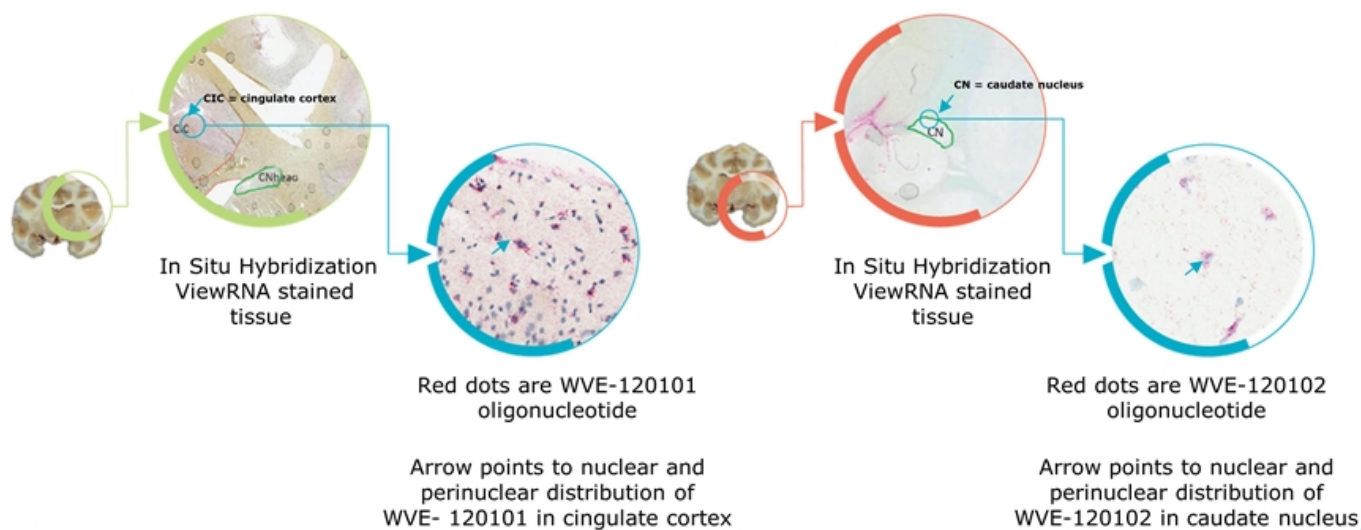
# Selective reduction of mHTT mRNA & protein



\*These results were replicated in a patient-derived cell line

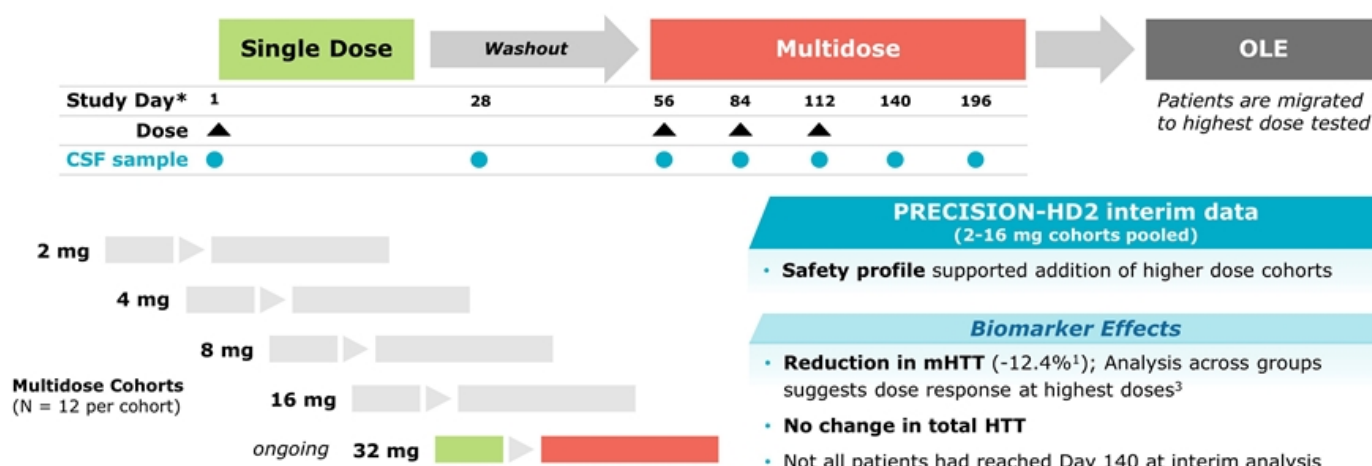
## Demonstrated delivery to brain tissue

- WVE-120101 and WVE-120102 distribution in cynomolgus non-human primate brain following intrathecal bolus injection



# PRECISION-HD clinical trials

Two Phase 1b/2a clinical trials for WVE-120101 and WVE-120102



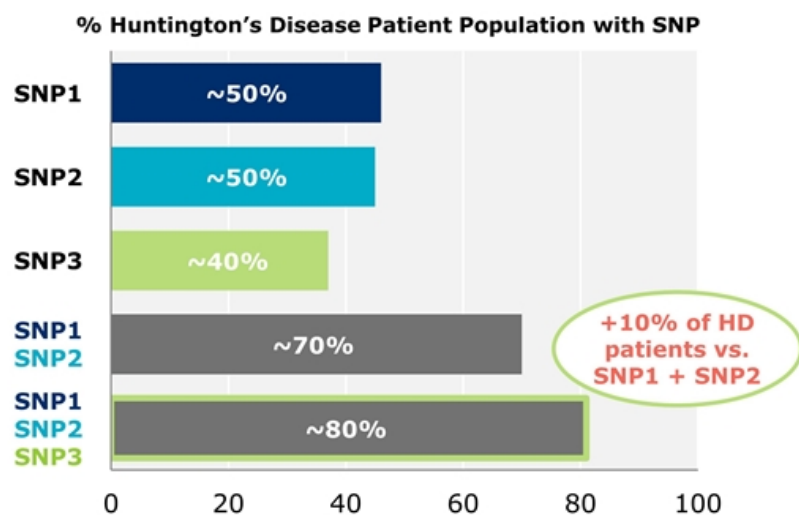
**PRECISION-HD2 and PRECISION-HD1 data, including 32 mg cohorts and OLE data, expected in 1Q 2021**

