### **Targeted Drug Discovery in Sickle Cell Disease: From Concept to Clinic**

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### **SCD: DISABLING INHERITED BLOOD DISORDER**

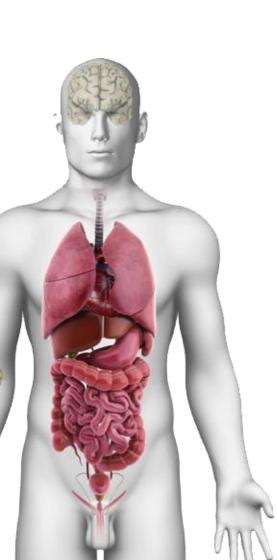
- SCD impacts hemoglobin, a protein found in red blood cells (RBCs) that carries oxygen throughout the body
- Caused by a genetic mutation in the beta-chain of hemoglobin
  - Results in the formation of abnormal hemoglobin
  - Sickled RBCs stick together and block the flow of blood and oxygen

#### + Devastating morbidity and mortality

- Hemolytic anemia, vaso-occlusion, inflammation/vascular injury
- Results in multi-organ damage
- 2 to 3 decade reduction in life expectancy
- Current treatments are limited

#### + Who SCD affects:

- -~100,000 patients in U.S.; ~60,000 in EU
  - ~90% are African-American
- Disease is concentrated in populations of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian descent
- + SCD represents a global health problem and new treatment options are desperately needed





#### No Organ Spared Common Morbidities Brain

Brain Cerebral infarcts, strokes Thrombosis or hemorrhage causing paralysis, sensory deficits or death

#### Lung

Acute chest syndrome Pulmonary hypertension Pneumonia

#### Kidney

Hematuria Renal insufficiency Renal failure

Bones and joints Bone marrow hyperplasia Osteomyelitis Avascular necrosis/osteonecrosis

#### Eye Hemorrhage Retinal detachment Blindness Retinopathy

Heart Cardiomegaly Heart failure

Spleen Splenic atrophy(autosplenectomy)

Liver-gallbladder Hepatomegaly Gallstones

Skin Stasis ulcers of hands, ankles and feet

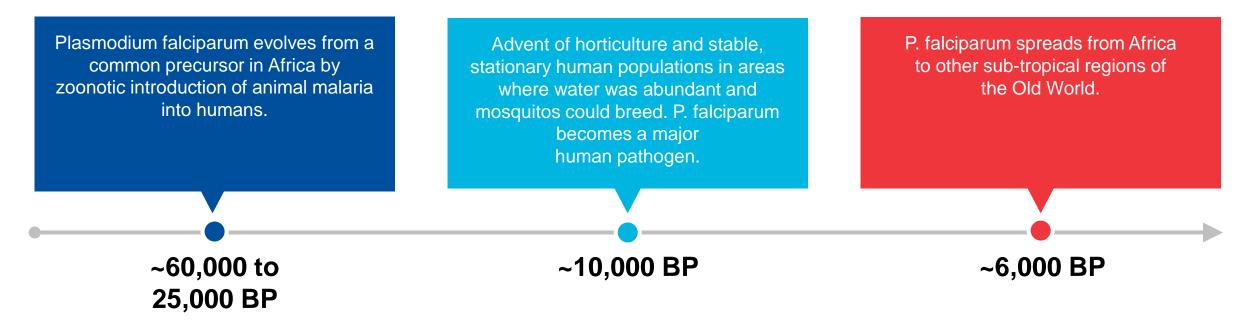
Men/Women Priapism Adverse pregnancy outcomes

### **MALARIA IS THE CULPRIT**



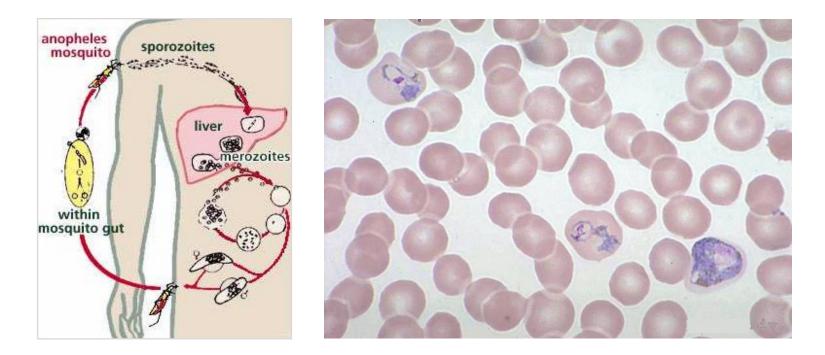
Malaria drove gene selection for common red cell disorders including SCD







### **RBC AS A POINT OF MALARIA DEFENSE**

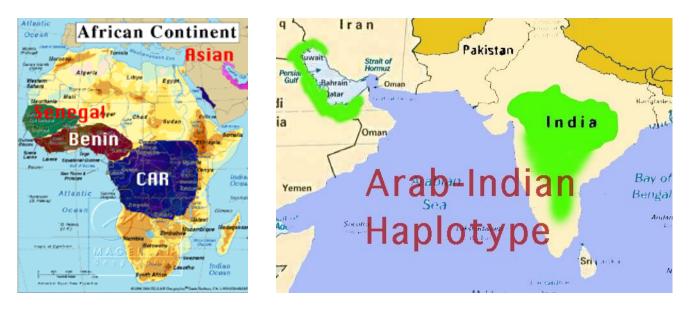


*P. falciparum* has an obligate red cell stage Red cells are expendable and renewable Mechanisms that selectively destroy parasitized red cells reduce the parasite burden

Reduced parasite burden correlates with improved survival



### HBS ROSE TO HIGH PREVALENCE INDEPENDENTLY IN AFRICA AND INDIA



Africa- HbS rose to high prevalence independently at least 4 times

+ Senegal, Benin, Central African Republic and Cameroon haplotypes

India- A high prevalence HbS haplotype in India spread to the Middle East

Mapping HbS haplotypes in different geographies is used in molecular anthropology

