

VIR-3434, an investigational monoclonal antibody neutralizing Hepatitis B virus and facilitating FcγRmediated elimination of HBsAg – *Preclinical Studies* 

Michael A. Schmid, PhD, Vir Biotechnology The HBV Forum – Webinar on January 18<sup>th</sup> 2022

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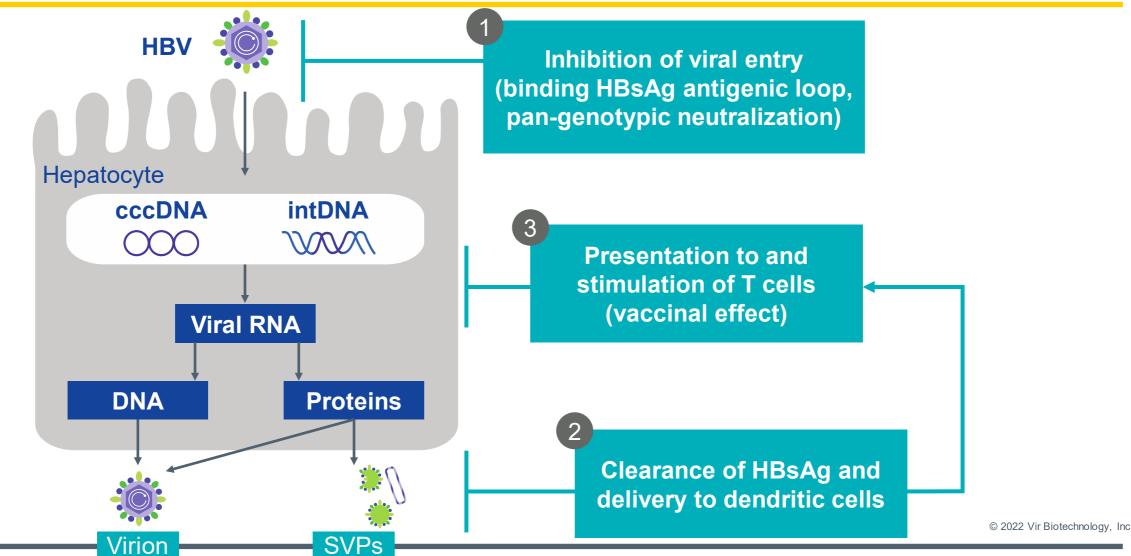
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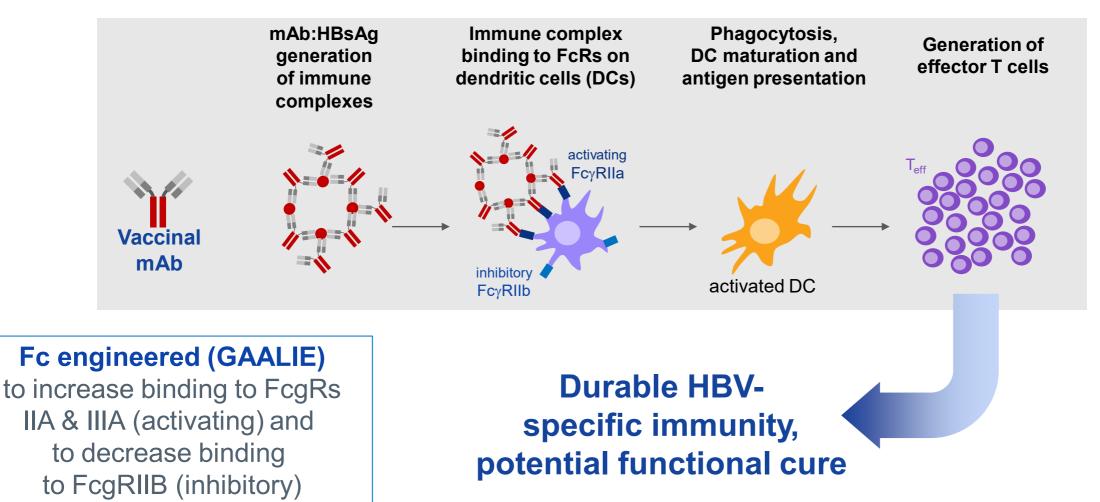
# VIR-3434: an Fc-engineered human antibody against HBsAg with multiple potential mechanisms of action