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OLE: Open label extension; CSF: cerebrospinal fluid; mHTT: mutant huntingtin; wtHTT: wild-type HTT; tHTT: total HTT  
<sup>1</sup> Study day may vary depending on patient washout period <sup>2</sup>Hodges-Lehmann non-parametric shift estimates of the difference between treatment and placebo, p<0.05 (Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney non-parametric significance test); <sup>3</sup> Multiple Contrast Test (MCT), p=0.03; Interim data announced December 2019

# Three allele-selective HD programs

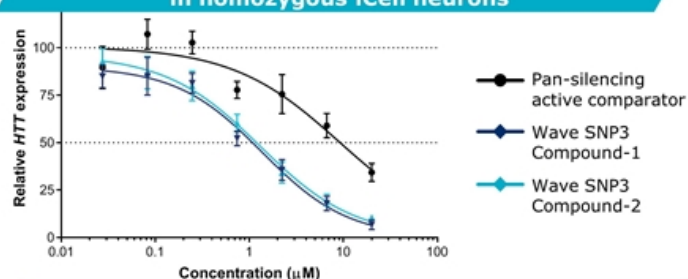
Potential to address ~80% of HD patient population



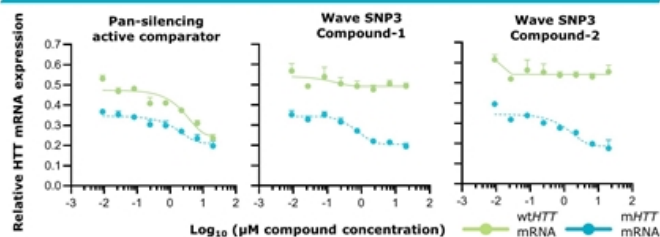
Intend to explore efficacy in early manifest and pre-manifest HD patient populations

# SNP3 program approaching clinical development

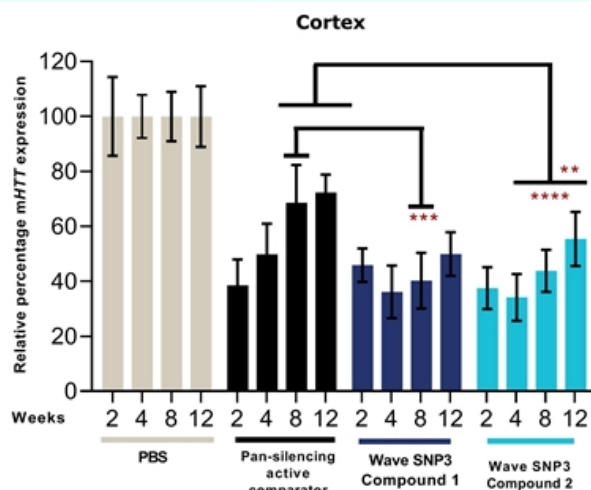
## Potent mutant *HTT* knockdown activity in homozygous iCell neurons



## No loss of selectivity with increasing concentrations



## Knockdown persists for 12 weeks in BACHD mouse model



## Similar knockdown achieved in striatum

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Clinical development expected to initiate with CTA submission in 4Q 2020

Data presented at CHDI Foundation's 15th Annual HD Therapeutics Conference Feb 24-27, 2020; See poster for full dataset. CTA: clinical trial application [Figure on right] Statistics: All oligo treatment groups statistically significantly different from PBS; One-way ANOVA \*\*\*\*\*,  $P \leq 0.0001$ . SNP3 Compound-1 and Compound-2 significantly different from pan-silencing active comparator at 8, 12 weeks \*\*\*,  $P < 0.005$ ; \*\* $P = 0.001$ .

## C9orf72 program

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD)

# C9orf72: a critical genetic risk factor

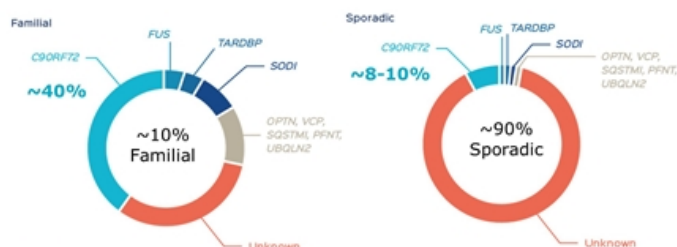
- C9orf72 gene provides instructions for making protein found in various tissues, with abundance in nerve cells in the cerebral cortex and motor neurons
- C9orf72 genetic mutations are the strongest genetic risk factor found to date for the more common, non-inherited (sporadic) forms of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD); GGGGCC repeat drives the formation and accumulation of toxic RNA and dipeptide repeat proteins that accumulate in CNS tissue
- First pathogenic mechanism identified to be a genetic link between familial (inherited) ALS and FTD
- Most common mutation identified associated with familial ALS and FTD
- Measurement of dipeptide biomarker in CSF has potential to accelerate drug development



# Targeting patients with C9orf72 genetic mutations

## Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

- Fatal neurodegenerative disease; progressive degeneration of motor neurons in brain and spinal cord
- Affects ~15,000-20,000 people in US; Median survival of 3Y
- C9orf72 is present in ~40% of familial ALS and 8-10% of sporadic ALS; most common demonstrated mutation related to ALS



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ALS: Renton AE, Chiò A, Traynor BJ. State of play in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis genetics. *Nat Neurosci.* 2014;17:17-23.; FTD: Stevens M, et al. Familial aggregation in frontotemporal dementia. *Neurology.* 1998;50:1541-1545. Majounie E, et al. Frequency of the C9orf72 hexanucleotide repeat expansion in patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and frontotemporal dementia: a cross-sectional study. *Lancet Neurol.* 2012;11:323-330.