### **RED CELL DEFENSES AGAINST MALARIA**



Cell Component	Alteration	Global Distribution	
Mambrana	Duffy antigen null	West Africa	
Membrane	Melanesian elliptocytosis Melanesia	Melanesia	
Hemoglobin	Hemoglobin S	Africa, Middle East, India	
	Hemoglobin C	West Africa	
	Hemoglobin E	S.E. Asia	
	β-thalassemia	Africa, Mediterranean, India, S.E. Asia, Melanesia	
	α-thalassemia	Africa, India, S.E. Asia, Melanesia	
Enzymes	G6PD Deficiency	Africa, Mediterranean, India, S.E. Asia	

# SCD SPURRED ADVANCES IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS FOR A CENTURY

James Herrick and Ernest E. Irons at Cook County Hospital in Chicago first described sickle cell disease in a student from Grenada, Walter Clement Noel. He had an anemia marked by red cells that looked like "crescents or sickles." Noel returned to Grenada after training in dentistry.

1910

Harvey Itano and Linus Pauling used the newly invented technique of protein electrophoresis to demonstrate that sickle hemoglobin (HbS) differed from normal hemoglobin (HbA). Vernon Ingram at MRC in London used protein sequencing to demonstrate that HbS derived from a glutamic acid to valine amino acid change at position  $\beta$ -6. The recently elucidated genetic code allowed deduction of the nucleotide change (GAG  $\rightarrow$  GTG).

1949

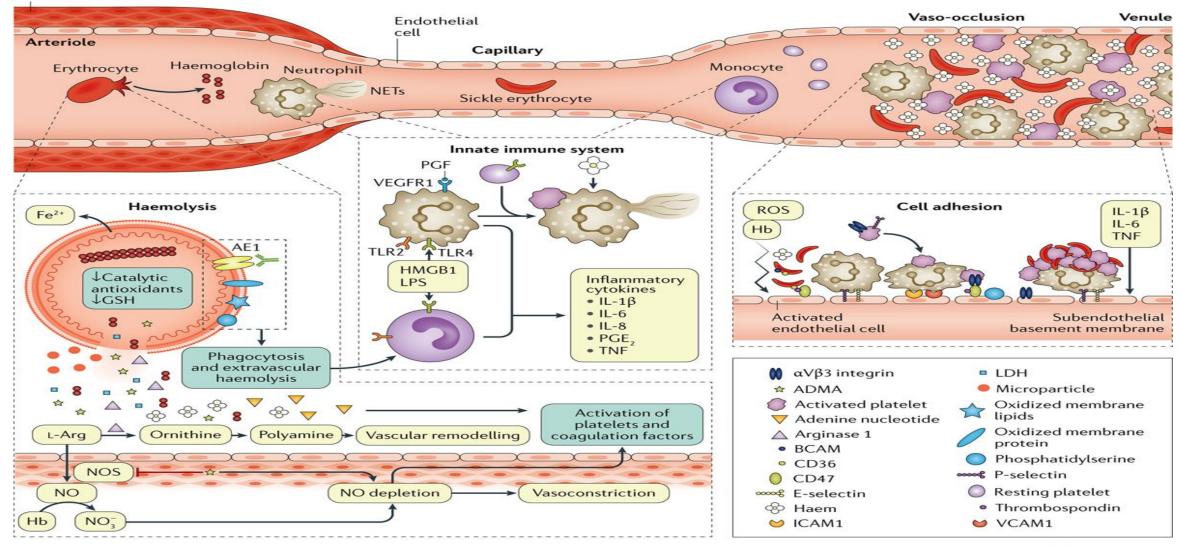
\* First demonstration of disease due to an abnormal protein \* First demonstration of disease due to a specific DNA mutation