Agarwal, et al. Rapid HBsAg Reduction in Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection: Preliminary Results From a Phase 1 Study Evaluating a Single Dose of VIR-3434, a Novel Neutralizing, Vaccinal Monoclonal Antibody. Poster presented at AASLD 2021. Nov 12-15, 2021. Virtual; Lempp, et al. Preclinical Characterization of VIR-3434, a Monoclonal Antibody Neutralizing Hepatitis B Virus That Facilitates FcyR-Mediated Elimination of HBsAg. Poster presented at AASLD 2021. Nov 12-15, 2021. Nov

cccDNA, covalently closed circular DNA; DNA, deoxyribonucleic acid; HBsAg, hepatitis B s antigen; HBV, hepatitis B virus; intDNA, integrated 4 DNA; RNA, ribonucleic acid; SVPs, subviral particles

## <u>Vaccinal Effect</u>: VIR-3434, an Fc-engineered antibody as a potential therapeutic vaccine against HBV



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Agarwal, et al. A Phase 1 Study Evaluating the Neutralizing, Vaccinal Monoclonal Antibody VIR-3434 in Participants With Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection: Preliminary Results. Oral presentation at EASL 2021. 23–26 June 2021. Virtual.

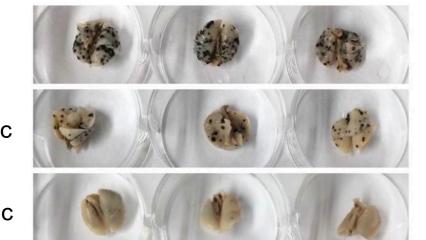
GAALIE mutation: Bournazos *et al.* 2020; *CD, cluster of differentiation; DC, dendritic cell; FcR, fragment crystallizable receptor; T<sub>eff</sub>, effector T cell; WT, wild-type* 

## Fc engineering & the vaccinal effect protect during <u>cancer</u> cell & <u>influenza</u> virus infection studies



FY1-GAALIE (anti-HA stem mAb) induced a CD8+ T cell -mediated vaccinal effect and better protected huFcgR mice from infection with <u>influenza virus</u>

7E3-GAALIE (anti-sLeA carbohydrate) reduced lung metastatic foci of B16 <u>tumor cells</u> compared to 7E3-WT



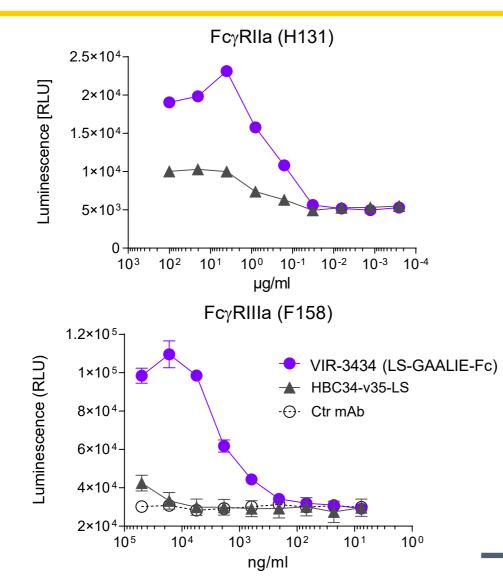
Isotype

wild type-Fc

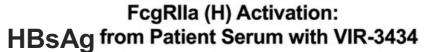
GAALIE-Fc

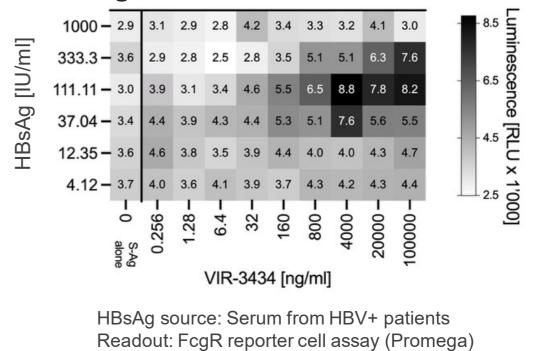
Weizenfeld, P, et al. JClinInvest. 2019; 129(9):3952–3962.