## Frontotemporal dementia (FTD)

- Progressive neuronal atrophy with loss in frontal and temporal cortices; personality / behavioral changes, gradual impairment of language skills
- Affects ~55,000 people in the US; 2nd most common form of early-onset dementia in people <65 years
- Up to 50% of FTD patients have a family history of dementia

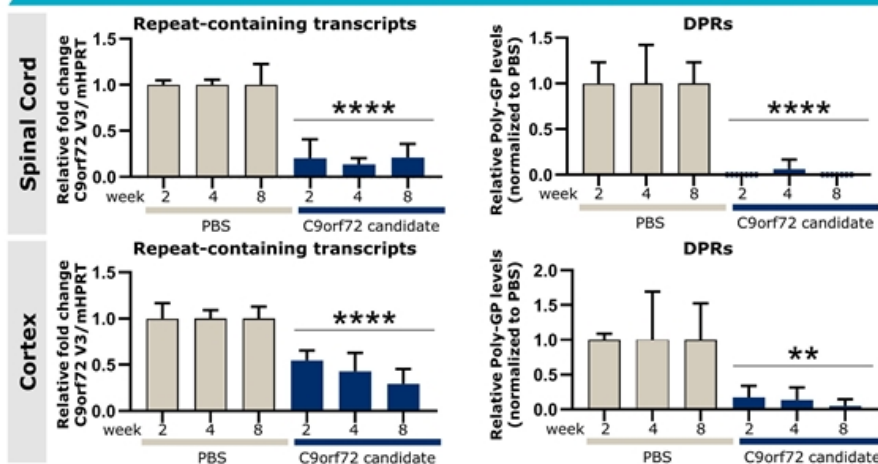




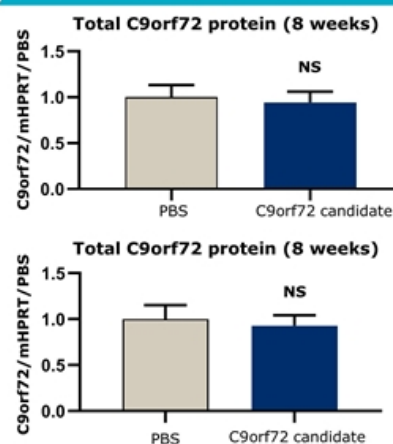
# C9orf72 program: Selective silencing *in vivo* of expanded C9orf72 repeat transcripts and DPRs

- Hexanucleotide repeat drives the formation and accumulation of toxic RNA and dipeptide repeat proteins (DPRs) that accumulate in CNS tissue
- Wave's approach:** Selectively silence the repeat containing transcript while minimizing the impact on C9orf72 protein

## Potent *in vivo* knockdown of repeat containing transcripts and DPRs



## Protein preservation



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Clinical development expected to initiate with CTA submission in 4Q 2020

CTA: clinical trial application; Experimental description: 2 x 50 ug on day 1 and day 8; mRNA Samples were analyzed using quantitative PCR (Taqman assay), Protein samples were measured by Western Blot. Dipeptide repeat proteins were measured by Poly-GP MSD assay.

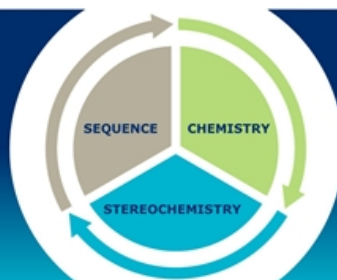
## PRISM Platform



Enables Wave to target genetically defined diseases with stereopure oligonucleotides across multiple therapeutic modalities

### DESIGN

Unique ability to construct stereopure oligonucleotides with one defined and consistent profile



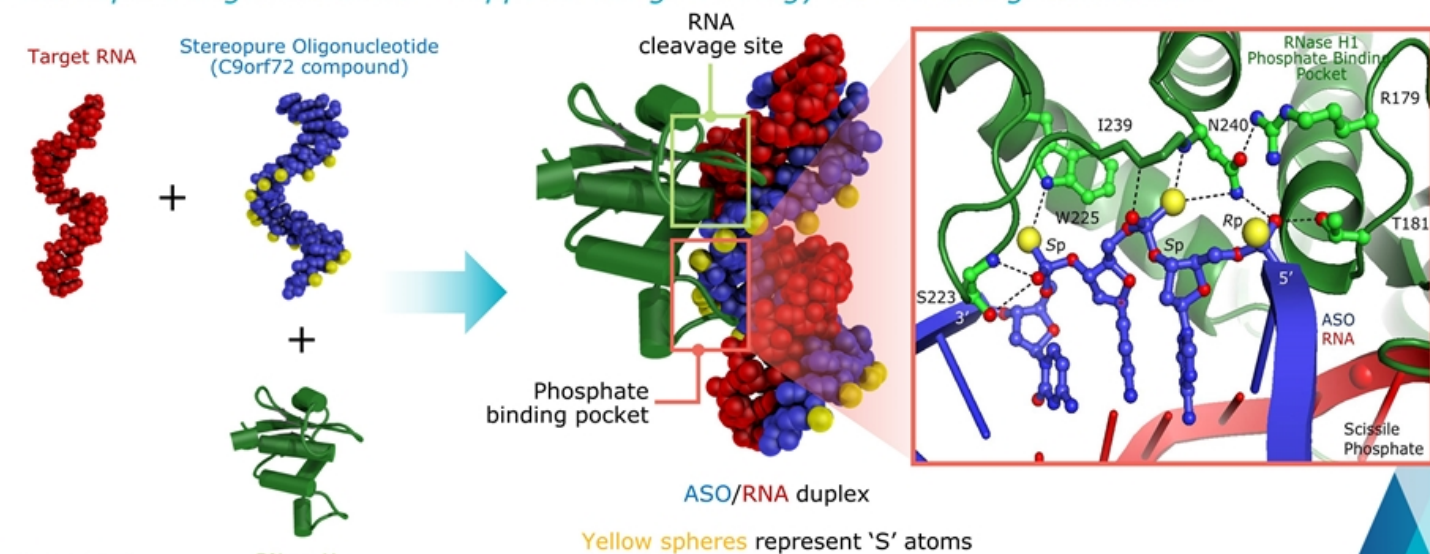
### OPTIMIZE

A deep understanding of how the interplay among oligonucleotide sequence, chemistry, and backbone stereochemistry impacts key pharmacological properties

Through iterative analysis of *in vitro* and *in vivo* outcomes and artificial intelligence-driven predictive modeling, Wave continues to define design principles that are deployed across programs to rapidly develop and manufacture clinical candidates that meet pre-defined product profiles

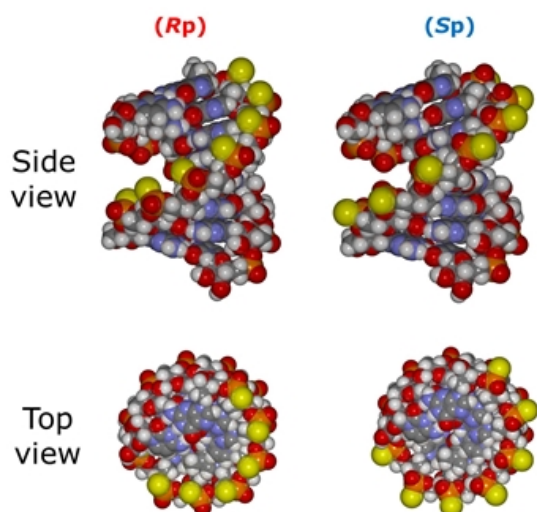
# PRISM enables optimal placement of backbone stereochemistry