1956

### **MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY OF SCD**



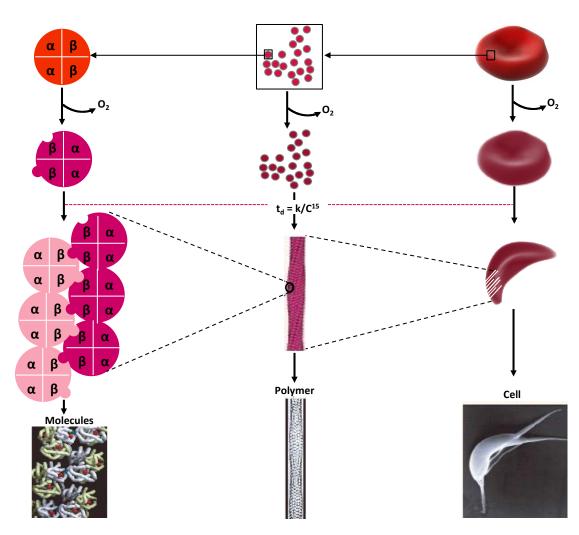
Vascular smooth muscle



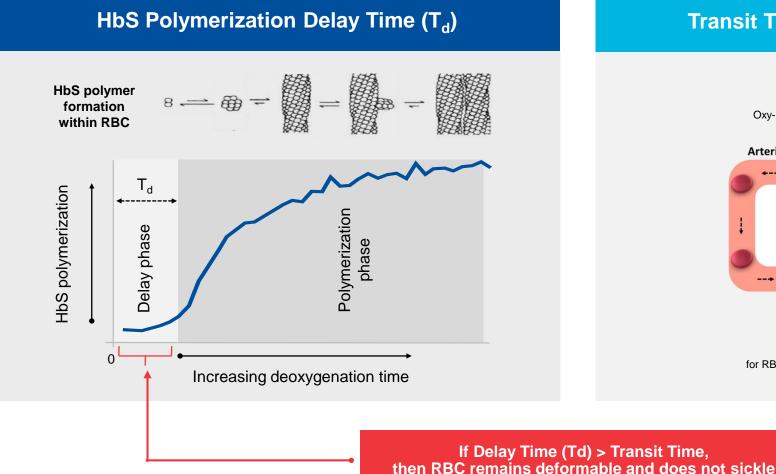
Nature Reviews | Disease Primers



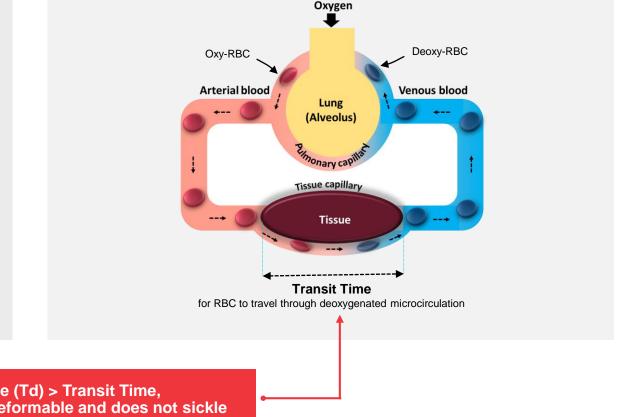
### HEMOGLOBIN S POLYMERIZATION IS THE TRIGGER IN SICKLE CELL DISEASE



### HBS POLYMERIZATION OCCURS DURING TRANSIT TIME THROUGH DEOXYGENATED MICROCIRCULATION



#### **Transit Time through Microcirculation**





### HEMOGLOBIN F (HBF) DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN HBS POLYMERIZATION AND PRODUCES AN ASYMPTOMATIC CONDITION AT CONCENTRATIONS OF ~10-30%

Cases of individuals with Co-Inherited HbSS and Hereditary Persistence of Fetal Hemoglobin (HPFH)

Cases	HbF (%)	Hb (g/dL)	Reticulocytes (%)	Irreversibly Sickled Cells (%)	Clinical Symptoms
Male, 52 yo <sup>1</sup>	24%	12.5	N/A	N/A	Asymptomatic
Female, 47 yo <sup>1</sup>	22%	N/A	N/A	N/A	Asymptomatic
Female, 16 yo <sup>2</sup>	35%	14.0	1%	0%	Asymptomatic
Female, 22 yo <sup>2</sup>	26%	11.6	3%	0%	Asymptomatic
Female, 24 yo <sup>2</sup>	28%	12.8	2%	0%	Mild retinopathy
Male, 46 yo <sup>2</sup>	30%	16.2	1%	0%	Mild retinopathy
Male, 39 yo <sup>3</sup>	25%	16.4	N/A	N/A	No SCD manifestations except possibly aseptic necrosis of right hip
Female, 10 yo <sup>4</sup>	20%	10.3	1%	N/A	Asymptomatic
28 cases <sup>5</sup>	31% (mean)	13.0 (mean)	N/A	N/A	Asymptomatic
Several cases (Hb Kenya-HbS) <sup>5</sup>	10% (mean)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mild microcytic anemia

<sup>1</sup> Natta CL, Journal of Clin Invest. 1974

<sup>2</sup> Talbot J.F., *British Journal of Ophthalmology* 1983

<sup>3</sup> Bethlenfalvay N, Am J Hum Genet 1975

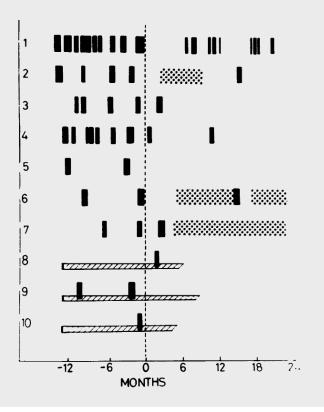
<sup>4</sup> Stamatoyannopoulos G, Blood 1975

<sup>5</sup> Akinsheye I, Blood 2011



## FREQUENCY OF PAINFUL CRISES DECREASED BY 80% WITH EXTRACORPOREAL CARBAMYLATION

#### **Frequency and Duration of Painful Crises (n=10)**



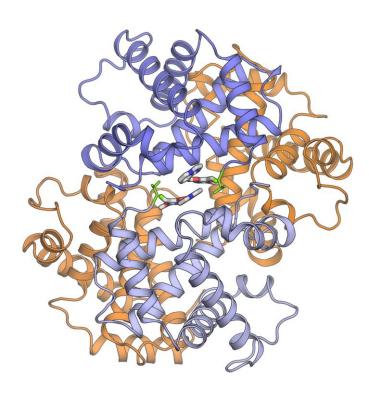
**Frequency of painful crises reduced by 80%** comparing 24 months prior vs. 24 months with carbamylation

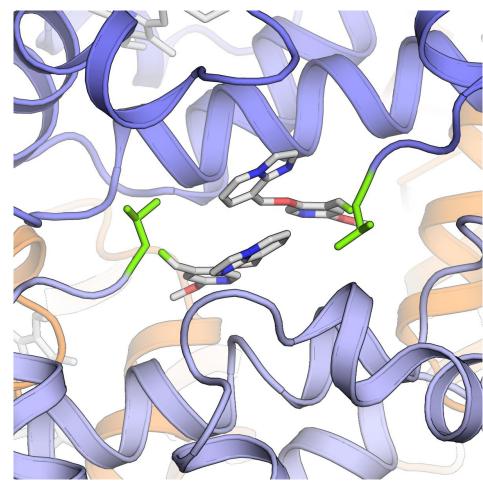
- + Total hospital crisis days decreased by 85% from 461 to 71 days
- + # of spontaneous crises decreased from 35 to 1

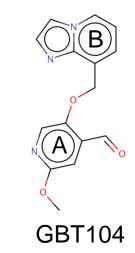
Complete healing of chronic ulcerations in 3/3 patients

D Diederich, Journal of Clin Inv 1976. Frequency and duration of crises before and during extracorporeal carbamylation. Each crisis depicted by black bar with width of each bar proportionate to the duration of crises. Weekly carbamylation begun at week 0; subsequent carbamylation interruptions shown by the dotted areas in patients 2, 6, 7. Open active malleolar ulcerations in patients 8-10 is depicted by horizontal lines.