## FcγR signaling inducing effector functions that could mediate HBsAg elimination and potentially lead to functional cure







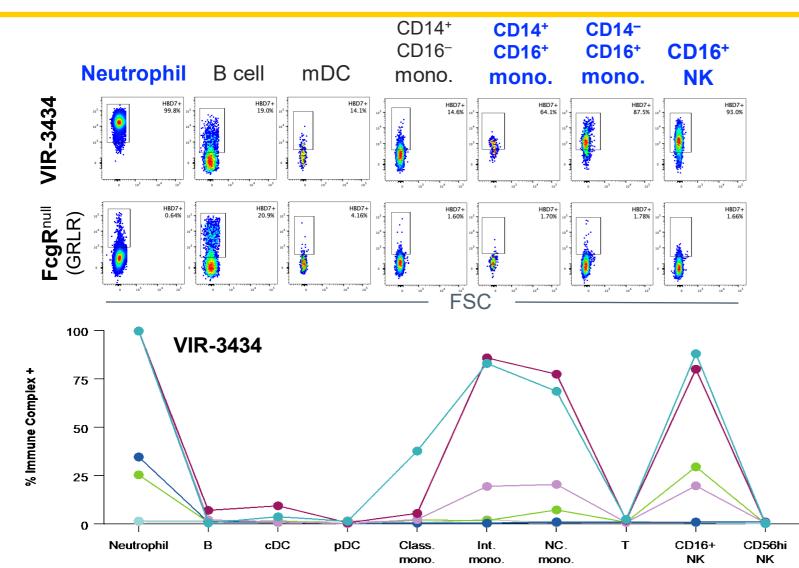


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Lempp, et al. Preclinical Characterization of VIR-3434, a Monoclonal Antibody Neutralizing Hepatitis B Virus That Facilitates FcyR-Mediated Elimination of HBsAg. Poster presented at AASLD 2021. Nov 12-15, 2021. Virtual.