*Crystal structure confirms phosphate-binding pocket of RNase H binds 3'-SSR-5' motif in stereopure oligonucleotide – supports design strategy for Wave oligonucleotides*

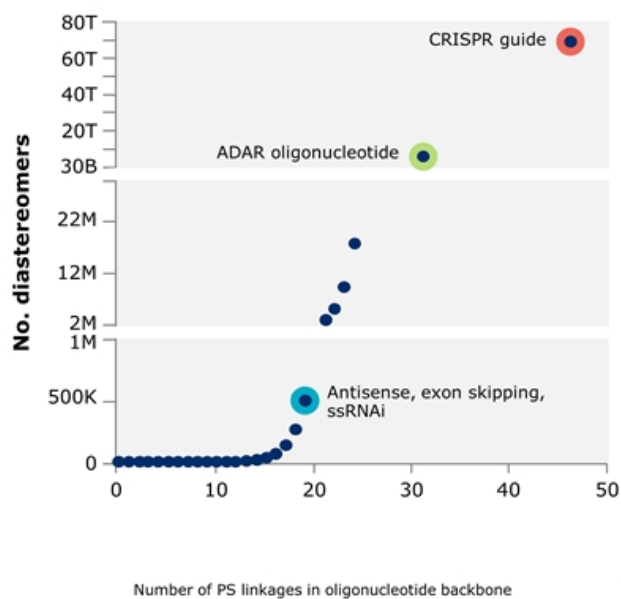


# Importance of controlling stereochemistry

## Stereochemical diversity



## Exponential diversity arises from uncontrolled stereochemistry



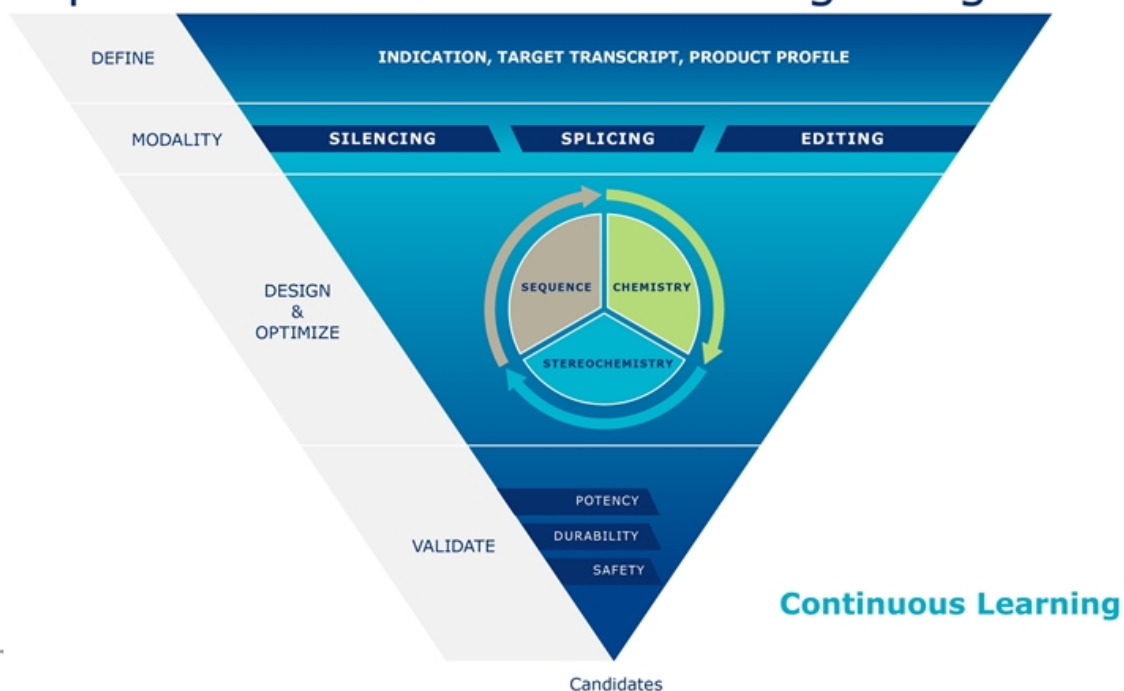
WAVE™

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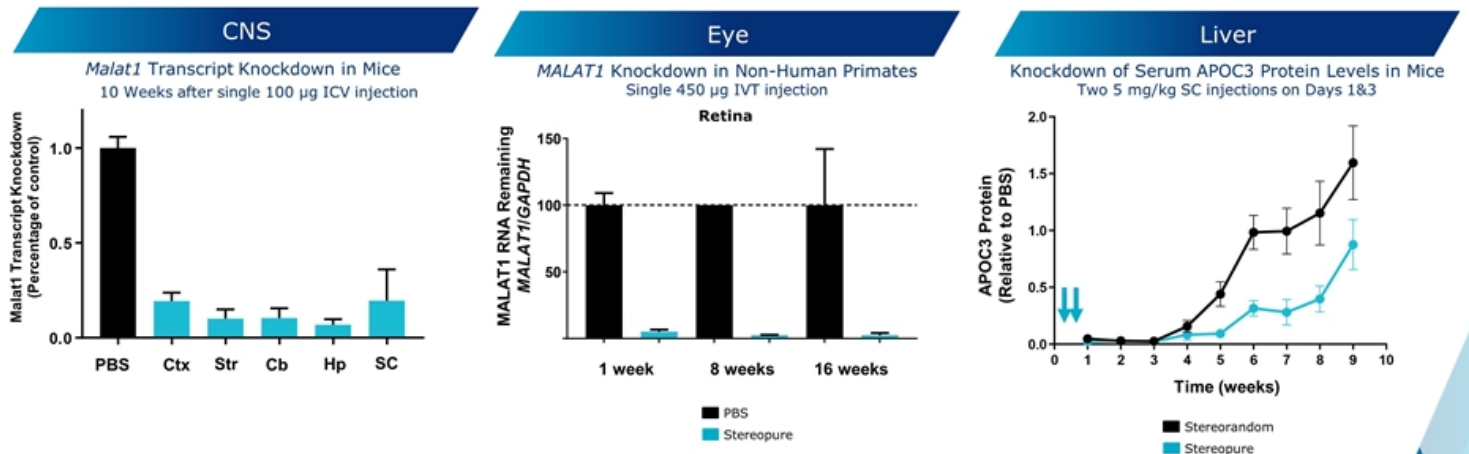
Yellow spheres represent 'S' atoms

PS: Phosphorothioate

# PRISM platform enables rational drug design



# Optimizing potency and durability across multiple tissues



Data represented in this slide from *in vivo* studies. CNS: Central nervous system; PBS = phosphate buffered saline; Ctx = cortex; Str = striatum; Cb = cerebellum; Hp = hippocampus; SC = spinal cord. ICV = intracerebral; IVT = intravitreal; IV = intravenous; SC= subcutaneous.