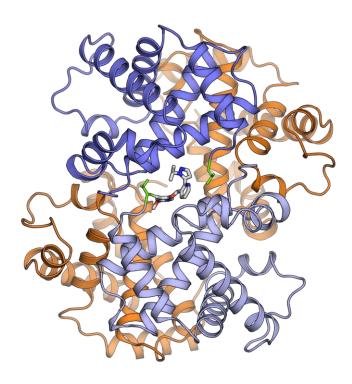
### **GBT104 DESIGNED TO HAVE TIGHTER INTERACTION. FOUND TO BIND MUCH FASTER THAN INN-312. INACTIVE IN WHOLE BLOOD**

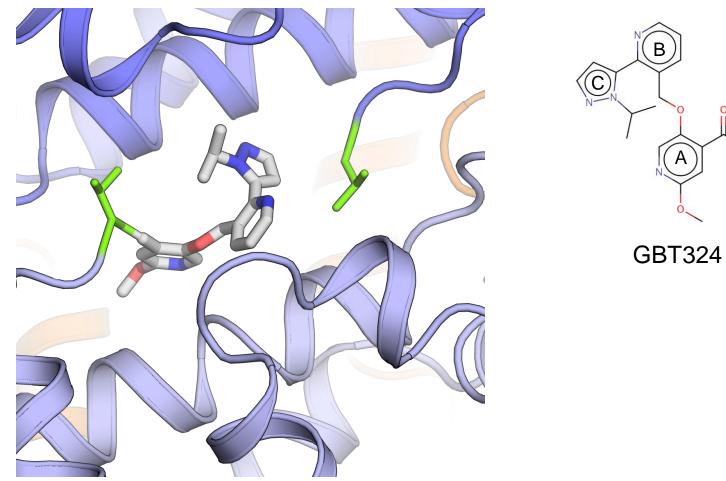




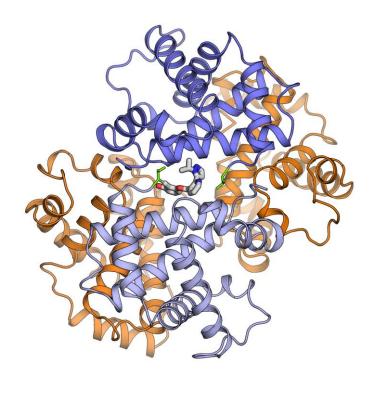


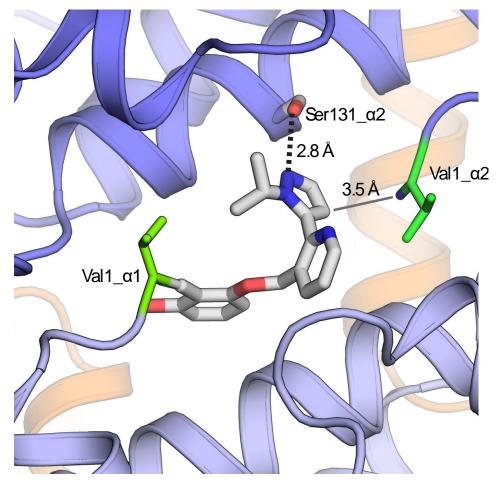
### **GBT324 IS ACTIVE IN WHOLE BLOOD, BUT NOT ORALLY AVAILABLE. HBS CO-CRYSTALLIZED WITH GBT324. 1:1 STOICHIOMETRY**

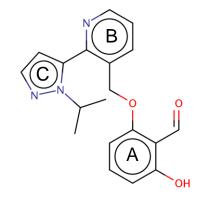




### VOXELOTOR (GBT440) FIRST ORALLY AVAILABLE COMPOUND. DRAMATIC PARTITIONING INTO BLOOD VS PLASMA



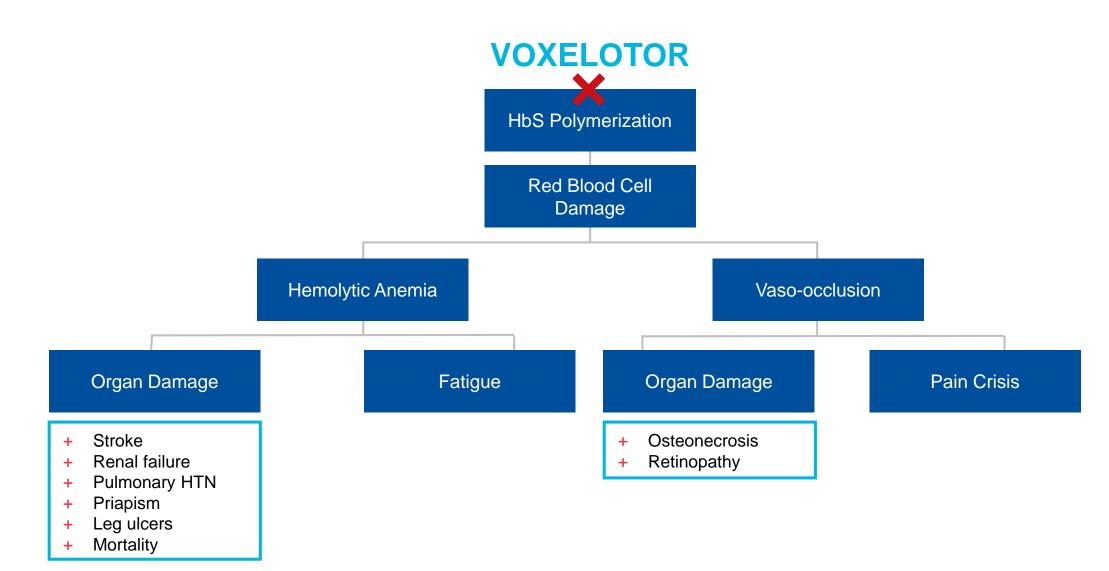




Voxelotor (GBT440)

High partitioning believed to reduce risk of systemic toxicity via low plasma concentrations.

