### DECOMPENSATED CIRRHOSIS: ENDPOINTS AND EXPERIENCE IN US PHASE 2B/3 TRIALS



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### Conflicts of Interest

- President, Sanyal Biotechnologies
- Stock options: Genfit, Akarna, Tiziana, Indalo, Durect, Exhalenz, Hemoshear
- Advisor with compensation: Lilly, Pfizer, Novartis, Ardelyx, Salix, Hemoshear
- Advisor without compensation: Galectin, Intercept, Merck, Bristol Myers, Immuron, Gilead, Chemomab, Affimmune, Protalix, Nitto Denko, Novo Nordisk, Cirius, Boehringer Ingelhiem
- Grants to institution: Gilead, Tobira, Allergan, Merck, Bristol Myers, Astra Zeneca, Immuron, Intercept, Novo Nordisk, Shire, Boehringer Ingelhiem, Cirius

## Clinical trial data has to be considered in the context of when interventions are made



## Salix 2131: Phase 2 Study Design



EOS = end of study; EOT = end of treatment; IR = immediate release; qhs = once nightly at bedtime; SER = sustained extended release; SSD = soluble solid dispersion.

## Key Inclusion Criteria

- Adults with diagnosis of liver cirrhosis with ascites (grade ≥1, by imaging or physical examination), without history of:
  - EVB (ie, clinically significant GI bleeding)
  - SBP (ie, >250 PMN cells/mm<sup>3</sup> and/or positive monomicrobial culture in ascites fluid)
  - Renal failure with ascites (ie, increase in serum creatinine of 0.5 mg/dL to level >1.5 mg/dL)
  - Development of medically refractory ascites
- MELD score ≥12 or MELD-Na score ≥12 or Child-Pugh B classification (score = 7-9)
- Resolution of any documented overt HE episode (ie, Conn score ≥2) within 30 days of screening

### Demographics and Baseline Disease Characteristics

|   | Rifaximin IR                           |  | <b>Rifaximin SER</b>                   |  | Combo  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Characteristic                                    | 40 mg<br>(n = 78)                      | 80 mg<br>(n = 91)                      | 40 mg<br>(n = 84)                      | 80 mg<br>(n = 89)                      | 80 mg IR +<br>80 mg SER<br>(n = 80)          | Placebo<br>(n = 94)                    |
| Age, y, mean (SE)                                 | 56.4 (1.2)                             | 56.9 (1.0)                             | 57.4 (1.0)                             | 57.5 (1.0)                             | 57.2 (1.0)                                   | 57.4 (0.9)                             |
| Male sex, n (%)                                   | 52 (66.7)                              | 52 (57.1)                              | 43 (51.2)                              | 56 (62.9)                              | 51 (63.8)                                    | 61 (64.9)                              |
| MELD score, mean (SE)                             | 11.5 (0.3)                             | 11.6 (0.4)                             | 10.9 (0.4)                             | 11.5 (0.4)                             | 12.1 (0.4)                                   | 11.5 (0.4)                             |
| MELD score, n (%)<br>≤10<br>11-18<br>19-24<br>≥25 | 32 (41.0)<br>45 (57.7)<br>1 (1.3)<br>0 | 38 (41.8)<br>50 (54.9)<br>3 (3.3)<br>0 | 42 (50.0)<br>39 (46.4)<br>3 (3.6)<br>0 | 37 (41.6)<br>50 (56.2)<br>2 (2.2)<br>0 | 29 (36.3)<br>47 (58.8)<br>3 (3.8)<br>1 (1.3) | 41 (43.6)<br>49 (52.1)<br>4 (4.3)<br>0 |
| MELD-Na score, mean (SE)                          | 12.9 (0.4)                             | 13.0 (0.4)                             | 12.5 (0.4)                             | 12.6 (0.4)                             | 13.8 (0.5)                                   | 12.8 (0.4)                             |
| Child–Pugh class<br>Class A<br>Class B<br>Class C | 10 (12.8)<br>64 (82.1)<br>4 (5.1)      | 11 (12.1)<br>74 (81.3)<br>6 (6.6)      | 16 (19.0)<br>62 (73.8)<br>6 (7.1)      | 6 (6.7)<br>77 (86.5)<br>6 (6.7)        | 8 (10.0)<br>62 (77.5)<br>10 (12.5)           | 10 (10.6)<br>77 (81.9)<br>7 (7.4)      |

## Time to Hospitalization or All-Cause Mortality



IR = immediate release; qhs = once nightly at bedtime; SER = sustained extended release.

Lessons learned from studies to prevent Liver-Associated Clinical Events (LACE)



Outcome can not be present before entry Outcomes should be MOA-specific





### Rifaximin for HE: phase 3-4 experience Patient Disposition



"All Rifaximin" Population = 392 (140+170+82)

Primary Endpoint: RCT Population Kaplan-Meier of Time to First HE Breakthrough



### Cause of Death in ALL Rifaximin Group



### Rifaximin effects on LACE



Mullen et al, <u>Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol.</u> 2014 Aug;12(8):1390-7.e2.

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## Terlipressin produced a significant improvement in serum creatinine (OT-0401 TRIAL)



Sanyal et al, Gastroenterology 2008

AASLD 2007, A. Sanyal et al

## Despite improvement in renal function transplant free mortality did not improve with terlipressin



All cause mortality is reasonable if the population is homogeneous in terms of drivers of mortality and there is a single primary driver of death- *THIS IS NOT THE CASE IN DECOMPENSATED CIRRHOSIS* 



# Sample size implications of mortality reduction



There is a need for new ways of thinking about primary endpoints in decompensated cirrhosis

Regulatory agencies have recently agreed to a primary hierarchical clinical composite endpoint in an acute heart failure trial that combines a global assessment of symptoms, persistent or worsening heart failure requiring an intervention, and all-cause mortality assessed at 6, 24, and 48 h.

Mebazaa et al. Journal of Intensive Care (2016) 4:24 Page 6 of 11

Efficacy and Safety of Ularitide for the Treatment of Acute Decompensated Heart Failure http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01661634..

Allen LA, Hernandez AF, O'Connor CM, Felker

### TREW-SCORE FOR DETECTION OF SEPSIS BEFORE IT IS EVIDENT

Mews: modified early warning score TREW- targeted realtime early warning



Science Translational Medicine

#### Published by AAAS

# SIRS as a predictor of outcomes for terlipressin

Confirmed HRS Reversal



**Confirmed HRS Reversal (CHRSR):** percentage of subjects with 2 SCr values of ≤1.5 mg/dL at least 48 hours apart, on treatment

Wong et al, Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2017 Feb;15(2):266-272

#### Transplant Free Survival



Wong et al, Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2017 Feb;15(2):266-272

# Lessons learned in end-stage liver disease trials

- Population to be studied is related to goal of study and MOA of agent.
- Need to identify some key outcome drivers e.g. sepsis, sarcopenia, status of end-organs etc for better risk stratification- *these will inform case definitions*
- End-points: must re reconfigured for decompensated cirrhosis

#### THANKS TO SALIX , ORPHAN THERAPEUTICS AND MALINKRODT FOR SHARING DATA