## ADAR-mediated RNA editing

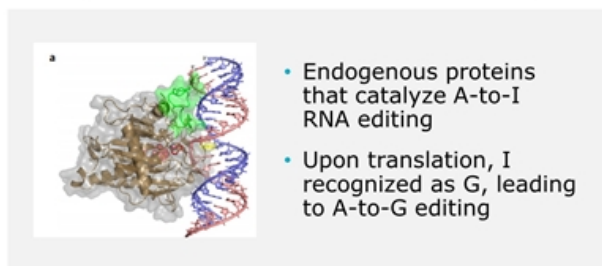


# ADAR editing: A promising new therapeutic modality for treatment of genetic diseases

## Potential benefits versus gene editing

- Ability to use endogenous proteins (e.g. ADAR)
- Ease of delivery
- Titratable, repeatable dosing
- Reversible effects, avoids potential long-term risks associated with permanent off-target DNA editing

### ADAR (adenosine deaminases acting on RNA)

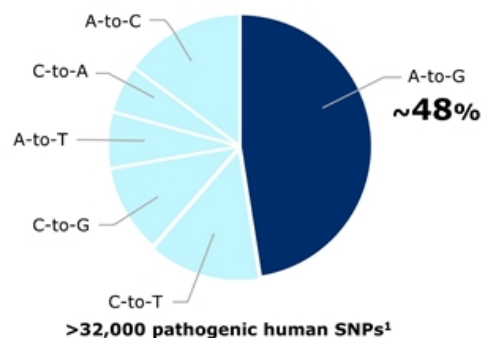


- Endogenous proteins that catalyze A-to-I RNA editing
- Upon translation, I recognized as G, leading to A-to-G editing

## A-to-I(G) RNA editing opportunity is significant

- Nearly half of known human genetic pathogenic SNPs are G-to-A mutations<sup>1</sup>
- Tens of thousands of potential disease variants A-to-I(G) editing could target<sup>2</sup>

### Pathogenic human SNPs by base pair corrections

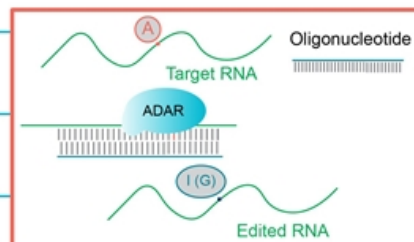


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SNP: single nucleotide polymorphism    A: Adenosine    I: Inosine    G: Guanosine  
<sup>1</sup> Gaudeli NM et al. *Nature* (2017). <sup>2</sup> ClinVar database

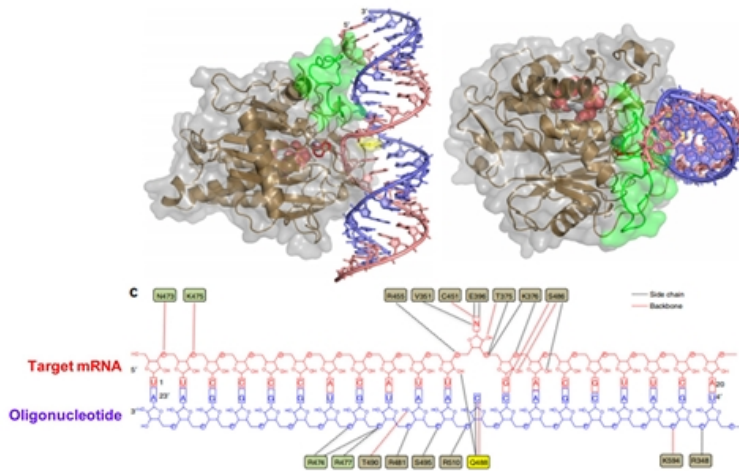
# ADAR editing can be used for several therapeutic applications and supplement Wave's existing modalities

Strategy	Therapeutic Application	Treatment Modality		
		Silencing	Splicing	ADAR Editing
Silence protein expression	Reduce levels of toxic mRNA/protein	✓		✓
Alter mRNA splicing	Exon skipping/inclusion/restore frame		✓	✓
Fix nonsense mutations that cannot be splice-corrected	Restore protein expression			✓
Fix missense mutations that cannot be splice-corrected	Restore protein function			✓
Modify amino acid codons	Alter protein function			✓
Remove upstream ORF	Increase protein expression			✓