# VOXELOTOR INHIBITS ABNORMAL HBS POLYMERIZATION, THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSE OF SCD PATHOPHYSIOLOGY



Eaton W, Bunn F. Targeting HbS Polymerization, Blood 2017.



001: Phase 1/2, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study in Adult HbSS, HbS/β0thalassemia, HbS/β+thalassemia, or HbSC Patients

#### Part A – Single Dose

- + Healthy volunteers: 5 cohorts (100, 400, 1000, 2000, 2800 mg)
- + SCD patients: 1 cohort (1000 mg)

#### Part B – Multiple Doses (15 and 28 days)

- + Healthy volunteers: 3 cohorts (300, 600, 900 mg per day x 15 days)
- + SCD patients: 3 cohorts (500 mg, 700 mg, 1000 mg per day x 28 days)
- + Variant genotype (HbSC): 1 cohort (600 mg per day x 28 days)

#### Part C – Multiple Doses (90 days)

+ SCD patients: 2 cohorts (700 mg, 900 mg per day x 90 days)

Cohorts = 8 people (6 active, 2 placebo)\*

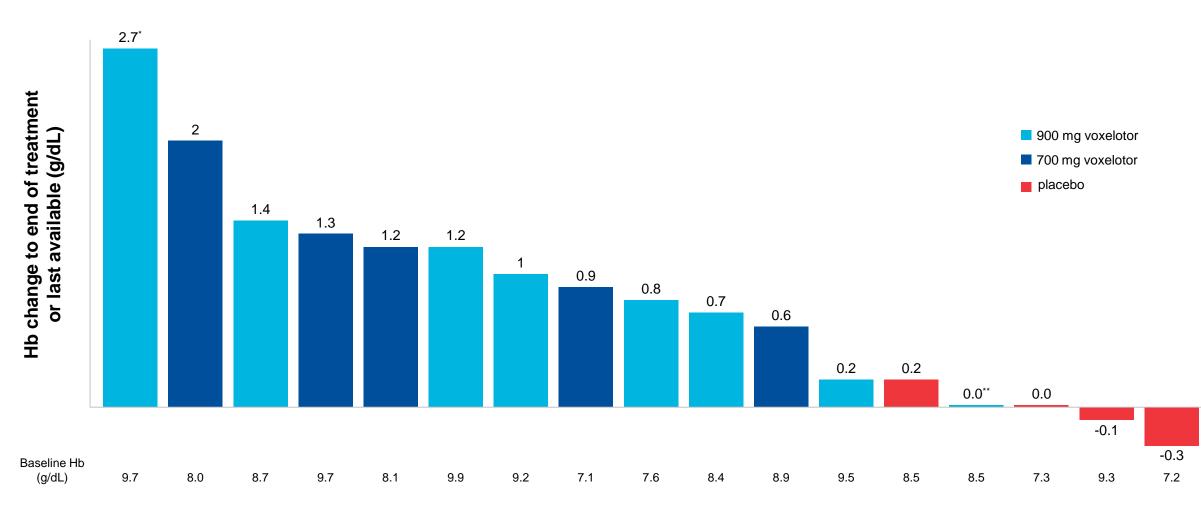
#### **Objectives**

- + Pharmacokinetics
- + Pharmacodynamics
- + SCD patients: hematologic parameters
- Safety

#### 024 (open-label extension study)

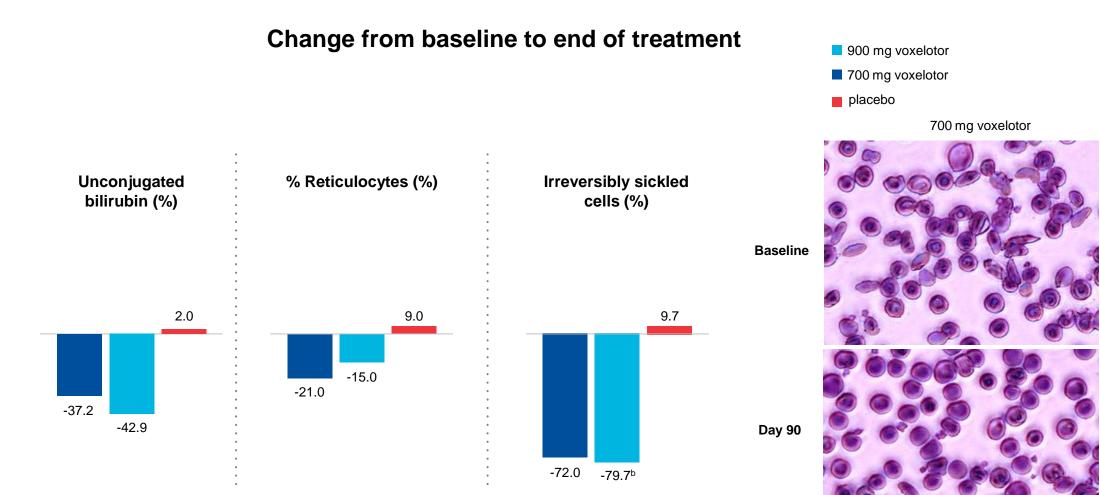
Extended dosing of voxelotor (Cohort 17, 900 mg) for a total of 6 months

### 001: 46% OF PATIENTS ACHIEVE HEMOGLOBIN RESPONSE >1 G/DL



\*Day 15 data presented due to a protocol-specified dose reduction on Day 17 because of a large increase in Hb \*\*Patient documented non-adherence with study drug regimen

## 001: ALL PATIENTS DOSED WITH VOXELOTOR SHOWED A REDUCTION IN HEMOLYSIS, RETICULOCYTES AND/OR SICKLE CELLS



### **001: SAFETY AND TOLERABILITY PROFILE**

- + Voxelotor was well tolerated
- + No drug-related serious or severe adverse events
- + No evidence of tissue hypoxia
  - No increase in erythropoietin
  - No decrease in  $O_2$  consumption with exercise