## VIR-3434 promotes <u>FcγR-mediated association</u> of HBsAg to immune cells in whole blood from HBV+ donors





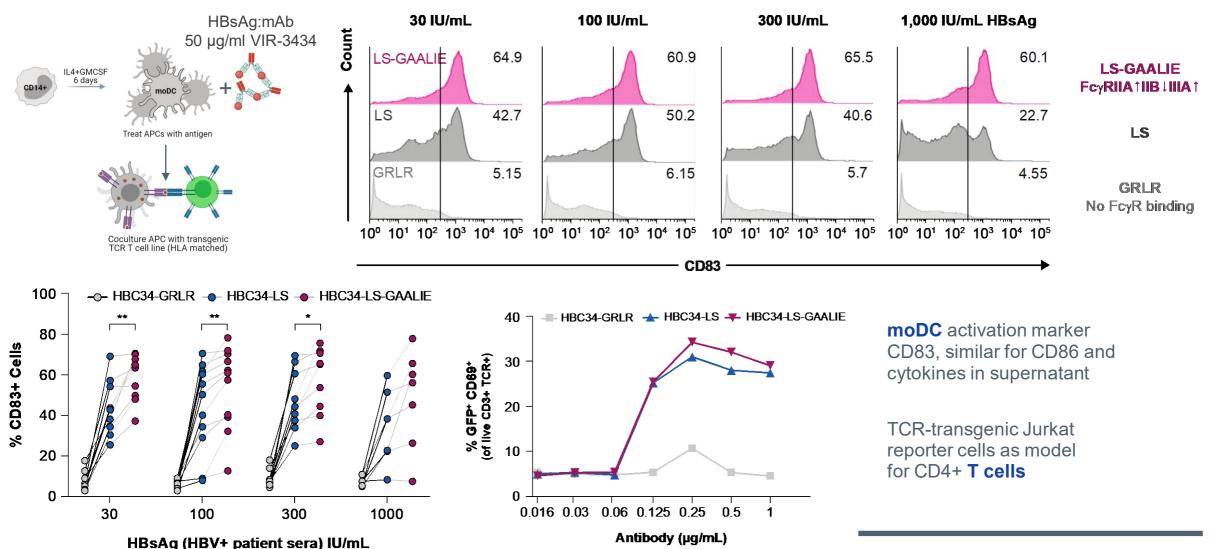
### **Methods**

- <u>Whole blood</u> from HBV+ donor (9,400 IU/mL HBsAg) with 50 µg/mL VIR-3434 for 2 hours at 37°C
- Flow cytometry: HBsAg stained with anti-HBs mAb that is <u>not competing</u> with VIR-3434

### **Additional Data & Conclusions**

- GAALIE-Fc is essential to mediate HBsAg binding to immune cells
- HBsAg binding is in line with FcgRIIIa (CD16) expression

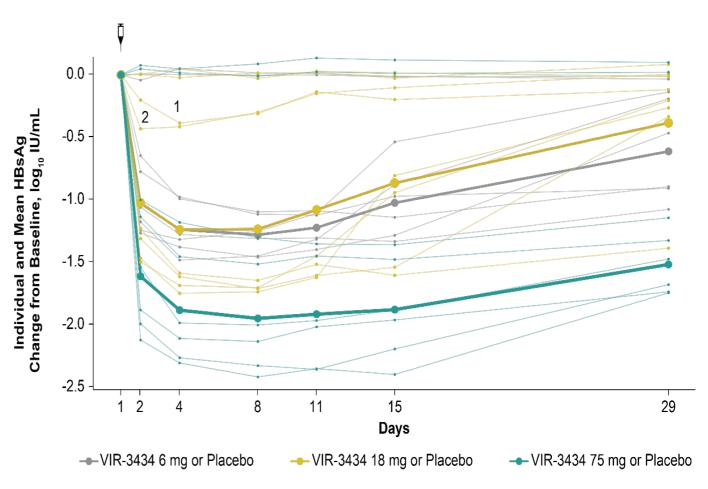
## <u>Vaccinal effect</u>: VIR-3434 in complex with HBsAg activates moDCs and stimulates antigen-specific reporter CD4+ T cells



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# Clinical data, phase 1: single dose of VIR-3434: preliminary HBsAg change from baseline

- Virally suppressed participants with chronic HBV infection and HBsAg < 3,000 IU/mL</li>
- Single doses of 6, 18, or 75 mg of VIR-3434 were generally well tolerated; all AEs were grade 1-2
- Rapid decline in HBsAg ≥ 1 log<sub>10</sub> IU/mL within 7 days
- The largest (> 2 log<sub>10</sub>) reductions in HBsAg were observed for 75 mg
- Full analysis of VIR-3434 PK and HBsAg:VIR-3434 complex disposition is ongoing



Note: HBsAg measured with Abbott ARCHITECT®. <sup>1, 2</sup> Two participants in the 18 mg cohort had undetectable or lower-than-expected free PK and <  $0.5 \log_{10} IU/mL$  reductions in HBsAg



- VIR-3434 targets the conserved antigenic loop within HBsAg and mediates pan-genotypic neutralization of HBV in vitro
- In vitro, Fc-engineered VIR-3434 bound and activated FcγRIIa and IIIa more efficiently compared to the mAb with wild-type Fc
- VIR-3434 mediated the association of HBsAg to immune cells (neutrophils, monocytes, and NK cells) in whole blood of patients with CHB
- VIR-3434 in complex with HBsAg activated moDCs more efficiently and induced CD4+ reporter T cell responses, in vitro. These results are a first step towards potential long-term immunity and functional cure via a vaccinal effect.
- In patients with CHB, a single low dose of 6, 18 or 75 mg of VIR-3434 resulted in rapid reductions in HBsAg within 1 week.

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