# Using PRISM to unlock ADAR-mediated RNA editing

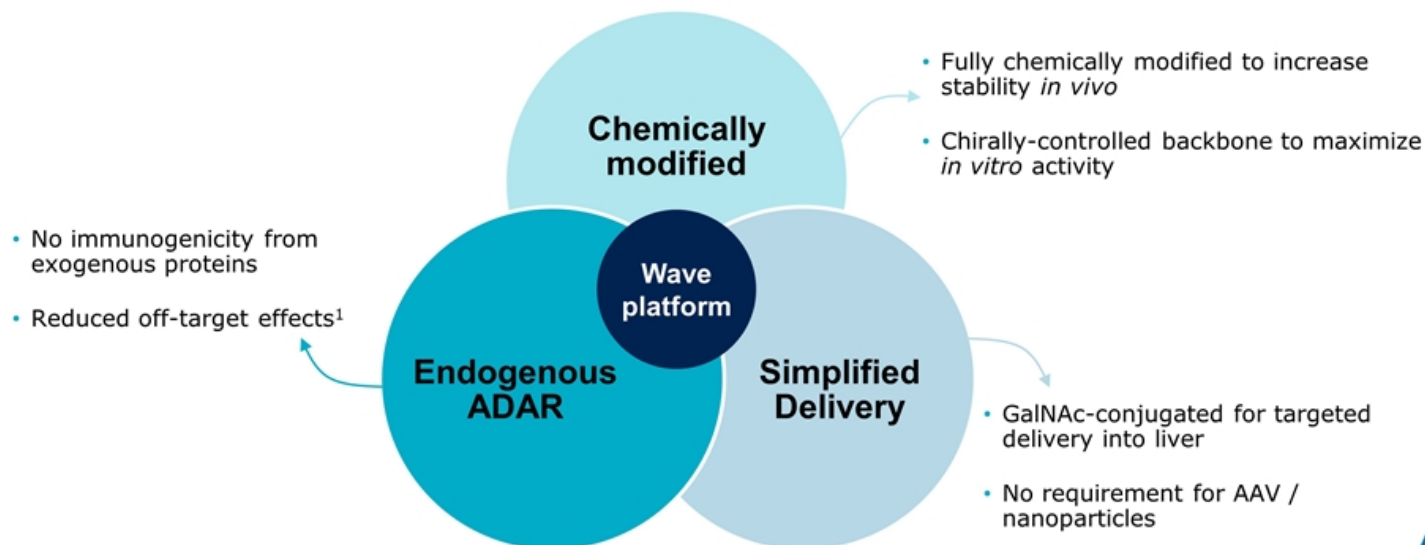
## Structure of ADAR deaminase domain bound to dsRNA substrate



- ADAR makes multiple contacts with oligonucleotide backbone, sugar and bases
- Using PRISM platform, rationally designed and screened oligonucleotides to optimize:
  - 2' sugar chemistry
  - Backbone chemistry and stereochemistry
  - Size and structure
  - Modified nucleobases

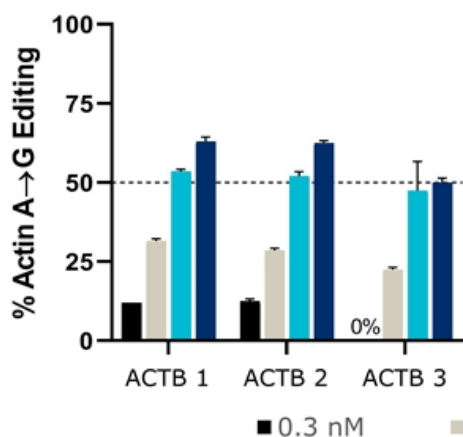
~1,000 RNA editing oligonucleotides tested over the last year to develop SAR for editing format

# Advantages of Wave ADAR-mediated RNA-editing platform

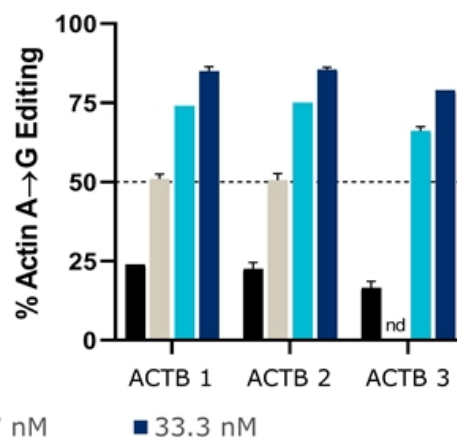


# *In vitro* RNA editing demonstrated in non-human primate and human hepatocytes

NHP Hepatocytes

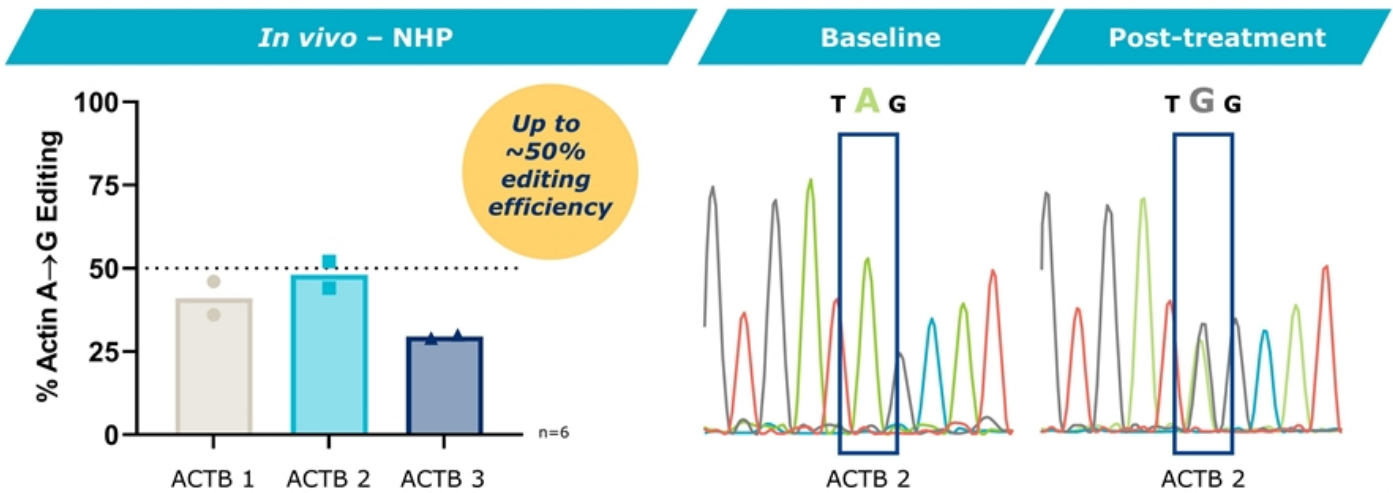


Human Hepatocytes



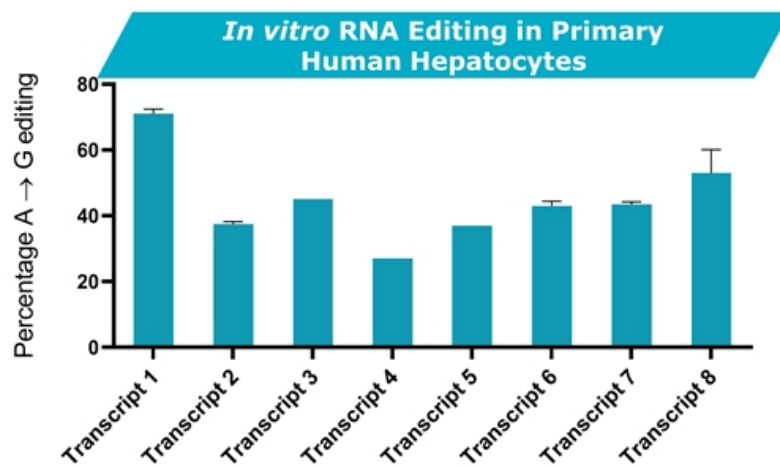
**Potent, dose-dependent RNA editing demonstrated via free uptake with GalNAc-conjugated stereopure oligonucleotides**