### **007: STUDY DESIGN**



#### HOPE-KIDS 1 (007): Phase 2a Open-label, Single- and Multiple-dose Clinical Trial in Pediatric Population

#### Part A – Single Dose

- + Cohort 1: SCD patients age 12-17: 600 mg
- + Cohort 2: SCD patients age 6 -11: 600 mg

#### **Part B – Multiple Doses**

- + Cohort 1: SCD patients age 12-17: 900 mg per day x 24 weeks
  - EHA poster presentation provided results (24 weeks)
- + Cohort 2: SCD patients age 12-17: 1500 mg per day x 24 weeks

#### **Objectives**

- + Assess efficacy as measured by improvement in anemia
- + Effect on clinical measures of hemolysis
- + Effects on total symptom score (TSS) from PRO
- + Pharmacokinetics
- + Safety/tolerability



### 007: BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS (Data as of April 16, 2018)

Baseline Characteristics	900 mg/d N=25 All Treated Patients to Date (Safety Population)	
Male, n (%)	14 (56)	
Age, median (range), y	14 (12-17)	
HbSS genotype,ª n (%)	24 (96)	
Number of VOCs in prior year, n (%)		
0	11 (44)	
1-4	12 (48)	
>4	2 (8)	
Current HU use, n (%)	22 (88)	
Baseline <sup>b</sup> Hb, median (range), g/dL	8.9 (6.3-11.0°)	
Baseline <sup>b</sup> HbF, median (range), %	10.8 (3.7-29.0)	
Baseline <sup>b</sup> TAMM for TCD, median (range), cm/s	110 (74-149)	

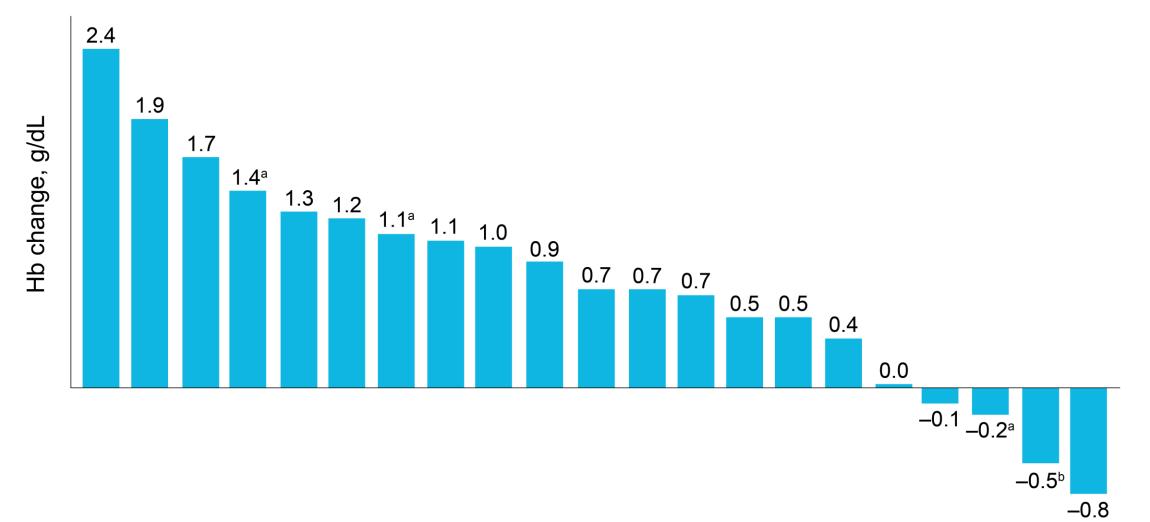
HbF, fetal hemoglobin; HU, hydroxyurea; TAMM, time-averaged mean of maximum velocity; TCD, transcranial Doppler ultrasound.

<sup>a</sup>1 patient with HbS $\beta^0$  thal.

<sup>b</sup>Baseline is the average of the values obtained prior to the first dose.

<sup>c</sup>One patient had a baseline Hb level >10.5 g/dL.

### 007: 43% OF PATIENTS ACHIEVED HEMOGLOBIN RESPONSE ≥1 g/dL AT 24 WEEKS



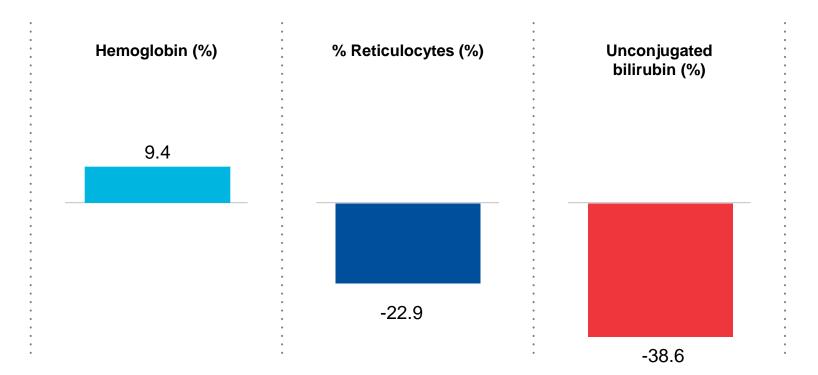
<sup>a</sup>Not receiving concurrent hydroxyurea. <sup>b</sup>Documented noncompliance.

### **007: HEMOLYSIS MEASURES AT 24 WEEKS**



Change from baseline median

N=21\*



\*3 subjects discontinued dosing prior to 24 weeks (withdrew consent, lost to follow-up, noncompliance)

1 subject excluded due to a concurrent acute chest syndrome at week 24.

### STOP-1 STUDY: REDUCED HBS CONCENTRATION DRAMATICALLY REDUCES STROKE RISK

 $\mathbf{b}$ 

The STOP-1 study investigated RBC transfusions to reduce HbS concentration to <30 percent total hemoglobin in children with abnormal TCD

#### **Key Findings:**

- + In the standard-of-care group, the rate of stroke was 10 percent per year
- + Risk of stroke in the transfusion group was 92 percent lower (p=0.002) than the standard-of-care group over 30 months.
- + Within the transfusion group, 78 percent of patients had at least one hemoglobin S measurement that exceeded the target threshold.
- + Two years after publication of the STOP-1 study results, SCD stroke rates in the state of California dropped by a factor of 5.