# First non-human primate RNA editing



**Liver biopsies conducted at baseline and 2 days post last dose**  
**RNA-editing efficiencies of up to 50% with GalNAc conjugate in liver of NHP**

# RNA-editing design applicable across targets



- Editing achieved across several distinct RNA transcripts
- Supports potential for technology to be applied across variety of disease targets

**Additional *in vivo* ADAR-mediated RNA-editing data and first ADAR editing program expected to be announced in 2020**

## Ophthalmology



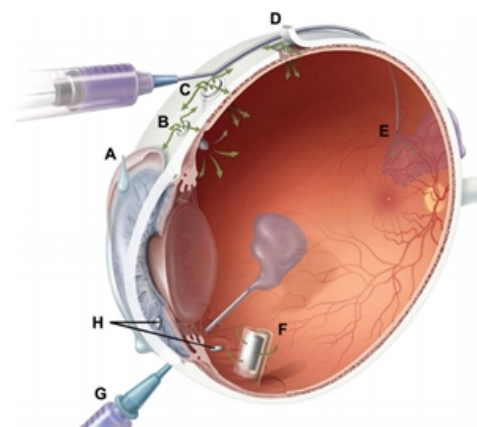
# Stereopure oligonucleotides for inherited retinal diseases (IRDs)

## Wave ophthalmology opportunity

- Oligonucleotides can be administered by intravitreal injection; targeting twice per year dosing
- Stereopure oligonucleotides open novel strategies in both dominant and recessive IRDs; potential for potent and durable effect with low immune response

## Successful targeting of *MALAT1* is a surrogate for an ASO mechanism of action

- Widely expressed in many different cell types
- Only expressed in the nucleus

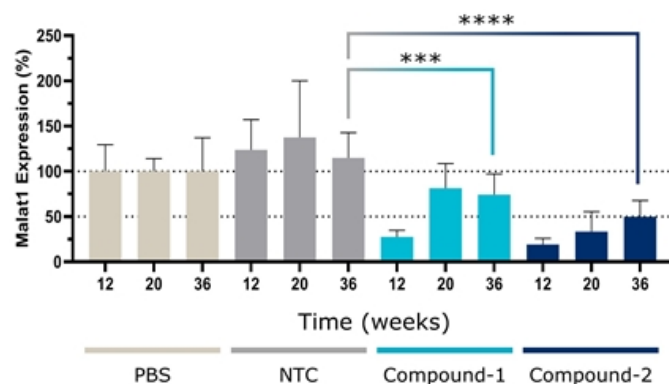


Intravitreal injection

# Stereopure compound induces potent and durable *MALAT1* knockdown in the eye

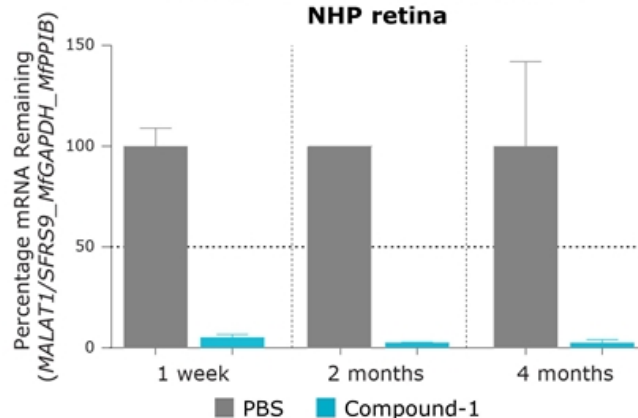
~50% *MALAT1* knockdown at 9 months

**In vivo duration of effect in the mouse retina**



>90% knockdown of *MALAT1* maintained for 4 months

**In vivo duration of effect in the NHP retina**

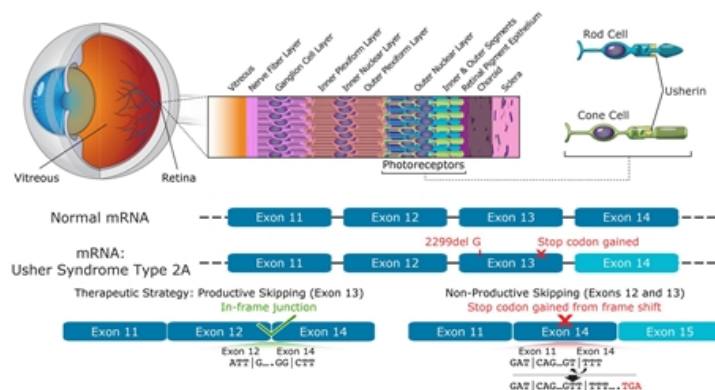


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Mouse: Compound or PBS (1 x 50 mg IVT) was delivered to C57BL6 mice. Relative percentage of Malat1 RNA in the posterior of the eye (retina, choroid, sclera) to PBS-treated mice is shown at 12, 20 and 36 weeks post-single injection. Statistics: Compound-2 Malat1 levels are significantly different from NTC at 36 weeks \*\*\*;  $P < 0.001$ ; \*\*\*\*  $P < 0.0001$ , respectively. PBS = phosphate buffered saline; NTC = chemistry matched non-targeting control; Compound-1 and Compound-2 are stereopure MALAT1-targeting antisense oligonucleotide. NHP: Oligonucleotide or PBS (1 x 450  $\mu$ g IVT) was delivered to NHP. Relative percentage of MALAT1 RNA in the retina to PBS-treated is shown at 1 week, 2 and 4 months, post-single injection. Compound-1 is a stereopure MALAT1-RNA-targeting antisense oligonucleotide.