### STOP-2 STUDY: INCREASING HEMOGLOBIN REDUCES STROKE RISK

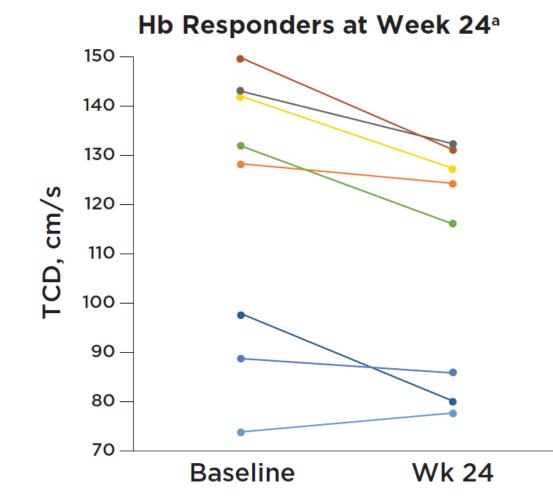
The STOP-2 study assessed the discontinuation of transfusions vs. continued transfusions among children with receiving transfusions for abnormal TCD

**Key Findings:** 

- + Increase in stroke risk after discontinuation of transfusions
- + Probability of converting to normal TCD increased by 26.6% per 1g/dL increase in Hb
- + Transfusion group overall associated with +1.7 g/dL Hb and complete protection from stroke/abnormal TCD versus 39% risk

## $\mathbf{b}$

### 007: TRANSCRANIAL DOPPLER (TCD)-Hb RESPONDERS: TCD CHANGE AT WEEK 24 (N=8)



### **007: SAFETY AND TOLERABILITY**

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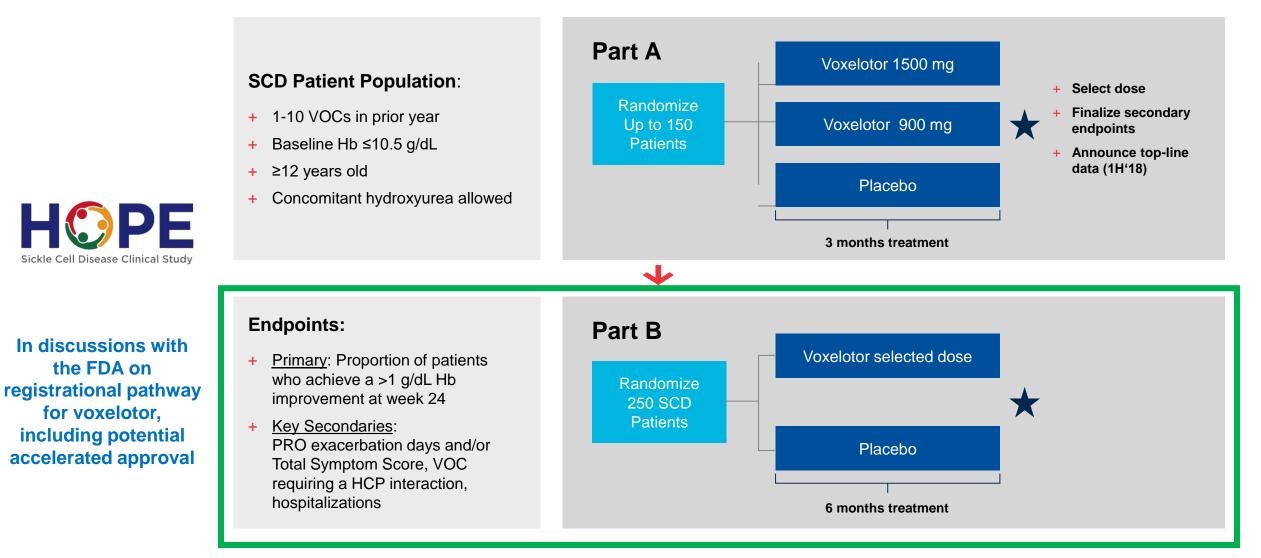
- + Voxelotor 900 mg was well tolerated
- + Drug-related AEs were Grade 1 or 2 (except one Grade 3 rash\*)
- + No drug-related SAEs
- + No study drug discontinuations due to AEs

### HOPE STUDY

Hemoglobin Oxygen Affinity Modulation to Inhibit HBS PolymErization A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multi-national, Phase 3 study

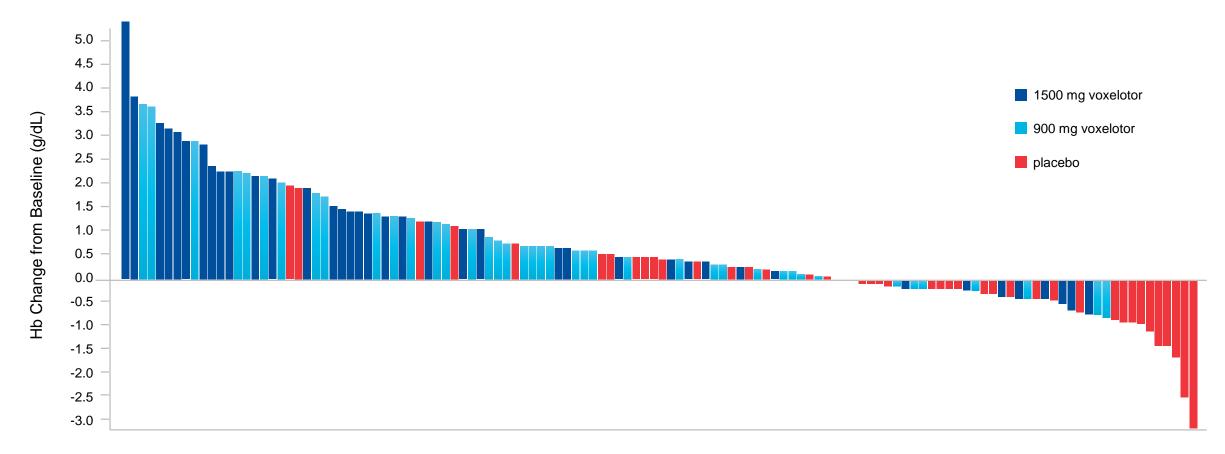


031: ORIGINAL PHASE 3 HOPE STUDY DESIGN AND STATUS



30

### 031: 58% OF PATIENTS ON 1500 MG ACHIEVED PRIMARY ENDPOINT OF HB RESPONSE ≥1 g/dL AT 12 WEEKS (p<0.0001)



Week 12 Observed Hb Change from Baseline (g/dL)