# Usher Syndrome Type 2A: a progressive vision loss disorder

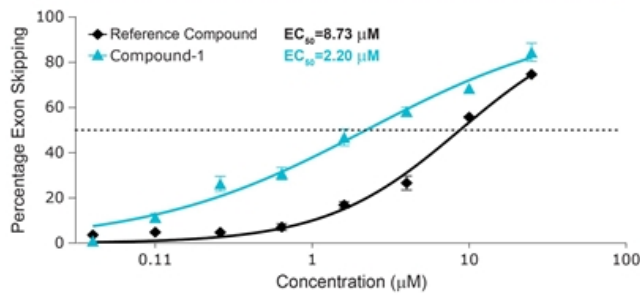
- Autosomal recessive disease characterized by hearing loss at birth and progressive vision loss beginning in adolescence or adulthood
- Caused by mutations in USH2A gene (72 exons) that disrupt production of usherin protein in retina, leading to degeneration of the photoreceptors
- No approved disease-modifying therapies
- **~5,000 addressable patients in US**



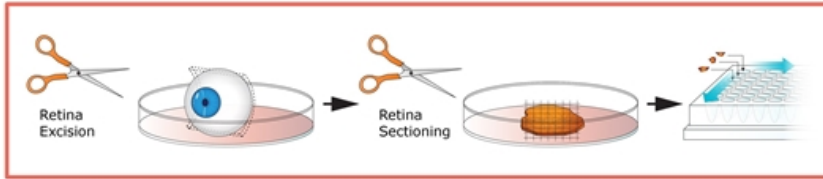
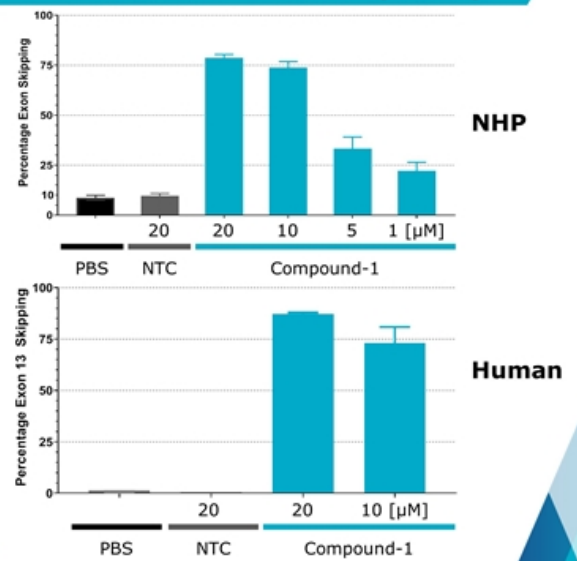
**Oligonucleotides that promote USH2A exon 13 skipping may restore production of functional usherin protein**

# Potent USH2A exon 13 skipping with stereopure compound in *vitro* and *ex vivo*

## Enhanced potency over a stereorandom reference compound (*in vitro*)



## Target engagement in NHP and human retinas (*ex vivo*)



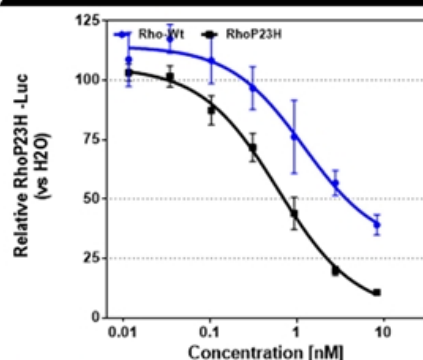
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Left: Compounds were added to Y79 cells under free-uptake conditions. Exon skipping was evaluated by Taqman assays. *USH2A* transcripts were normalized to *SRSF9*. Data are mean  $\pm$  s.d.,  $n=2$ . Reference Compound: van Diepen *et al.* 2018. Antisense oligonucleotides for the treatment of eye disease, W02018055134A1. Compound-1 is a stereopure antisense oligonucleotide. Right: Whole NHP and human eyes were enucleated ( $n=4$  and  $n=2$ , respectively) and compounds (1–20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) were added to extracted retinas under free-uptake conditions. Exon skipping was evaluated by 48 hrs later by Taqman assays on RNA. *USH2A* transcript levels were normalized to *SRSF9*. Data presented are mean  $\pm$  s.e.m.

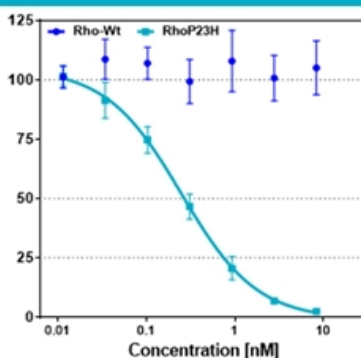
# Allele-selective reduction of SNP-containing allele for adRP associated with Rhodopsin P23H mutation

- **Retinitis pigmentosa (RP)**: group of rare, genetic eye disorders resulting in progressive photoreceptor cell death and gradual functional loss; currently no cure
- ~10% of US autosomal dominant RP cases are caused by the P23H mutation in the rhodopsin gene (RHO)
- Mutant P23H rhodopsin protein is thought to misfold and co-aggregate with wild-type rhodopsin, resulting in a gain-of-function or dominant negative effect in rod photoreceptor cells

## Stereorandom



## Stereopure



## In vivo

Collaborations in place for evaluation in transgenic human Rho P23H pig model

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Ferrari et al., *Current Genomics*. 2011;12:238-249.; Reporter assays on a Wave stereopure sequence as well as a sequence described in WO2016138353A1: ASO and luciferase reporter plasmids (wild-type and mutant rhodopsin) are transfected into Cos7 cells. 48-hours later, cells are harvested, and relative luminescence is measured.

# Anticipated upcoming Wave milestones

## NEUROLOGY

### Huntington's disease

- **4Q 2020:** Initiate clinical development with CTA filing of SNP3 program
- **1Q 2021:** PRECISION-HD2 data from 32 mg cohort and data from OLE trial
- **1Q 2021:** PRECISION-HD1 data, including 32 mg cohort, and data from OLE trial

### ALS and FTD

- **4Q 2020:** Initiate clinical development with CTA filing of C9orf72 program in ALS and FTD



### ADAR editing

- ✓ *In vivo* ADAR-mediated RNA editing data
- **August 2020:** Additional *in vivo* ADAR editing data at Research webcast
- **2020:** Announce first ADAR editing program

### PRISM platform updates in 2020

- Research webcast to be held August 25





## Realizing a brighter future for people affected by genetic diseases

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617.949.4827