### 031: EFFICACY AND SAFETY SUMMARY FOR PART A

 $\mathbf{b}$ 

- + **Improvement in hemolytic anemia:** statistically significant and dose-dependent improvements in hemoglobin, reticulocytes and bilirubin occurred with both voxelotor doses
  - Improvements were similar in patients with or without background use of hydroxyurea.
    Approximately 64% of patients enrolled in Part A are on background use of hydroxyurea.
- + Numerically fewer VOC episodes in both voxelotor groups than in the placebo group.
- + Voxelotor was generally safe and well tolerated with similar safety profiles between the two doses. There was no evidence of tissue hypoxia at either dose.



### 031: POTENTIAL ACCELERATED APPROVAL BASED ON HEMOLYTIC ANEMIA EFFICACY

The FDA instituted its Accelerated Approval Program to allow for earlier approval of drugs that **treat serious conditions**, and that fill an **unmet medical need** based on a surrogate endpoint. A surrogate endpoint is a marker, such as a laboratory measurement, radiographic image, physical sign or other measure that is thought to **predict clinical benefit**, but is not itself a measure of clinical benefit. The use of a surrogate endpoint can considerably shorten the time required prior to receiving FDA approval.

- + We believe voxelotor meets criteria for accelerated approval under subpart H:
  - SCD is a serious and life-threatening illness
  - Well-established association between chronic hemolytic anemia and SCD-related morbidity and mortality
  - Clinically meaningful increase in hemoglobin and improvement in hemolysis demonstrated in Part A results of the HOPE Study
- + In discussions with FDA regarding potential accelerated approval
  - Requires post-marketing clinical studies to confirm clinical benefit and maintain approval

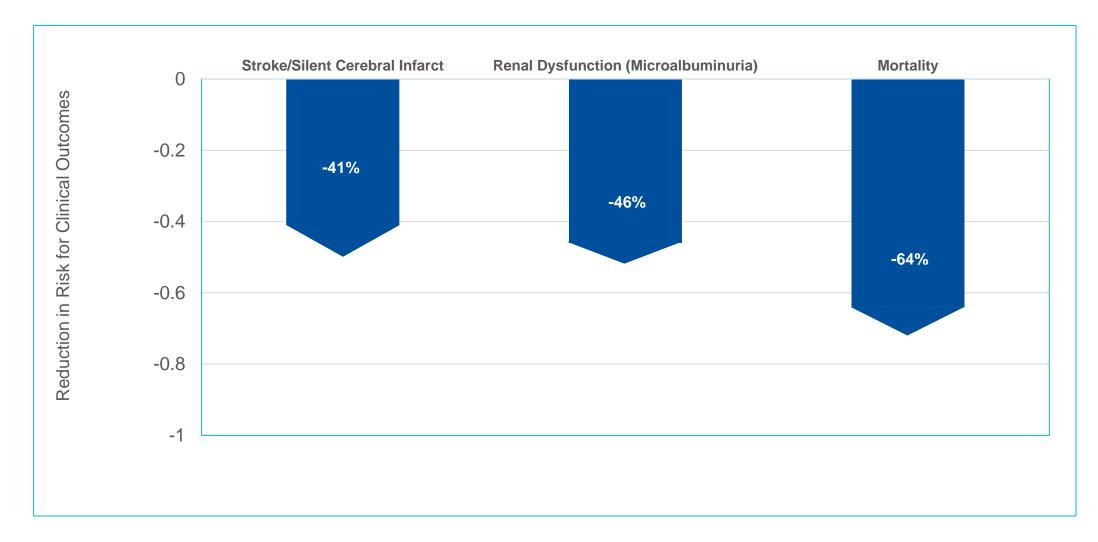


### LOWER HEMOGLOBIN LEVELS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH NEGATIVE CLINICAL OUTCOMES IN SCD

<b>Clinical Outcome/Event</b>	$\Delta$ Hb compared to those without clinical outcome/event*	P-value
	Mean (95% Confidence Interval), g/dL	
Stroke/SCI History	-0.37 (-0.47, -0.28)	<0.001
Abnormal TCD Velocity	-0.47 (-0.57, -0.37)	<0.001
Microalbuminuria	-0.65 (-0.84, -0.46)	<0.001
Elevated PASP	-0.94 (-1.20, -0.67)	<0.001
Death	-0.55 (-0.72, -0.39)	<0.001

SCI – Silent Cerebral Infarct; TCD – Transcranial Doppler Ultrasound; PASP – Pulmonary Artery Systolic Pressure

## PREDICTED RISK REDUCTION OF STROKE, RENAL DISEASE, AND MORTALITY ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASING HB BY $\geq$ 1 G/DL\*



\*Based on meta-analysis conducted based on comprehensive systematic literature review evaluating 139 sickle cell disease peer-reviewed publications published over the last 20 years, GBT data on file.





Despite advances in clinical care, SCD shortens median lifespan by at least three decades.

People with SCD survive through adolescence roughly on par with those in the general population.

Lower hemoglobin levels lead to greater complications and mortality.

New therapies are needed to address the fundamental pathogenesis of SCD.

Voxelotor is uniquely suited to address unmet medical need.